

RESOURCES

Parent to Parent of Georgia

www.p2pga.org

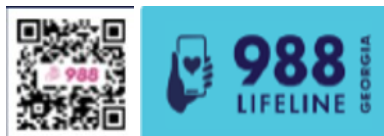
Find Help

www.findhelp.org

findhelp.org by Findhelp - Search and
Connect to Social Care

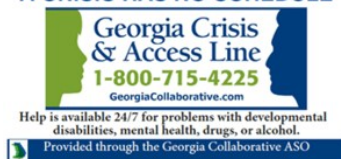
Georgia's Council on
Developmental Disabilities

www.gcdd.org



[988 Lifeline](http://988lifeline.org) -

A CRISIS HAS NO SCHEDULE



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Updated August 2026



**Special Education
Parent Mentor
Brochure**

PARENT MENTOR PARTNERSHIP

The Cherokee County School District participates in the Georgia Department of Education's Parent Mentor Program; a data-driven national model for family/school/community collaboration.

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is a collaboration of parents and professionals working



together to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. By enhancing communication and fostering effective partnerships between families, schools, and communities, the Partnership aims to increase student achievement.

Parent mentors and special education administrators lead this work across Georgia, bridging the gap between home, school, and community to ensure every student has the support they need to succeed.

How the Parent Mentor can help you

PARENT MENTORS CAN:

- ◇ Listen to your concerns regarding special education and help identify possible solutions.
- ◇ Provide information and connect you with available resources and support services.
- ◇ Facilitate training sessions on a variety of special education topics to help families better understand the special education process and available supports.

Mentors are available to answer your questions and provide guidance and support to help you and your child have the best opportunity to succeed in school.

To ensure they provide accurate and up-to-date information, mentors participate in ongoing training throughout the year on special education topics, including federal and Georgia state laws, regulations, and best practices. Many of these training sessions are provided by the Georgia Department of Education and other recognized experts in the field.



Learning Knows No Bounds



Meet our Parent Mentor



Jo Ellen Hancock is a mother of three with Developmental Disabilities as well as Behavioral Health. In addition to working for the school district, Mrs. Hancock was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp to the State Rehabilitation Council in 2025. She was appointed by the Cherokee County Commissioners to the Region 1 Advisory Council of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), where she serves as Chair. She is also currently the Chair of the DBHDD Statewide Leadership Council. She is also a member of the Behavioral Health Services Coalition and the Georgia Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council. She also holds positions on the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Leadership Council. In 2025, Mrs. Hancock was asked to serve on the Planning Committee for the Youth Protection Seminar put on yearly by the Boy Scouts of America organization.

