

# Gwinnett Parent Coalition

## Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline

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### Gwinnett STOPP Graduates Inaugural Class of Parent Leaders

Georgia – The Snellville, GA-based Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline (Gwinnett STOPP) announced Thursday, March 15, 2012, the inaugural graduating class of the Parent Leadership Institute.

The Parent Leadership Institute (PLI) is an innovative project of Gwinnett STOPP, a parent-led grassroots education advocacy coalition exposing the “School to Prison Pipeline” (STPP). The School to Prison Pipeline is a national trend wherein students are funneled out of the regular education setting and into alternative education settings and the juvenile and criminal justice systems. “We are so excited these new parent leaders. They will add a wealth of knowledge, resources, heightened involvement, and new associations to their community,” said Marlyn Tillman of Gwinnett STOPP.

The new parent leaders received training on community leadership and school discipline reform tools from local and national subject matter experts during the eight-month program. Participants also completed school-community projects in the areas of restorative practices and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports). The PLI pairs grassroots leadership curriculum training from the University of Georgia’s Fanning Institute Community Leadership Program, with education advocacy training that covers the topics of restorative practices, juvenile justice, student codes of conduct, data analysis and much more.

The graduation luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the Country Club of Gwinnett in Snellville, Georgia. The keynote speaker for the event is Ms. Benétta Standly, Director of the Northeast Region American Civil Liberties Union of Florida. Invitation is required.

Gwinnett STOPP is a grassroots parent-led, community-centered organization focused on identifying and dismantling the school to prison pipeline in Gwinnett County; which includes parent/community education, district monitoring and accountability, and recommending national best practices. Members of the coalition, in addition to parents, include the ACLU of Georgia, the Georgia State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Rho Kappa Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and other community stakeholders. Gwinnett STOPP is an active member of the Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) and regularly partners with other state and local organizations.

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#### Our Coalition Partners

ACLU of Georgia

Rho Kappa Lambda Chapter  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc

Georgia State Conference NAACP

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