



GRIFFIN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY
Serving South Metro County School Systems since 1966
BUTTS - FAYETTE - HENRY - LAMAR - NEWTON - PIKE - SPALDING - UPSON
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The Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) recently announced the recipients of the GSSA President's Award at its spring Bootstrap Conference in Savannah, Georgia. These awards are given to superintendents for outstanding leadership in their school systems and communities. This year, GSSA recognized Dr. Keith Simmons, the Superintendent of Griffin-Spalding County Schools, for the 2024 Georgia School Superintendent Association (GSSA) President's Award.

Dr. Simmons has maintained a consistent, clear vision to ensure that GSCS builds a distinctive brand, strong leaders, and great schools. He implemented his roadmap for success and has worked tirelessly to inspire and lead the district to empower each student to graduate ready for college and career. He instilled in his staff an expectation to always deliver on certain non-negotiables as outlined in the acronym PACE (Be Professional, Accountable, and Communicate Effectively). He is dedicated to professional development and planning to create greater opportunities for successful student outcomes.

As a former communications major, Dr. Simmons has focused on improving stakeholder engagement and parent communication. He has implemented advisory councils with students, teachers, and parents, and held multiple district-wide events to engage all stakeholder groups. He also incorporated the use of "Let's Talk", a customer service platform, and produces a video message that is shared with all staff members each week in a newsletter.

Dr. Simmons is a leader and a planner. He uses all resources within his reach to build people and processes to ensure that every student has the best possible experience and greatest opportunity to reach success after graduation and change the community. At a time where staff is hard to find, he balances culture and accountability to attract and retain quality leaders. In a time where many question authority and government, he and his staff strive to communicate effectively, and build leadership and systems to position the district to ensure great schools and student experiences.

Dr. John Zauner, the GSSA Executive Director had this to say: "Dr. Keith Simmons has displayed a steady hand and courageous leadership during his tenure. He shows a great deal of compassion for his community during some very tough challenges. His actions back up his words. He is recognized as a top superintendent performer in our state."

Dr. Keith Simmons consistently displays a passion for the children of his community. He works tirelessly to provide the best educational environment for the children of the Griffin-Spalding County School Systems. Dr. Stephanie Gordy, Executive Director of Griffin RESA stated: "I am fortunate to have the honor and privilege of working with this exemplary school superintendent. Our entire region benefits from his professional prowess and excellent leadership."

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