



# The RESA Reporter

Sept - Oct 2023

Why fly....  
when we can soar....  
in FY24



## Note from the Executive Director

With our recent high temps, it is hard to believe fall is around the corner. Yet here we are, beginning a new school year, and we are delighted to support our regional school systems with many services.

Our instructional coaches one-day in-person conference is taking place on September 27th. There will be a great keynote from Sherry St. Clair, followed by many breakout sessions. Concurrent session strands are inside this newsletter along with information on registration and lodging, if needed.

An inaugural event we have this school year is our "Best Practices for School Leaders" *Virtual* conference. Educational leaders from across the state of Georgia, through pre-recorded breakout sessions, will share best practices in building school cultures that retain teachers and increase student performance.

It is with much excitement that we've included information on our 2023-2024 Professional Learning Catalog inside this edition. It is the most robust PL catalog in Griffin RESA history, so kudos to our PL team!

Hundreds of educators have taken advantage of our endorsement scholarships. Application information is included in this issue (see page 6). We currently have 384 more endorsement scholarships (*at the time of publication*) so please reach out to our RESA at 770.229.3247, or [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net) for more information.

Take your practice to the next level by reviewing our October and November class schedules inside this newsletter. I think you will be amazed at all the possibilities to grow and expand your craft.

Griffin RESA Regional Student Competitions are a hallmark of student activities at Griffin RESA. We have our Regional Academic Bowl, Regional Mathematics' Competition, Regional Science Fair, Regional Literacy Days, and the Regional Young Georgia Author's Competition. Please see inside for more information about all these regional student competitions.

The role of the paraprofessional is vital in supporting the needs of struggling learners and providing a positive learning environment in the classroom, and throughout the school. We invite paraprofessionals to join us on November 1st, to add to their toolbox, effective support strategies to improve instruction, and learning for students at all grade levels. More information is inside!

Want to know more about all the exciting things going on at Griffin RESA after reading this newsletter? Then, please create a profile in our online registration system at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net) to receive email blasts about all things educational.

Cordially,

Dr. Stephanie Gordy  
Executive Director

440 Tilney Ave Griffin, GA 30224

770.229.3247

[www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

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# An Exclusive Professional Development Opportunity for Assistant Principals

## The HR Experience

The HR Experience includes 4 sessions, lunch on the second day of each session, and an Assistant Principal Human Resources Professional Microcredential

Provided by:  
Griffin RESA  
440 Tilney Ave.  
Griffin, GA 30224

Cost for Experience:  
\$499 (sessions only)  
\$899 (sessions and lodging)

### Session Dates:

Session 1: September 13 & 14, 2023

Session 2: October 25 & 26, 2023

Session 3: January 10 & 11, 2024

Session 4: February 7 & 8, 2024



### 1 Assistant Principal Competencies and Understanding the Law 9/13 12:30 pm-4:30 pm 9/14 9:00 am-3:00 pm

- AP Competencies: Communication Skills, Accountability, Leadership Posture, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Judgment, Organizational Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Reflection
- Reporting Requirements: Ethics, Child Abuse Reporting, Title IX
- Employment Laws: FLSA, FMLA, ADA
- Understanding The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.)

### 2 The Assistant Principal's Role in Performance Management 10/25 12:30 pm-4:30 pm 10/26 9:00 am-3:00 pm

- Getting the Most Out of Your Employees
- Evaluating Behavior for Ethical/Unethical Actions
- Performance Evaluations and the Importance of Targeted Feedback
- Creating and Managing Employee Performance Plans
- Understanding Termination/Separation Procedures and Implications

### 3 The Assistant Principal's Role in Hiring and Employee Retention 1/10 12:30 pm-4:30 pm 1/11 9:00 am-3:00 pm

- Conducting Impactful Interviews
- Effective and Legal Reference Checking
- New Staff Induction/The Importance of Mentors
- Culture and Climate
- Educator Burnout
- Avoiding Discriminatory Behavior in Leadership

### 4 Understanding School Finance 2/7 12:30 pm-4:30 pm 2/8 9:00 am-3:00 pm

- FTE-Maximizing Scheduling for Personnel Allotments
- Appropriate Use of School-Level Accounts (General Funds, Activity Accounts, PTO/PTA, Boosters, Sunshine Funds/Adult Accounts)
- Federal Funding

Session Facilitators: Valerie Suessmith & Dr. Jolie Hardin

# Instructional Coaches Drive-In Conference



## Griffin RESA Instructional Coaches Drive-In Conference

*Critical Levers in Improving Student Achievement*

September 27, 2023

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

### ➤ Concurrent Sessions

- Building Relationships with Coachees
- Courageous Conversations
- Implementing the Coaching Cycle
- Roles of the Coach
- Using Data to Develop Coaching Plans

➤ Cost: \$75 (cost includes continental breakfast and lunch)

➤ Lodging Information located on the registration page.

Register at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

### Concurrent Sessions

- Building Relationships with Cohort
- Coachees Courageous Conversations
- Implementing the Coaching Cycle
- Roles of the Coach
- Using Data to Develop Coaching Plans

Cost: \$75 (cost includes continental breakfast and lunch)

**Special  
keynote speaker  
to deliver  
conference opening  
address.**

*Lodging/Hotel Accommodations (if needed):  
We have negotiated a conference rate for you at  
the following hotels. Please mention **Griffin  
RESA** when making your registration, for a  
discounted rate.*

The Comfort Inn and Suites in **Griffin**  
has a rate of \$79 plus tax for a  
standard room.  
770-228-9799 (1906  
North Expressway, Griffin, GA)

The Comfort Inn and Suites in **Locust Grove**  
has a rate of \$99 plus tax for a standard room.  
678-827-7700 (4699 Bill Gardner Parkway, off  
I-75 across from Tanger Premium Outlets)

Please contact us with questions by email at  
[professionallearning@griffinresa.net](mailto:professionallearning@griffinresa.net) or by phone at the  
Professional Learning Department 770-229-3247.

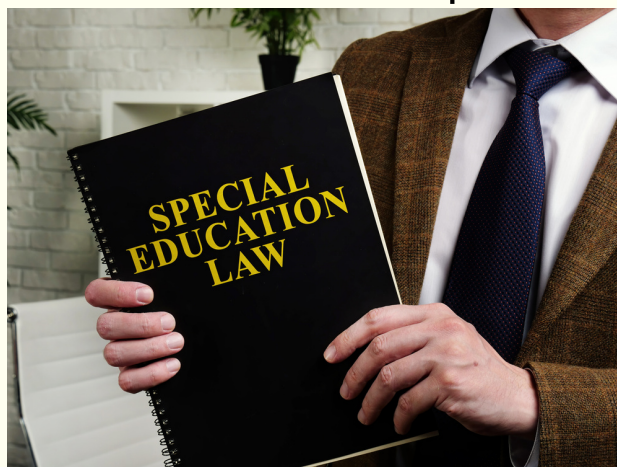
To check out all of Griffin RESA's  
Professional Learning classes, go to [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net).



# ***LEAding by Example for Leaders of SWD Special Education Law***

October 24, 2023

9:00am-3:00pm



Every student who receives special education services is covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This federal law defines what states must do to meet the needs of students with disabilities. In this course, the history, foundations, and current events of special education that has led to the development of these laws will be covered. Topics will include cases in the law that inform our practices, procedural due process, and local implications. Participants will gain confidence in their procedural knowledge and will receive resources and guidance that points them to answers when they are unsure of what to do.

This PL will address several HLPs in Special Education: HLP#1, HLP#2, HLP#3, HLP#5, HLP#7, HLP#11, HLP#19

This professional development opportunity is provided by a grant for our regional school systems. Therefore, it is open only to educators in the Griffin RESA region: *Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Pike, Newton, Griffin-Spalding, and Thomaston-Upson School Systems.*

**Location: Griffin RESA**

**Cost: \$0 (registration is required)**

**Target audience:**

**Special Education Educators**

**Registration deadline: October 18, 2023**

**Register online at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)**



## Professional Learning Opportunity

Would you know how to respond to a student in crisis?



### Location:

**Griffin RESA**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

### Dates:

**October 26, 2023**

**Or**

**February 8, 2024**

**FREE Training & Registration**

[www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

**Participants will earn:**

**YMHFA Certification**

**Sign up quickly!**

**30 seat maximum**

**This session is only available to participants in our member systems.**

**Sponsored by:**

**GaDOE School Climate**

### ABOUT THE COURSE

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is a full day public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help

### PARTICIPANTS LEARN

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies





## Endorsement Catalog

The 2023-2024 Griffin RESA Endorsement Scholarships are available to leaders and educators in Georgia K-12 public and local charter schools. Priority enrollment will be given to applicants from the Griffin RESA region. That region includes Butts County, Fayette County, Henry County, Lamar County, Newton County, Pike County, Spalding County and Upson County.

Click the link below for specific Endorsement Scholarship information as well as how to apply:

[Endorsement Scholarships](#)

Griffin RESA applied for and received funding for the following endorsements scholarships: Coaching, Dyslexia, Gifted, K-5 Math, K-5 Science, SST-MTSS Facilitator, Reading, STEM and Teacher Leader. Griffin RESA also applied for and received funding for our GaTAPP program. An endorsement to one's valid Georgia Educator certificate enhances the skills and dispositions of program completers in their respective area of study. This prepares the educator for higher levels of success in their current school or system role, as well as preparing them for future roles that may require an enhanced skill.





## *7th Annual Paraprofessional Conference*



**November 1, 2023**

The role of the paraprofessional is vital to support the needs of struggling learners and provide a positive learning environment in the classroom and throughout the school. Registrants will return to their schools with skills and knowledge on positive behavior interventions, strategies to support exceptional learners, high-engagement lessons and activities that can be adapted to all grade levels, and effective support strategies to improve the instruction and learning environment for students at all grade levels.

### **Topics include:**

*Supporting Struggling Learners  
Low Profile Behavior Interventions  
Engagement Strategies  
Strategies for Supporting the  
Classroom Teacher*

Cost: \$40

Register online at:

[www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

For more details send email to:

**[professionallearning@griffinresa.net](mailto:professionallearning@griffinresa.net)**

Or

Call us at:

770-229-3247



## Professional Learning Catalog

Please take time to review the entire catalog, and we hope you like what you see.

In the catalog, you will find courses to enhance instructional practices, development and use of assessments, classroom management and behavior supports, as well as other areas of teaching, learning, and leadership. Please note the dates of our four (4) conferences (three are in-person, one is virtual), and other professional learning opportunities.

Click link to access the 2023-2024 Griffin RESA [Professional Learning Catalog](#).

Griffin RESA is excited to present the most comprehensive Professional Learning Catalog in the history of the agency. To meet the needs of educators, many of our professional development options are now in a choice of face-to-face/hybrid/virtual/online/remote format. We still have plenty of "face-to face" options as well.







# CLASS SCHEDULE

Georgia Media Specialist Evaluation Traditional Instrument Training	10/3	Level Up! Engage Every Student: Student-Centered Strategies for Secondary Learners	10/18
How to Understand a Psychoeducational Evaluation	10/3	Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) Training for New Administrators	10/18
The Survivor's Toolkit: Managing and Addressing Behavior Challenges for Students with Disabilities	10/3	Graduation Coach Job-Alike	10/18
MTSS/SST Facilitator Endorsement Course 1 - A Problem Solving Framework	10/3-1/16	Para-Educators as Effective Classroom Interventionists	10/18
Psychological Safety: A Pathway to Resilience Writing	10/3	Coaching Endorsement Course 1 - Skills for Effective Coaching	10/19-12/12
Communication Circles: A Restorative Practice	10/4	Transition Consortium	10/19
Leading by Example: Discipline and Behavior Strategies for Students with Disabilities	10/4	Building Thinking Classrooms in K-12 Mathematics	10/24
School Librarian Evaluation Instrument	10/4	LKES Training	10/24
Understanding the Georgia Mathematics Milestone Assessment Grades 3-9	10/4	LEADING by Example for Leaders of SWD: Special Education Law	10/24
Using Success Criteria to Facilitate Student Growth	10/4	Behavior Strategies for the New Special Education Teacher	10/24-11/14
Making Student Authors with Purposefully Constructed Text	10/5	The F.I.P. Side of Georgia Milestones Writing Grades 6-8	10/24
MTSS District Coordinators Job-Alike	10/5	High Impact Math Strategies PK-12 Math	10/25
The Principals of Authentic Leadership	10/5	LKES Training	10/25
Understanding Problem Behavior and How to Treat It	10/5	MTSS 102: Serving Students in Tier 2	10/25
MTSS School Leaders, Specialists, and Chairs Job-Alike	10/5	APEL Ed Leadership Certification Information Session	10/25
Leading Literacy: Collaborative Conversations (Moving Forward with Data)	10/16	CKES Counselor Keys Evaluation System Training	10/26
Strategies for Coaching Positive Classroom Management	10/17	Classroom Management for 6-12 Teachers	10/25
Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) Training for New Administrators	10/17	Differentiated Instruction: How to Make it Manageable	10/26
Trauma 101: Understanding the Impact of Children for School Professionals	10/17	SDI Reading Series: Strategies for Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Recognition	10/26
Are We Having Fun Yet? Using Manipulatives to Teach Elementary Mathematics	10/18	Teacher Led Small Group Instruction 3rd-8th	10/26
		Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Training	10/26
		Collaborative Community Meeting for Special Education Directors	10/27
		Hearing & Vision Screening Training	10/31
		Ready, Set, Dive into 5th Grade Mathematics	10/31

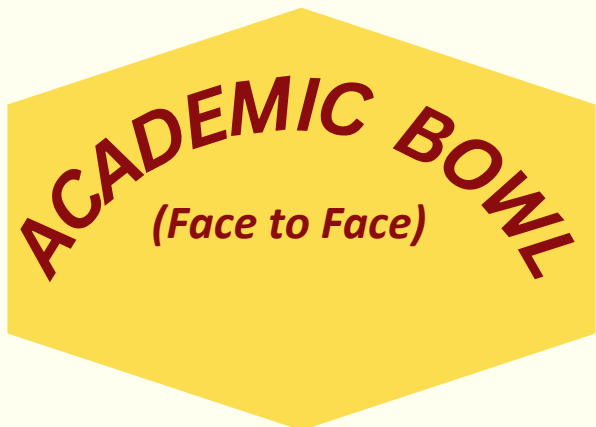


# CLASS SCHEDULE

RTI Tiered Instructional and Behavioral Supports	11/1-12/5	Digital Citizenship: Appropriate Use of Technology in Schools	11/14-11/21
Paraprofessionals Conference	11/1	Cultivating a Positive School Climate	11/15
De-Escalation Strategies	11/2	Hearing & Vision Screening Training	11/15
How to Design & Plan Instruction for Students with Processing Deficits	11/2	Ready, Set, Dive into Advanced Algebra	11/15
Ready, Set, Dive into High School Geometry	11/2	Alternative School Job Alike	11/15
The F.I.P. Side of Georgia Milestones Writing (Grades 6-8)	11/2	Ready, Set, Dive into 2nd Grade Mathematics	11/16
GA PSC Ethics for Paraprofessionals	11/6-11/24	SDI Reading Series: Strategies for Fluency, Vocabulary & Comprehension	11/16
Innovative Scheduling for Leaders	11/7	Writing Across the Content Areas 6th-12th	11/16
Ready, Set, Dive into Algebra	11/7	Math Coordinator and Supervisor Consortium	11/16
Classroom Management for PK-5th	11/8	Ready, Set, Dive into 4th Grade Mathematics	11/28
Hearing & Vision Screening Training	11/8	The F.I.P. Side of Georgia Milestones (Grades 3-5)	11/28
MTSS 101: The Nuts & Bolts	11/8	SDI Reading for the New Special Education Teacher	11/28-12/28
Ready, Set, Dive into 3rd Grade Mathematics	11/8	Ready, Set, Dive into 8th Grade Mathematics	11/29
"Plot Twist" Writing can be Engaging, Accessible, and Standards Based!"	11/9	How to Develop Meaningful Transition Plans: Moving Beyond Compliance	11/30
Engaging K-5 Students in STEM/STEAM	11/9	Ready, Set, Dive into Kindergarten Mathematics	11/30
Transition Consortium	11/9	Turning Reading Assessment Data into Targeted Instruction	11/30
School Psychologists Job Alike	11/9		
SLP Collaborative	11/10		
Assistive Technology Consortia	11/10		
Unmasking the Trauma of Bullying	11/14		



# Griffin RESA 2023-2024 Student Competitions



Round 1: September 25 - October 6, 2023

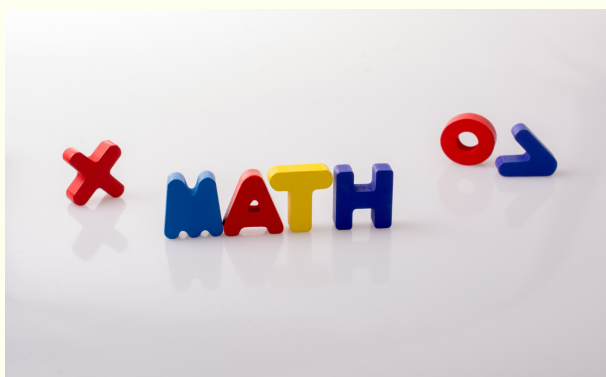
Round 2: October 16 - October 27, 2023

Round 3: November 6 - November 17, 2023

Round 4: November 27 - December 8, 2023

Round 5: January 8 - January 19, 2024

## Mathematics' Competition (Face to Face)



January 24, 2024, H.S. Math Contest  
January 25, 2024, M.S. Math Contest

## Regional Science Fair (Face to Face)



January 31, 2024, M.S.  
February 1, 2024, H.S

## Literacy Days (Face to Face)



February 6, 2024, Grades K-2  
February 7, 2024, Grades 3-5  
February 8, 2024, Grades 6-8

## Young Georgia Author's Competition (Virtual)



February 26, 2024



**Best Practices  
for  
School Leaders  
Virtual Conference  
February 2024**



At this virtual conference, school and system leaders will explore best practices in Building Positive School Climate, Instructional Leadership, Teacher Recruitment and Retention, Data Analysis for Planning and Assessment, and Professionalism and Communication. Educational Leaders across the state of Georgia, through pre-recorded breakout sessions, will share effective practices in building school cultures that retain teachers and increase student performance.

## **Session Topics**

***BUILDING POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE***

***INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP***

***TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION***

***DATA ANALYSIS FOR PLANNING & ASSESSMENT***

***PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMUNICATION***

**Cost: \$35**

**Register at**

**[www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)**