



NEWSLETTER

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Georgia Student Information Systems User Group

www.gsisusers.org

SAVE THIS DATE!

January 29 - 30, 2007 GSIS Conference
Savannah, Georgia



The 2007 annual conference of the **GSIS User Group** will be January 29 - 30, 2007 at the Westin, Savannah, Georgia. Plan to register EARLY! Our 2006 conference hosted over 675 attendees and we are anticipating that the 2007 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 Educational Management System (GEM), GRITS, and GA411 .

Planning on attending the 2007 Conference? The registration form and procedure are available on our web site:

www.gsisusers.org

Want to Present at the 2007 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 to present!!! Please consider becoming a presenter during the 2007 conference by e-mailing Noralee Deason ndeason@effingham.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.

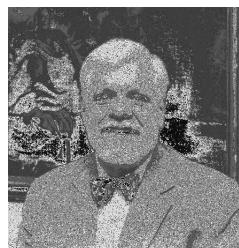
To provide a vehicle for workshops about GSIS user techniques and about GSIS enhancements.

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

It's main street is Bull

We have held many previous conferences in the beautiful city of Savannah. Anyone that has visited Savannah knows the city is overflowing with history. This year our guest speaker will be Dr. John D. Duncan, Professor Emeritus, Armstrong Atlantic State University. Dr. Duncan has written many books and articles on the history of Savannah in addition, he has produced a number of television documentaries on the subject. Dr. Duncan will present "Founded on a bluff and it's main street is Bull." He will be discussing the history of Savannah and should provide us all with some very entertaining facts on the history of this "Belle of the South."



Register Now: www.gsisusers.org

The 2006 – 2007 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.

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What's new at the DOE? What is GRITS?

How do I right that query? What is ga411?

If you are looking for answers to these and many more other questions, this years conference is a must attend. There are many changes that are tasking all SIS users to prepare data that we have not had to compile in the past. We encourage those users at each school that tend to the day-to-day data entry, counselors, central office staff, and anybody that may be required to pull data from their local SIS system to join us at the 2007 conference

Some topics that will be covered this year will be; FERPA; State Reporting; GRITS, ga411; queries, Tips & Tricks, School Max, Power School, and Infinite Campus.

Register Now: www.gsiusers.org

A Message from the GSIS President

It is hard to believe that another FTE Count is upon us. It is clearly evident "time stands still for no man". This year's Georgia Student Information System Users Group's Conference will be here before you know it.

In a previous letter, I stated, "The horizon looks bright with opportunity. The new day that we are facing will bring challenges and concerns..." At that time there were a number of changes that were being talked about around the state. However there have been a lot of things happen over the last couple of months, which very few if any, knew were coming.

No one could imagine the sweeping change that Pearson School Systems would force upon all of us. Their recent acquisition of both Chancery and PowerSchool (http://www.pearsonschoolsystems.com/products/ps_ch.htm) has caused tremendous concerns and speculation. Unfortunately, it seems that there are more questions than answers coming out of Pearson.

The Georgia Department of Education's departure from a large portion of the GSSIS project is **WELCOME NEWS!** If you have not heard, the DOE has decided to use the OLD means of submitting data for reporting. The error-ridden template submittal process has been pulled from production. We will no longer have to do a "parallel system", both the OLD way (FTE and Student Record) and the Monthly template uploads. Yes, we will have to continue working and improving the Georgia Unique Student Testing Identifier (GTID). According to Dr Howard Woodard, the State DOE listened and heard all of our complaints. In reviewing solutions and with the drastic improvement in the "PORTAL", they determined that the State's goal of data collection could best be served by continuing using the "Tried and true" method of period uploads. Again, I think this is very WELCOME NEWS!

Let me once again encourage you to express your thoughts, concerns, and questions to your GSIS Board members. One of GSIS' objectives is "to provide a vehicle for the exchange of information, ideas, and needs..." We need you!!!! Please help us achieve this much needed objective.

See you around the state!

Hubert Bennett

GSIS User Group President

