

Purpose

All Columbia County public school officials and personnel shall be provided the opportunity to continue their development throughout their professional careers. This is the primary purpose of the professional **learning** program offered by the Columbia County Board of Education and provided for by the Georgia Department of Education (State Board Rule 160-3-3-.04 and 160-3-3-.10).

Two additional purposes of such professional **learning** programs shall be to adopt into general practice the findings of scientifically designed research which has been widely replicated, particularly as it relates to teacher and school effectiveness, and to address the professional needs and deficiencies identified during the process of objective performance evaluations. All professional **learning** shall have, as its primary focus, improving student achievement.

A three-year professional learning plan will be developed and included in the school system's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Such professional learning plans shall organize and direct all professional learning activities for the system regardless of the source of program or funding. Assurances shall be signed by the local superintendent and included as part of the annual consolidated application. The plan, and related budgets, shall be reviewed and updated annually.

The Professional Learning advisory Committee will be appointed annually to advise and assist the system coordinator in the assessment of professional learning needs, determination of priorities, content and quality of program and modification of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and the Professional Learning Unit (PLU) credit plan.

Professional Learning Stipends

Rules and regulations concerning Professional **Learning** Stipends will be in accordance with Georgia Department of Education's Regulations and Procedures.

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 8/11/87

REVISED: 1/8/91, 10/01/97, 8/10/99, 9/10/02

Columbia County Board of Education