



# FAITH'S FRIDAY FLASH

NORTH GA GLRS

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APRIL 11, 2008

## FOCUS: IMPORTANT INFORMATION!



Please read this newsletter carefully; although much of the information is the same on p. 2 & 3, I usually imbed /update new information. The newsletter is our vehicle to inform coaches and their teams of upcoming events and critical information as this project moves forward.

Plans can and sometimes do quickly change based on various factors and as opportunities present that give little advance notice. However, I want to assure you that planning and any subsequent change is based on your concerns, the needs indicated in the Action Plans, the criteria of the SPDG Graduation Grant as well as the need to align our project with GaDOE initiatives, and the offering of meaningful opportunities

as they arise. These factors inevitably lead to necessary adjustments.

We are all committed to bringing you accurate information in a timely manner as we understand the importance of being able to plan ahead. Your patience and flexibility are greatly appreciated as the project moves forward and continues to evolve.

Please use this newsletter to help you plan accordingly. If there are updates that cannot wait until the Friday newsletter, then I will notify you via email.

As always, thank you for all of your hard work,

*Faith*

### Reminder:

The GaDOE Special Education Department has a PBS unit; Ginny O'Connell serves

as the Program Manager. In order to maximize resources and help align training with our developed Action Plans, the SPDG Graduation Project will work in concert with Ginny's unit. When a team selects PBS, there are several commitments involved. The procedure for teams is as follows:

- A specialist from Ginny's PBS unit will contact the school's principal to request and schedule a visit to the schools that have indicated an interest in the Summer PBS training. The specialist will meet with the Principal to answer any questions regarding PBS and to discuss the summer training.
- We are requesting that Coaches contact Principals to let them know that the PBS specialist will be in touch with them in order to arrange the visit. Hopefully, you will be able to sit in on this meeting.

April 15, 2008-Action Plan due to Faith (Submit electronically )

April 16-, 2008 Elluminate Session (2:00-3:00) Action Plan Sharing

April 22-23, 2008 Coaches training in Cleveland, GA. (Apr. 22 @10:00; Apr. 23 @8:30)

**MAY 1, 2008-FINAL ACTION PLAN DUE**

**May 16th: PBS Data training Location & time to be announced ASAP.**

The website for coaches can be found at [www.pioneerresa.org](http://www.pioneerresa.org). Please check frequently; we are continuously adding updates as we listen to your suggestions

### NOTE!

Based on your Action Plan there may well be others at your schools that will need to be involved in summer trainings. Please be sure to include them as you plan!

**PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR SUMMER TRAINING UNTIL NOTIFIED. CONTRACTS REGARDING RATES, ETC...ARE BEING NEGOTIATED BY THE GaDOE AT THIS TIME. I WILL NOTIFY YOU AS SOON AS DETAILS ARE FINALIZED.**

**MAY 16, 2008 . An opportunity is being provided through the GaDOE PBS unit in collaboration with the National PBIS Center regarding PBS data collection. This training will be conducted by National presenters and is an opportunity to be trained by uniquely qualified trainers. It is **hoped** that **all** Coaches can attend the 1 day session-even if your current teams are not involved in the PBS school wide initiative. Remember, we will have Cohort 2 teams that may indicate the need for PBS initiatives. If possible, the person from your school that will be responsible for collecting and maintaining any PBS data should be included in this session. Confirmation of the site and times will be forthcoming ASAP.**

Thank you Lynne Williams for the following clarification regarding alignment of SPDG Action Plans and School Improvement plans.

*Some teams want to take the extra step of aligning the activities in their plan with the school's existing school improvement plans. Taking the step to "fit" the activities in your plan into the framework of your district's plan may make it more workable. When Dr. Bost talked about 'contextualizing' a plan, she was talking about making the strategies work at your school, matching it to what is already going on in the school.*

*You might look for ways to combine your plans' activities with other activities that are already happening.*

*For example, could the meetings needed to implement your plan be combined with meetings the graduation coach has with leadership staff? You don't want to have two meetings when one will do. It's much easier to work from one overall aligned plan than from multiple plans. If your team is ready to do that kind of work, it could be very helpful.*

***But, if your team is still working hard to get a solid workable action plan in place, it probably won't be a priority to align it with the other improvement plans. Consider it only if it makes sense for your team.***



#### CONTACTS

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|--------------------|--|--------------|
| • Faith Huff       | <a href="mailto:fhuff@pioneerresa.org">fhuff@pioneerresa.org</a>       | 706-540-4848 |
| • Patti Solomon    | <a href="mailto:PSolmon@doe.k12.ga.us">PSolmon@doe.k12.ga.us</a>       | 404-651-6457 |
| • Patricia Davalos | <a href="mailto:pdavalos@pioneerresa.org">pdavalos@pioneerresa.org</a> | 678-936-7025 |
| • Debbie Currere   | <a href="mailto:debbianne6@charter.net">debbianne6@charter.net</a>     | 770-641-8927 |

## APRIL 22 & 23

Upcoming will be the Content Enhancement training on April 22 and 23 at Pioneer RESA in Cleveland. Kathy Gast will be the presenter. She is gearing her presentation to us, as Collaboration Coaches, knowing that we will not actually be implementing the strategies but will serve as support for those schools that may want to implement Content Enhancement strategies. She has asked that if you have access to any of your

## CONTENT ENHANCEMENT TRAINING

schools content curriculum guides or unit plans to please bring those to the training sessions.

Remember that we agreed to begin on April 22 at 10:00 and April 23 at 8:30.

Lunch will be provided and if you want to receive PLU credit you will need to register online. However, as I tried to access the online course I had difficulty so give me a few days to get the glitch straightened out before trying to register.



**Laura Brown introducing presenter Kathy Gast at Kansas Strategies Training.**