



# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005, Vol. XII, No. 1

Georgia Student Information Systems User Group

[www.gsisusers.org](http://www.gsisusers.org)

## SAVE THE DATE!

February 16- 17, 2006 GSIS Conference  
Augusta, Georgia

The 2006 annual conference of the **GSIS User Group** will be **February 16-17, 2006** at the Radisson, Augusta Riverwalk. Plan to register EARLY! Our 2005 conference hosted over 650 attendees and we are anticipating that the 2006 conference will be even bigger! Don't miss this opportunity to exchange ideas and information and to speak with State DOE and pilot system's representatives about the new Georgia State Student Information System (GSSIS).

Planning on attending the 2006 Conference? Additionally, the registration form and procedure are available on our web site:

[WWW.GSISusers.org](http://WWW.GSISusers.org)

### **Want to Present at the 2006 Conference?**

GSIS is always interested in presentations "from the trenches" by those who truly put the systems through their paces on a daily basis.

#### **SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE!**

We encourage all SIS users, and especially SchoolMax and PowerSchool users to present!!! Please consider becoming a presenter during the 2006 conference by emailing [Hubert Bennett @ hbennett@walton.k12.ga.us](mailto:Hubert.Bennett@hbennett@walton.k12.ga.us).

## GSIS Objective and Purpose:

The objective of the Georgia Student Information System (GSIS) User Group shall be to promote these purposes:

To serve as a forum for information exchange regarding the state Student Information System and its use in schools in Georgia.

To provide a vehicle for workshops about GSIS user techniques and about GSIS enhancements.

To provide a forum for a united voice regarding software development.

To provide a vehicle for the exchange of information, ideas, and needs between the end users of the GSIS software, the State Department of Education, and state-approved software vendors.

### President's Message

First, thank you for making the 2005 Conference successful and I am looking forward to seeing you at the February 2006 GSIS



Conference in Augusta at the Riverwalk Radisson. The conference offers excellent opportunities for learning, knowledge sharing, establishing professional connections, and networking with other student information professionals. The Augusta facility will afford us the opportunity to "spread our wings" and offer more sessions with plenty of room for all.

**Come join us and bring a friend!**

## The 2005 – 2006 GSIS Board

The Board Members serving GSIS are volunteers from many of Georgia's finest school districts. They put in many hours planning and conducting the annual GSIS conference and other related activities.

### Officers:

Ralph Costen, President.....Cobb  
 Sandy Ewanowski, Past President.....Gwinnett  
 Hubert Bennett, President Elect.....Walton  
 Monica Cleaveland, Treasurer.....Cobb  
 Carolyn Grimes, Secretary.....Gwinnett

### Members at Large:

Sharon Armour.....Catoosa  
 Hubert Bennett.....Walton  
 Evelyn Bragg.....Univ. of West Georgia  
 Lisa Brening.....Meriwether  
 Wendi Bunn.....Jones  
 Paige Coley.....Savannah-Chatham  
 Noralee Deason.....Effingham  
 Rita Frix.....Rockdale  
 Angela Downard.....Bartow  
 Keith Hamon.....Monroe  
 Tinye Harding.....McDuffie  
 Lisa Hopper.....Gwinnett  
 JoAnne Horton.....Burke  
 Sonya Jackson.....Savannah-Chatham  
 Mary Ann Kitchens.....Jones  
 Nicole Lewers.....Pierce  
 Heather Money.....Floyd  
 Kathy Mull.....Floyd  
 Leanne NeSmith.....Colquitt  
 Sara Osborne.....Peach  
 Chasity Purcell.....Catoosa  
 Beth Russell.....Fulton  
 Renae Simms.....Newton  
 Gail Smith.....Bartow  
 Priscilla Willis.....Pike



## Augusta At-A-Glance

Beautiful Augusta, Georgia, approximately **150 miles east of Atlanta**, is easily accessible to most of the Southeast via its prime location on **Interstate 20**. The Savannah River serves as the **state line** and separates Augusta from North Augusta, S.C. Founded as a trading outpost during the British colonial period, Augusta is the **second oldest** and **second largest** city in Georgia and today stands as a **center for medicine, the military, and manufacturing**. The city, however, is likely **best known as home of the Masters Golf Tournament**, held the first full week in April.

**Quick Facts:** Established in 1736; Named for Princess Augusta of Saxe Gotha, Princess of Wales; Population: 200,000 city, 500,000 trade region (*Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimates*); Location: 136 feet above sea level; Nicknames: The Garden City of the South (chosen early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because of the city's many large private gardens), and the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) which includes surrounding counties in Georgia and South Carolina.

### Play Augusta, GA

While Augusta is known worldwide for the Masters® and the coveted green jacket, you'll find that Georgia's second-oldest and second-largest city - also known as the "Garden City" of the South - is full of history, atmosphere, Southern charm, and activities to engage **e v e r y o n e ' s i n t e r e s t .**

Discover the historic charm of the classic South with Augusta's tree-lined streets and majestic antebellum mansions. Enjoy dozens of shops and restaurants, cultural attractions and entertainment. Meander along the banks of the Savannah River as you stroll Riverwalk Augusta. Canoe the river or the adjacent Augusta Canal. Whatever your interest, you'll find something to satisfy it in Augusta..

While in Augusta, for the GSIS Conference, stop by the Visitor Information Center, located in the lobby of the Augusta Museum of History (6th Street between Broad and Reynolds). A helpful visitor information specialists can provide information on attractions, recreation, hotels, shopping, dining and maps of the Augusta area.





# Georgia Student Information Systems User Group CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 16 -17, 2006 @ the  
Radisson Riverfront Hotel Augusta & Country Inn Suites Augusta @ Riverwalk

**\*\*\*A check must accompany the completed registration form.\*\*\***

Send this form with a check for the \$125.00 registration fee payable to:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GSIS Users Group</b> <b>Beth Russell</b> <b>P.O. Box 492110      Lawrenceville,      Ga.      30049</b></p>
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**Registration is due by January 27, 2006**

*Participants registering on site are not guaranteed a tote bag, etc.*

The conference registration fee includes the conference, Thursday's luncheon, annual membership and newsletters. Membership is valid until the 2007 Conference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIS used in your school or district (please check):**

SchoolMax  SASI  PowerSchool  Other (please name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Refund Policy** - Full refund available upon request until January 27, 2006. After January 27, 2006 a partial refund will be available. Refund requests submitted after February 16, 2006 will not be honored.

Hotel reservations and payments must be made through the  
Radisson Riverfront Hotel Augusta & Country Inn Suites Augusta @ Riverwalk

Two Tenth Street, Augusta GA 30901

Hotel Phone 706.722.8900 Hotel Fax 706.823.6513

GSIS Conference Rate \$105.00 per night



*Georgia Student Information Systems User Group*

<http://www.gsisusers.org>

**2006 GSIS CONFERENCE**

**Augusta, Georgia – Riverwalk**

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Last year's GSIS conference was attended by over 650 registrants. Many new ideas were shared, old acquaintances renewed, and new acquaintances made. A pleased attendee stated;

*“Having made a position change . . . , I was horrified at the mammoth task of learning (mainly absorbing) the information required to be an effective FTE secretary for our elementary school. . . . Being afforded the opportunity of attending the Georgia Student Information Systems Conference in February of this year was one of the greatest blessings of the century! . . . I found the fellowship marvelous, the presenters superb, and the information priceless. I even learned what “FTE” stands for!! This conference provided me with . . . tools to bring back and smooth out some of the “bumps” of scheduling, reporting student data, and simply surviving those first experiences with FTE. . . . I think GSIS is the greatest!!*

**Other Comments were:**

**Very informative sessions...I learned A LOT!**

**Conference needs to be at least one more full day to allow more classes.**

**Great location and delicious food.**

**I plan to return next year.**



**PRESORT RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT # 245  
Fall 2004**

**Georgia Student Information Systems User Group**

**P.O. Box 492110 Lawrenceville, GA 30049**

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR: Student Information Specialists, Data Clerks, FTE Coordinators, Administrators**