

FEBRUARY 2025



WHAT'S NEW!

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Senior Coordinator
Exceptional Education
DeKalb County School District

Meet our Senior Coordinator of Psychological Services!

As the Senior Coordinator of Psychological Services, I am excited to work alongside our school psychologists to help maximize the academic potential along with the social and emotional well-being of students. Additionally, support is provided through the practices of effective consultations, comprehensive evaluations, and the development of prevention and intervention strategies for students, school personnel and parents.

What is the role of a School Psychologist?



To improve students educational opportunities through:

- Direct contact and consultations with parents, teachers, administrators and students.
- Identify learning weaknesses, emotional issues and other problems that may prevent students from making progress at school.
- Create intervention strategies to help families and schools deal with crisis.
- Research and evaluating effectiveness of new programs and services

Contributions to School Environment:

School Psychologist work directly with students and teachers in many ways including:

- Conducting individual psychological evaluations
- Developing prevention and intervention strategies
- Individual and/or group counseling
- Crisis management
- Social skills training
- Provide recommendations to meet the students needs
- Provide training and educational programs



The Psychological Services Department is under the Division of Student Services and the Department of Exceptional Education.

- There are currently 53 school psychologists employed in DCSD, and 2 school psychologist interns.
- A school psychologist is assigned to each school to meet the needs of all students in the District.



School psychologists are a highly skilled and ready resource in the effort to ensure that all children and youth thrive in school, at home, and in life.

- School psychologists help students, families, educators, and members of the community understand and resolve both long-term, chronic problems and short-term issues that students may face.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



• Can school psychologists begin the psychological evaluation without passed hearing and vision screenings?



Answer: No

• Do school psychologists require signed parental consent for conducting a student observation?



Answer: Yes

• Do school psychologists require signed parental consent for evaluating a student?



Answer: Yes

UPCOMING PARENT ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

February

Parent Education, Empowerment, Resources, and Support (PEERS) VIRTUAL SESSION

Date: Feb. 27, 2025

Topic: Technical Colleges and Student Support Services

Time: 6-7:30pm Location: ZOOM

Our February session will cover benefits of attending a technical college and student support services for a student with a disability.

March

Transition Fair (In-Person PEERS Event)

Date: March 22, 2025

Time: 8am-2pm Location: Redan High School

This event is designed for families of students with disabilities, 8th-12th grade. Learn about transition supports, post-secondary options, programs, colleges, state and local agencies and services. Attend educational sessions, visit vendor tables, get resources, raffles and more.

April

Exceptional Children's Week

Dates: April 13th-19th

***Full schedule of events will be announced soon.**

Join the Department of Exceptional Education along with the National Council for Exceptional Children as we appreciate, celebrate and showcase the accomplishments of all students with disabilities!

May

Parent Engagement Fair (In-Person PEERS Event)

Date: May 3, 2025

**Time: 9-1:00 pm
Location: Dekalb Early College Academy**

This event is designed for all families of students with disabilities. Engage with staff and learn about all the different offices within Exceptional Education. Attend educational sessions, visit departmental tables, get resources, support and more.



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DCSD Exceptional Education

Transition Fair



Families should expect:

- Vendors: Respite providers, Legal services, Day programs, State agencies, Recreation, Supported Employment, Technical Colleges and more!
- Attend Educational Sessions
- Resources and assistance

DATE: 3/22/2025

TIME: 8am-2pm

LOCATION:

Redan High School
5247 Redan Rd. Stn. Mtn.
GA 30088

*Continental breakfast served from 8-9am

**REGISTER
NOW!**

**SCAN
ME!**



REGISTER by scanning the QR code or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/wGQjcgWZwg>

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 and 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 and other related services. Contact your 504 Chairperson for additional concerns regarding eligibility, review meetings, and communication issues.

Department of Exceptional Education Leadership

Special Education Director: *Dr. Erin Broyard-Baptiste /erin_broyard-baptiste@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*

- Parents should contact the Senior Coordinator of Section 504/HHB when their concerns involve ensuring that their child, who has a disability, is receiving appropriate accommodations and protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Concerns involving 504 plan development, eligibility, implementation or disability-based discrimination may require District level support.

Executive Director of Exceptional Education: *Mrs. Kiana King/ kiana_king@dekalbschoolsga.org*

- Parents should reach out to the Executive Director of Exceptional Education when there is a need for leadership-level intervention or advocacy to ensure their child receives appropriate and equitable educational services.

General Parent Support

DCSD Exceptional Education Department **Parent Mentor/Parent Liaison:** Contact 678-676-2105

- General questions on how to navigate the DCSD Department of Exceptional Education, Special Education, transitions, parent rights, learn district protocols and processes, find appropriate staff, get resources, information and support.

Parent Mentors

Support. Advise. Educate.



What is a Parent Mentor?

Parent Mentors are parents of children with disabilities, hired by the District, to support other families in their county by providing resources and education to help parents of students with disabilities navigate special education services and supports. They support family engagement and work with special education directors and staff to increase parent participation in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings and school programs and events.

Why should I contact the Parent Mentor?

- I need to talk to another parent that understands and will listen to my educational concerns.
- I need help locating resources that will help me support my child.
- I have questions about my child's education program and how to be engaged in the process.
- I am unsure what my child may need to graduate and options after high school.
- I worry that my child will struggle with transitions to new schools.
- I would like to know what family engagement activities, events and parent training's are available.

Contact your DeKalb County
Parent Mentors today!



SCAN
ME!