





State Department of Education to pilot new teacher evaluation system

by Rebecca Grapevine | Aug 31, 2022 | Capitol Beat News Service



ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) Wednesday announced a pilot project to test a new method for evaluating teacher performance.

The new program will be called GaLEADS. It will be tried in a dozen Georgia school districts beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Districts will be able to apply to participate in the pilot beginning Thursday.

"I am fully committed to developing a teacher evaluation model that treats teachers as professionals and helps them succeed throughout their careers, to the benefit of students - rather than a punitive 'gotcha' system," said State School Superintendent Richard Woods.

"This pilot is an opportunity for proof of concept and will allow us to work with school districts throughout the state to create an evaluation system that's designed for teacher growth."

The DOE recently published a report exploring the reasons for teacher burnout in Georgia. Teachers said they face unrealistic performance expectations, especially given the learning disruption caused by the COVID pandemic.

"Coming out of the pandemic, the desire to 'return to normal' has also come with an unrealistic expectation ... without giving teachers the time, support, resources, and compassion to meet students at their current level," the report said.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) agreed that the new pilot could help address teachers' concerns about the evaluation system.

"PAGE is encouraged by the announced teacher evaluation pilot," said Margaret Ciccarelli, director of legislative services for the organization.

Data from a 2021 statewide survey indicated that 45% of educators felt supervisor feedback under the current system was not helpful to their instructional practices, Ciccarelli said.

"A more effective Georgia educator evaluation system will better serve students by supporting teachers at every stage of their career, recognizing that the coaching needs of beginning teachers differ from the needs of skilled veteran educators," she said.

Lisa Morgan, president of the Georgia Association of Educators, called for increased teacher involvement in revamping the state's teacher-evaluation program.

"Classroom teachers are the experts and must be the principal voices speaking to the necessary supports available for themselves and their colleagues," she said. "We look forward to working with the department to ensure that current classroom educators are involved throughout the process."

Republican Woods was first elected state school superintendent in 2014. He is running for a third term against Democrat Alisha Thomas Searcy.

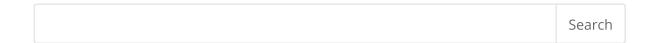
Searcy hit back at Wednesday's announcement about the new teacher-evaluation program, calling it an election gimmick with questionable timing.

"Why is the current state superintendent, who has been in office for almost eight years, deciding that now, 69 days before the election, he wants to make teacher evaluations a priority?" Searcy asked. "This has been a concern for teachers for at least eight years."

Searcy said teachers should be involved in revamping the teacher-evaluation process.

"Educators, students, and parents deserve a state school superintendent who is a collaborator and who seeks the feedback of teachers," she said.

This story is available through a news partnership with Capitol Beat News Service, a project of the Georgia Press Educational Foundation.



Recent Posts

State Department of Education to pilot new teacher evaluation system

Georgia lawmakers may help fund new approach to treating post-traumatic stress disorder

UGA places 10th in national ranking of public universities

Kemp announces \$250 million for parks and recreation in low-income communities

Comments feed

WordPress.org

Economist: Georgia farmers struggling with national, global challenges

Archives	Categories	Λ	/leta
• August 2022	Capitol Beat News Servio	ce•	Log in
• July 2022	• Elections	•	Entries feed

- June 2022 Governor
- May 2022 State Politics
- April 2022
- March 2022
- February 2022
- January 2022
- December 2021
- November 2021
- October 2021

- September 2021
- August 2021
- July 2021
- June 2021
- May 2021
- April 2021
- March 2021
- February 2021
- January 2021
- December 2020
- November 2020
- October 2020
- September 2020
- August 2020
- July 2020
- June 2020
- May 2020
- April 2020
- March 2020
- February 2020
- January 2020
- December 2019

Designed by **Elegant Themes** | Powered by **WordPress**