

Central Georgia Regional Forum on Afterschool

On May 3rd, 2007, thirty afterschool leaders from nine counties in Central Georgia came together in Gray, GA for the first regional forum focusing on afterschool and summer learning. Leaders spent time reaching consensus on the main issues the region faces in providing quality afterschool and summer experiences for children and youth. Program funding and transportation to and from programs were acknowledged as major issues. Other issues participants identified included a lack of parental and community buy in and involvement, program capacity and supply and demand problems, lack of effective communication strategies and methods, and a need for programs to share resources, such as curriculums and best practices.

Central Georgia afterschool leaders spent the majority of time brainstorming an action plan to improve afterschool and summer learning in the region.

Next steps include:

- Setting up a cross community (at county and/or regional level) meetings to develop and write joint grant applications and other fundraising efforts for program(s) funding
- Gathering data to find out what programs exist in each county
- Mapping out resources in the region that could be shared among programs
- Creating a regional advisory board to represent region and meet with key state-national leaders
- Developing a statewide directory of programs
- Developing inter-agency councils in counties
- Finding a regional champion for afterschool in Central GA, also find local champions for counties
- Setting up a peer-to-peer network among providers
- Establishing local county afterschool investment councils and/or county parent advisory boards to focus on afterschool
- Sharing news and success stories with GAIC, local publications (such as school and church bulletins), newspapers and other local media on a regular basis to get the word out

Interested in getting involved in the Central Georgia Afterschool movement? Or does a regional meeting sound like something your community would be interested in hosting? E-mail info@afterschoolga.org today.