



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

Thank You Letter to Georgia's Parents

By DR. JOHN BARGE
State School Superintendent

November is Parent Engagement Month in Georgia, and schools across the state are highlighting the role parents play in students' education. In addition, November 20th is National Parent Involvement Day, a time for all parents to consider how they can get more involved in the education of their children.

So far, it's been a busy year. We are moving forward on various initiatives that all, at the core, have the same goal: making sure all of Georgia's students have access to a high-quality education that will prepare them for college and 21st-century careers.

These initiatives will not be successful unless you are actively engaged in their implementation. Research is clear on this point: when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. Engaged parents can make the difference between a school that's barely getting by and a school that's thriving.

To assist you in this process, the Georgia Department of Education has launched the *I CAN Play a Role* Campaign for Title I schools and parents, with a goal of inspiring 50,000 parents to pledge greater involvement in their child's education. To participate in the campaign, choose from 15 different *I CAN Play a Role* pledge cards. Select the card that is the best match for you, or choose multiple cards and pledge to get involved in different ways.

To access printable *I CAN Play a Role* pledge cards or additional *Get the facts...get connected...GET INVOLVED!* resources such as brochures, videos, calendars, letters, and tip sheets provided by the GaDOE, please contact our Parent Engagement office at [404-656-2633](tel:404-656-2633) or visit our website at: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Month.aspx>.

Also, during November, follow us on Twitter (@GaDOEParents) to receive daily strategies to improve family engagement in your school and like us on Facebook (GaDOEParentEngagement) to track the success of the campaign.

On behalf of our schools and school systems, I want to thank all the parents and families who have taken on the demanding job of being engaged in your child's education. Parents, the importance of your support is immeasurable. When we educators hit a bump, help us plow through it. We simply cannot succeed without you.

Dr. John Barge, a parent and a former school administrator, is Georgia's State School Superintendent.