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# MOUNTAIN AIR

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## Director's Message



Greetings once again from North Georgia RESA!! I hope this newsletter finds each of you in high spirits and off to a great start in your system, school and classroom. As our summers shorten, more and more of your time is spent beginning the mental aspects of preparation for the coming school term. However, I do hope you had some time to vacation, travel or just relax for a little while. We have had a busy summer at NGRESA preparing for the coming year as well. We have added a new part-time staff member. Dr. Jim Hagopian, retired Assistant Superintendent for Instruction with the Gilmer County Schools, will be working with many of you in the school improvement arena. We are glad to have Dr. Hagopian on the team. I encourage each of you to use our website: [www.ngresa.org](http://www.ngresa.org) to stay abreast of what offerings are available to meet your specific needs. We will have Professional Learning opportunities in: Endorsement courses; House-bill courses; Learning-Focused Schools training and support; Georgia Performance Standards roll-out support; informational sessions in: Law and Legal Issues for all educators; certification issues/updates; all Title programs; curricular updates and numerous other opportunities based on the 2004 needs assessment. For those unique questions that are not listed, just give us a call.

I have been thinking about what to write for this first issue of 2004 -2005 and I decided that the simple fact that I am still alive to write ANYTHING is worth an article. So here goes . . .

According to the government, regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were children in the fifties and early sixties should not be alive today and here is why.

Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on our medicine bottles, cabinets or doors. When we rode our bikes, we had no helmets and heaven help us just to mention the risks we took hitchhiking! As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags. Riding in the back of our uncle's pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from a garden hose or faucet, and not from a bottle. We ate cupcakes, bread, butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in them but we were seldom overweight because we were always outside running, playing and riding bicycles. We would share one soft drink with four friends . . . from the same bottle, and no one actually died from this act. We would spend hours building "hot-rods" from scrap wood and old lawnmower wheels; take them to the nearest hill and ride laughing and screaming to the bottom only to discover that we forgot to

and head! We would leave home in the morning, play games all day like softball, tackle football, basketball, HORSE, Cowboys & Indians, and occasionally post-office or spin-the-bottle!!! Whoa! We did not have Play Stations, Nintendo, Atari, X-Boxes or any other video games at all. Television was three channels--CBS, NBC & ABC. There were no movie rentals, cell phones, personal computers, Internet or theater movies that had to be rated. Instead, we had friends and we went outside and found them. Everybody's mother and daddy were yours and what they said went for everyone. We fell out of trees, got cut, broke an occasional bone(s), and loosened teeth and yet there were no lawsuits or criminal charges from these accidents. They were accidents. Remember accidents? We had fights and punched each other and got black eyes, a fat lip and some bruises. We also learned to get over it. We played with home-made things like bows and arrows from tree limbs, wooden knives, and spears from hedge limbs. No one ever had an eye put out or sustained other life-threatening injuries. Little League baseball, football and basketball had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who did not had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Some of our friends failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. They were still our friends and we still played together every afternoon. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law or got into trouble at school was unheard of. Actually, our parents sided with the police and the school! Trouble at school meant trouble at home.

Yet this generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem-solvers and inventors in history. The past fifty years have been a constant explosion of innovation and new ideas. We grew up with freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned to deal with it all. I guess we were just lucky to have had the opportunity to "grow up" before government, lawyers, doctors and pharmaceutical companies regulated our lives for our own good!

As a teacher you have the opportunity to affect and impact a child's life and it does not matter whether he is five or eighteen, the power you have is unmatched.

Treat each child as if he were your own. Have a great year and I leave you with this thought: ***"A child who enters a classroom where you teach, enters by the luck of the draw-- and whether that student's luck is good or bad, depends squarely on you."*** 🍀

build any brakes. Stopping was rough on the feet, knees

# From Lynn Weaver's Desk

## **ONE YEAR PRACTICUM AVAILABLE**

North Georgia RESA has been approved by the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) to provide the one year practicum to teachers who need an alternative route to being professionally certified. Most of these teachers will be those who have a degree but have not student taught. A person accepted into the program would need to do the following:

- have been offered a full time teaching position
- completed background clearance
- met the GPA requirement set by PSC (2.5 on all work in last 10 years)
- Praxis I passing or exemption score
- Praxis II passing score
- Principles of Learning and Teaching Passing Score
- House Bill 671 requirement
- Technology requirement
- Reading requirement
- Mentor log including classroom observations with pre and post conferences (150 hr.)
- Practicum experiences documented in portfolio
- Portfolio documenting 24 competencies according to rubric

A support team consisting of a RESA supervisor, mentor teacher (TSS trained) and a school administrator will assist the new teacher during the year-long practicum. There is a fee for this service. Upon completion of all requirements, North Georgia RESA can recommend the teacher for certification to the PSC.

If you or your system are interested in participating in this program, call Lynn Weaver at North Georgia RESA at 706-276-1111 or email [lynnweaver@ellijay.com](mailto:lynnweaver@ellijay.com) for an application package. 🍀

## **CSR GRANTS**

North Georgia RESA area has seven schools involved in the second of three years of the comprehensive school reform process. They are Buffington Elementary, Cherokee High, Clayton Elementary, Holly Springs Elementary, Macedonia Elementary, Eastside Elementary and Valley Point Middle. Sample data will once again be collected by RESA contracted employees, Kathy Overstreet and Bill Nichols, who will be observing in classrooms, interviewing principals and teacher focus groups, and surveying staff to compile data for a report that the school will use as the improvement process plan. If you have questions about the CSR grant call Lynn Weaver at 706-276-1111. 🍀

## **DR. MAX THOMPSON COMES BACK**

We look forward to Dr. Max Thompson coming back to our RESA area to continue our work with Learning Focused Schools. Max will be with us on December 7 and 8, 2004 to train principals in how to conduct principal walk-throughs. One day will be at RESA and one day will be spent in the Dalton/Whitfield County area. Look for more details on our website or from your central office staff development director. We look forward to another visit from Max Thompson. 🍀

## **SAFE AND DRUG FREE**

Dr. Jim Hagopian has joined the staff at North Georgia RESA and will be assisting with the Safe and Drug Free Program. If systems have a request for training, programs or questions you may call Dr. Hagopian or Lynn Weaver at 706-276-1111. 🍀

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION TRAINING**

**GLEI** Training is scheduled at North Georgia RESA for September 14, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This session is for system and school leaders who have the responsibility of evaluating leaders/administrators using Georgia Leadership Evaluation Instrument (GLEI) or some form of it. The trainer is Dr. Jack Money. Call Vanna to register or use our website registration at [www.ngresa.org](http://www.ngresa.org) then click on Staff Development. If you have questions about this training call Lynn Weaver at 706-276-1111.

**GTEP** Training at North Georgia RESA is scheduled for October 13, 14, 15, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.. This session is for system and school leaders who have the responsibility of annual evaluation of classroom teachers using the Georgia Teacher Observation Instrument (GTOI). The trainer is Mrs. Pat Harney. Call Vanna to register or use our website registration at [www.ngresa.org](http://www.ngresa.org) then click on Staff Development. If you have questions about this training call Lynn Weaver at 706-276-1111. 🍀

**-Updated GTEP Resource  
Manual**

**-GTOI 2003 Edition  
-GTDRI 2003 Edition**

**now available on the  
North Georgia RESA website  
([www.ngresa.org](http://www.ngresa.org))**

Click on: **GTEP Evaluation Manual**

**PRINT YOUR OWN AND SAVE \$\$\$**

## NEEDS IMPROVEMENT YEAR 1 (NI-1)

### School and System Level Consequences

(GA DOE information dated 7/26/04)

#### School Level consequences for Schools in Needs Improvement Year I

- Must send notice to parents about the school improvement status of the school
- Must develop a school improvement plan within three months of the release of the AYP report. The plan must be approved by the LEA
- Must offer public school choice

##### Non-Title I Schools

- Must offer public school choice
- Students can transfer to schools not identified as needs improvement
- Are not yet required to pay the cost of transportation for the 2004-2005 school year
- Parents are responsible for transportation
- School system is not required to exceed capacity to accommodate students
- Must give priority to lowest achieving students

##### Title I Schools - (Schools receiving NCLB Title I funds)

- Must offer public school choice
- Must pay the cost of transportation to a school not identified as needs improvement
- Can not use capacity as a reason to limit public school choice
- Must give priority to lowest income, lowest achieving students

#### System Level Consequences for Systems in Needs Improvement Year I

- Must develop a system improvement plan within three months of the release of the System Level AYP report. The plan must be approved by the Georgia Department of Education
- Must implement the plan expeditiously, but no later than the beginning of the next school year

### ATTENTION MATH TEACHERS!

#### Georgia Mathematics Conference

The theme of this year's Georgia Mathematics Conference is "The Math Matrix Reloaded." The conference, to be held on **October 14-16** at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center near Eatonton, will focus on the new Georgia Performance Standards. It will include sessions with the teacher teams who wrote the curriculum, consultants who guided the process, and Department of Education personnel. There will also be nationally known speakers for all grade levels, and many of our own Georgia teachers will share their expertise. In all, there will be over 160 sessions! Visit our website to view the awesome opportunities to be provided in the sessions.

Professional Learning Units (PLU-formerly SDU) are available to conference attendees for the first time this year. To be eligible, participants **MUST** have a form completed by their local system and bring it with them to the conference.

Registration information is available online at:  
[http://gctm.org/georgia\\_mathematics\\_conference.htm](http://gctm.org/georgia_mathematics_conference.htm)

CLICK [GMC Preliminary Program](#).

Registration information is on pages 6-7.  
PLU form is on page 22.

**PREREGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2004.**

### \*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*

#### CHANGES IN "Staff Development"

*by Jim Carson*

"Staff Development" is now called "Professional Learning" (SDUs are now PLUs), which denotes a change in philosophy of the types of courses/training in which Georgia educators may be involved. According to state board rules, Professional Learning activities can only be offered to an individual if one or more of the following criteria for enrollment are met. The training/activity:

1. is in the field of certification
2. is in the district/school/professional improvement plan
3. meets a need reflected in the individual "personnel evaluation"
4. is a state or federal requirement

For further information concerning Professional Learning call North Georgia RESA Professional Learning Department. You may view our listing of [courses/activities at www.ngresa.org](http://www.ngresa.org).

# AYP ANNUAL MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Target scores on Annual Measurable Objectives for AYP change for 2004-2005. Below is a roll-out for requirements through 2014.

Reading/Language Arts CRCT Grades 3-8	Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced
2002-2003 Target	60
2003-2004 Target	60
2004-2005 Target	66.7
2005-2006 Target	66.7
2006-2007 Target	66.7
2007-2008 Target	73.3
2008-2009 Target	73.3
2009-2010 Target	73.3
2010-2011 Target	80
2010-2011 Target	86.7
2011-2012 Target	93.3
2012-2013 Target	100

English/Language Arts/GHSGT* Grade 11	Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced
2003-2004 Target	81.6
2004-2005 Target	81.6
2005-2006 Target	84.7
2006-2007 Target	84.7
2007-2008 Target	87.7
2008-2009 Target	87.7
2009-2010 Target	87.7
2010-2011 Target	90.8
2011-2012 Target	93.9
2012-2013 Target	96.9
2013-2014 Target	100

Math GHSGT* Grade 11	Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced
2003-2004 Target	62.3
2004-2005 Target	62.3
2005-2006 Target	68.6
2006-2007 Target	68.6
2007-2008 Target	74.9
2008-2009 Target	74.9
2009-2010 Target	74.9
2010-2011 Target	81.2
2011-2012 Target	87.4
2012-2013 Target	93.7
2013-2014 Target	100

**Georgia High School Graduation Test (E-GHSGT) eleventh grade test takers. E-GHSGT will be given GHSGT.**

**\*Based on administration of the *Enhanced* calculated for Full Academic Year (FAY) first-time each spring. Other administrations will be the**

Math CRCT Grades 3-8	Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced
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# Youth Apprenticeship Program

## *by Gary Hyde*

Another short summer has flown by and here we are in a new school year! Our Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) is going well with a record number of student applications and acceptance into the program. Current enrollment in the program is sitting at 55 (for the three counties we serve) with the numbers expected to rise by another five or so as we recruit students for employer-requested positions.

For a lot of our students, Youth Apprenticeship placement is their first experience with interviewing, resume writing, and employment. Observing these students as they nervously prepare for their first interview or excitedly report to work for the first time brings back memories of my own experiences of employment, memories that reach all the way back to my childhood.

My very first attempt at gainful employment occurred at the tender age of 11, when I noticed in a comic book ad the opportunity to "Earn Cash and Win Prizes!!" selling a nationally publicized, weekly, family newspaper called GRIT. Now some of you readers may be old enough to remember this newspaper, but a lot of you youngsters will not. GRIT is no longer published, but was very popular in the 50's, 60's and into the early 70's. Young kids from communities all over America rushed to be part of the GRIT phenomenon. For each ten cent copy sold, I would earn a whopping four cents! I had about thirty customers in the Yukon community of Gilmer County so I earned \$1.20 each week. I would deliver the papers on a bicycle with wire

baskets on front and rear. My first baseball glove was won through GRIT's prize program.

The feel of cash in my pockets was a powerful motivator. I wanted more. My next money-making scheme consisted of a red Radio Flyer wagon with wooden sideboards. I had noticed on my GRIT route that there were lots of glass drink bottles tossed onto the roadsides. Back then, drink bottles were returnable. You could take the bottles to local grocery stores and service stations, (that's a gas station in modern parlance), and get a FIVE CENT deposit on each bottle! The wagon was tied to my bike and while delivering papers, I would pick up discarded bottles, take them home, and place them into wooden crates provided by the drink companies. I can still recall the green and yellow Mountain Dew bottles, the shapely Coke bottles, the pebbly grained glass of a Nugrape, then RC colas and many other brands now defunct and gone. I collected enough bottles to fill the bed of my dad's truck and one day we hauled them to the gas station to garner my wages.

All of us have memories that will be vivid for most of our lives. I will never forget the feeling of being paid nearly one hundred and twenty dollars for that truck-load of bottles, with part of the payment in the form of a crisp, new, one hundred dollar bill. (No, I don't still have that bill framed and hanging on a wall. . .I bought a new bike and had lots of cash left over!)

The years flowed by, I worked at the Western Auto in Ellijay

from 7<sup>th</sup> grade until about 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I was hired to work in a mom and pop grocery store (closed in 1976, put out of business by chain stores as Ellijay really began to grow) and worked there for 5 ½ years to put myself through college. I began teaching at age 20 and today, 28 years later, I am still involved with education, helping with what I think is a very important and rewarding job; giving students their first opportunity for gainful employment and the development of those skills necessary to be successful employees.

We are very proud of our students and very thankful of those businesses who are willing to take a risk and give these students a chance to begin their own careers. Our schools are working hard to prepare students for the work-place. Teachers like T. C. Dillard at Fannin High School, Shannon Gable at Pickens High School, and our newest addition, Janet Davis at Gilmer High, (all facilitators of YAP amongst their many other duties as educators), are to be highly commended for their hard work and dedication to this program.

If you are an employer, are interested in learning more about the Youth Apprenticeship Program, and possibly hiring a motivated, career-oriented student, please contact any of the facilitators listed above at their respective high schools or call Gary Hyde, YAP Coordinator at North Georgia RESA, 706-276-1111. You may also visit our website at [www.ngresa.org](http://www.ngresa.org) and click on the Youth Apprenticeship button.👉



**NORTH CENTRAL GLRS**  
**Georgia Learning Resource Systems**  
Pam Glasgow, Director



Numerous hours are spent planning for the beginning of a new school year. As the doors of our schools open to welcome our children, many procedures and mandates must be in place. As you reexamine your guidelines, make sure you review the following Georgia Performance Goals that must be supported by each of our Special Education District Improvement Plans.

Division for Exceptional Students  
**Georgia's Performance Goals**

- ◆ Decrease the percentage of students with disabilities who drop out of school.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of students with disabilities who earn a regular diploma.
- ◆ Decrease the gap in performance of students with and without disabilities on statewide achievement tests.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of time students with disabilities receive instruction in the general education setting with appropriate supports and accommodations.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of "highly qualified" personnel who teach students with disabilities.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of students with disabilities who transition to their desired post-school outcome.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of parents of students with disabilities who are active and satisfied participants in their child's education.
- ◆ Decrease the percentage of students with disabilities who are removed from school for disciplinary purposes.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of young children who are receiving intervention services.
- ◆ Decrease the disproportionate representation of students with disabilities to reflect the demographics of the general population.

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## **TIPS FOR TEACHERS**

All special education teachers and school media centers in our seven county GLRS/RESA district will soon be receiving a free copy of **Tips for Teachers**. This is an excellent, easy to use reference that contains useful information regarding characteristics, classroom modifications, and classroom adaptations for exceptional students. **Tips for Teachers** is being provided by North Central GLRS, so we need your feedback concerning its usefulness and value. Please take time to read through the flip chart and let me hear from you. I value your opinion, so please email me at: [pamglasgow@ellijay.com](mailto:pamglasgow@ellijay.com) to let me know what you think. 🍎

