



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Building Home-School Collaboration
- Spring into Action
- Exceptional Children's Week

Building Home-School Collaborations

STAY CONNECTED

- Email
- Phone Calls
- Communication Logs



Building Home & School Collaborations!

Building a strong partnership between home and school is a core priority of the DeKalb County School District, which recognizes parents as equal partners in the special education process. When you connect with our Parent Mentors, they serve as a bridge between families and schools, providing peer to peer support and connecting you with valuable resources.

When families and schools work hand in hand, students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Your voice, insight, and active partnership are essential in shaping meaningful supports and positive outcomes. **We are stronger together!**



As the school year comes to a close, take a moment to reflect on your child's IEP and overall progress. Consider whether goals were met and what supported your child's growth throughout the year. If you have questions or concerns, you may request an IEP Team Meeting before summer break to review progress and plan next steps together. Preparing for the meeting by gathering reports and noting strategies that worked well can lead to a more productive conversation. Think about whether your child's success was supported by effective instructional strategies, accommodations, or strong teacher collaboration, and be sure to share those strengths with the team. It's also important to discuss whether Extended School Year (ESY) services are appropriate to support continued learning over the summer. If the team determines that your child's needs have significantly changed, additional assessment options may be considered. Thoughtful planning now can help ensure a smooth and successful start to the next school year.

Are you Prepared for Spring/Summer Break?

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

**Most summer camp registrations open in the Spring!
Check these out now!**



Elaine Clark Center -Ages 5-30 Programing for children of all abilities, offering a variety of adaptive activities and personalized attention.



**www.elaineclarkcenter.org
770-458-3251
jrachmann@ecvc.org**

Science and Soul/Summer STEM Ages 2-12 For children with ADHD, Autism, Cognitive Disability, Learning Disability and Speech and Language Delay



**www.mycoretherapy.com
(678)626-0557**

Camp Hollywood at FOCUS - Ages 5-29
For Children to Adults with multiple disabilities



**www.focus-ga.org/program
770-234-9111
inquiry@focus-ga.org**

Exceptional Children's Week

April 13-17 2026

"Turn the Page to Possibility: Literacy Success in Special Education"



Monday

"What Makes You Unique"

- EX. Provide students with a choice: draw a picture, create a short video, or write a short paragraph about something that makes them unique.

Tuesday

Small Acts of Written Kindness & Inclusion

- EX. Give each student a strip of paper to write or draw an act of kindness they did for a classmate that day.

Wednesday

"In My Shoes"

Experience & Empathy Activity

- EX. Help students experience having a disability by completing a simple task with one hand to simulate a physical disability.

Thursday

Time to Celebrate!

Exceptional Children's Week Awards Night

- AIC Auditorium, 6-8pm
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd. Stone Mtn., Ga.

Friday

"Better Together"

Create Awareness Artwork

- EX. Give each student a small piece of paper to draw or write one way their class or school is welcoming to everyone.



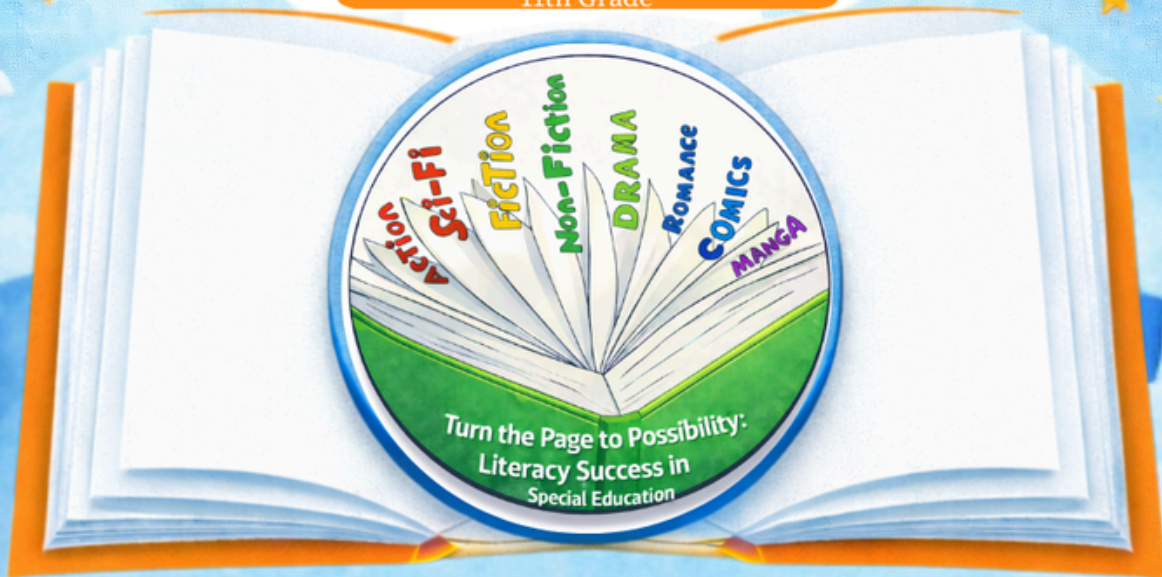
2026

—BUTTON PIN CONTEST WINNER!—

— CONGRATULATIONS! —

Overall Winner

Thaddeus Lencrerot Jr.
11th Grade



Honorable Mentions

High School
Skye Wilson
12th Grade

High School
Barry Gibson
10th Grade




DeKalb County
School District
Exceptional Education



Elementary School
Safia Rahman
5th Grade

Middle School
Rayan Men-La-Yakhaf
8th Grade



WHO DO I CONTACT?

School Support

Your child's **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER or CASEMANAGER:**

Concerns involving: Academics (grades, curriculum, classwork, homework), student behavior, interactions, and social-emotional development in the classroom (social skills, regulating emotions, making friends)

Your school's **LEAD TEACHER for SPECIAL EDUCATION (LTSE):**

Concerns involving: Initial Individualized Education Plans (IEP), re-evaluations, parental consent, IEP transportation issues, transferring IEP to a new school, case-manager/teacher communication issues

Your school **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:**

Concerns involving: Disciplinary actions, school safety, procedures & policies, inappropriate staff conduct, building maintenance, PTA, unresolved parent-teacher communication issues.

Your school **PRINCIPAL:**

All unresolved concerns brought to the Assistant Principal properly but were not addressed to satisfaction.

Section 504/Hospital Homebound (HHB) Office Support

Section 504 District Liaisons: Contact 678-676-1898

General questions or concerns regarding DCSD Section 504/ HHB guidelines, records requests, parent rights, special transportation & other related services. Contact your 504 Chairperson for additional concerns regarding eligibility, review meetings & communication issues.

School Support did not resolve your concern?

Need to speak to one of our Exceptional Education District Leaders? Please complete the Parent Communication Form.

If you've already tried working with all appropriate staff at your child's school (listed above) to resolve a concern and it has not been addressed to your satisfaction, please scan the QR code & complete the Parent Communication Form to talk with one of our Department of Exceptional Education Leadership. (listed below)



Department of Exceptional Education Leadership

Interim Special Education Director: Rolanda Johnson / rolanda_johnson@dekalbschoolsga.org

Concerns involving: All unresolved special education concerns and IEP related issues (implementation, meeting concerns, goals/objectives, progress monitoring, services) that have been previously communicated with the appropriate staff at your student's attendance school (see who to contact above first) but have not been addressed to satisfaction.

Senior Coordinator for School Psychology: Dr. Kimberly Franklin/ kimberly_franklin@dekalbschoolsga.org

Parents should reach out to the Senior Coordinator of School Psychology when there are unresolved concerns that have been appropriately shared with the local school principal or designee that involves psychological services, evaluations, or mental health support for a child.

Senior Coordinator for Section 504/Hospital Homebound: Dr. Watina April/ watina_april@dekalbschoolsga.org

Concerns involving: All unresolved concerns related to ensuring that a student is receiving appropriate accommodations & protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Unresolved concerns involving 504 plan development, eligibility, implementation or disability-based discrimination may require District level support.

Interim Executive Director of Exceptional Education: Dr. Erin Baptiste/ erin_broyard-baptiste@dekalbschoolsga.org

Concerns involving: All unresolved concerns not fully addressed to satisfaction by school administrators or Exceptional Education leadership in regards to ensuring a student with a disability receives appropriate and equitable educational services.

General Parent Support

DCSD Exceptional Education Parent Educator Team (**Parent Mentors/Parent Liaison**)

Comprised of parents of students with disabilities hired to educate parents on how to navigate the DCSD Special Education services & supports, transitions, parent rights, district protocols & processes, who to contact, resources, information & support.

Elementary Parent Mentor:
Kimberly_Robinson@dekalbschoolsga.org
Middle School Parent Mentor:
Torra_Hancock@dekalbschoolsga.org
High School Parent Liaison:
Lisa_Lake@dekalbschoolsga.org

Meet Your *Parent Educator Team*

WHAT IS A PARENT EDUCATOR TEAM?

Our Parent Educator Team are parents of children with disabilities employed by the school district. The team consists of one Parent Transition Liaison and two Part-Time Parent Mentors.



WHAT DOES THE PARENT EDUCATOR TEAM DO?

- Assist families of students with disabilities and educators in locating information and resources
- Provide workshops and events for families
- Provide confidential support for parental concerns and questions
- Provide a parent's perspective to educators



Kimberly Robinson
Parent Mentor

Pre-K and Elementary Schools

Kimberly_Robinson@dekalbschoolsga.org



Torra Hancock
Parent Mentor

Middle Schools

Torra_Hancock@dekalbschoolsga.org



Lisa Lake
Parent Transition Liaison

High Schools

Lisa_Lake@dekalbschoolsga.org

Please contact us at dcspdpeers@dekalbschoolsga.org

