MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: John D. Barge, Ed.D.

SUBJECT: State School Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council

August 6, 2014

It is back to school season and this time of year is not just exciting for children, it is exciting for parents too. With a new school year underway, I am seeking school district nominations for parents to serve on the 2015 State School Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

The Superintendent’s PAC will meet three times each school year to discuss education in Georgia, with a particular focus on how to increase parent and family engagement to ensure student success in our Title I schools. Members serve as advisors and act as ambassadors, sharing the information they learn with members of their communities, other families, and schools. In addition to the regular standing meetings, PAC members will also be required to meet three times a year with you (or an area superintendent designee) and the Title I/Federal Programs Director, as well as present to school/district leadership on at least two occasions (once at a local school board meeting and once at a school administrator meeting for the district.) The Georgia Department of Education (Department) may also provide additional optional opportunities at the state level.

Each PAC member selected will serve a two-year term on the PAC. The nominated parent must be the parent of a Title I eligible child and must commit to attending all PAC meetings held throughout the length of their two-year term, as well as the 2016 Georgia Family Engagement Conference. Reimbursement for travel related expenses to the standing PAC meetings will be provided by the Department. This includes mileage, meals, and overnight accommodations, if necessary. School districts will be asked to budget Title I parent involvement funds in 2016 to support the parent’s attendance and involvement at the 2016 Georgia Family Engagement Conference, inclusive of travel, registration, and other associated costs.

As you consider potential nominations from your school district, please understand that a parent can be defined as a grandparent, foster parent, aunt, uncle, legal guardian or any other adult who serves as a primary caregiver of a student. Selection preference will be given to parents who are not employed by their nominating school districts. Again, only one nomination per school district will be accepted and past State School Superintendent Parent Advisory Council members are ineligible to apply. Nominations are due on or before Monday, September 8, 2014. If you have questions, please contact Michelle Sandrock, Parent Engagement Program Manager, at 404-232-1148 or msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us.

Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to working with a fantastic group of parents this school year!

JB/ms