



**BEN WIGGINS**  
GASSP PRESIDENT

**Assistant Principal’s Conference**

What are you doing to building future leaders in your school? Do you as the building principal have good candidates in line for an assistant principal position if one opened at your school? For many principals across the state, the answer to those questions would be a resounding no. Fewer teacher leaders are stepping into administration roles. We must begin to grow our own as we build the next generation of future leaders.

Let’s look at some ways to begin identifying and building leaders in your building. Begin by looking at the people in leadership roles in your building such as department heads, team leaders and coaches. Look for those individuals that not only have the leadership skill set but also the temperament and soft skills in dealing with people. So much of our job as administrators is making difficult decisions and meeting with upset people. We need to recruit future leaders that understand how to deescalate problems while at the same time make tough decisions that many times are not popular.

After you have identified these potential leaders, consider starting an internship program within your school where a teacher forfeits their planning time one or more days a week to begin working alongside your current administration team. As they grow you could rotate them amongst your administrative team in order to give them an opportunity to learn the different responsibilities.

A fantastic opportunity would be to send a potential leader to the GASSP Assistant Principal’s Conference in Macon on January 11. This would be a fantastic professional learning opportunity as they will have the chance to learn from practicing administrators across the state of Georgia. Hopefully, you already have at least one assistant principal attending the trip. Please consider also including a teacher leader or potential leader as you begin to grow your own for future administrative positions at your school and in your district. We look forward to seeing your people in Macon.



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UPCOMING GAEL CONFERENCES

<p>GASSP AP Conference Jan. 11, Macon</p>	<p>SSTAGE Promising Practices Jan. 19, Athens</p>	<p>GAEL WINTER CONFERENCE Jan. 29-31, Athens</p>
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# GASSP AP Conference

## *The Connected Leader*

January 11, 2017

Get in the Christmas spirit and **register today** for our conference planned just for Assistant Principals!

**Member Cost \$125 (Breakfast & Lunch Provided)**

**Non-Member Cost \$185**

**Location Macon January 11, 2017**

**Register Today @**

**[www.gassp.org](http://www.gassp.org)**

### **Region GASSP Meetings, A Time to Connect**

Throughout different times in my school leadership tenure, I discovered the feeling of being on an island alone. The pressure of being responsible for the education of hundreds and possibly thousands of students is not a light burden. During this journey, I found comfort in discussions with peers. As the school leader, there are times when no other person in the school has any idea what you are experiencing. Conversely, a school principal only five miles down the road may have just experienced the same situation three weeks ago. Connecting with other leaders is the same notion as teachers using resources. We ask teachers to diversify their resources other than just the textbook. As leaders, we should be expected to do the same.

In District L, we meet three times per year. We use different locations to host our events in order to change the atmosphere. The topics discussed at the meetings vary depending on the time of the year and state of public education. At some meetings, we will invite speakers on the topic of discussion, and other times, we will just discuss without the focus of a speaker. More importantly, the focus of each meeting is for peers to collaborate, share stories, and laugh. This job is taxing, but it even more so taxing if you try to do it alone on an island. Use your resources!



PHILIP BROWN, Ph.D.  
PRINCIPAL NORTH OCONEE HIGH SCHOOL



Please join the GASSP network of administrators on Twitter by accessing our Twitter account [@gassp](https://twitter.com/gassp). Great networking and Sunday night Twitter chats that are great professional development opportunities.



WANDA F. LAW  
GASSP VICE PRESIDENT

### Breakout Middle Schools Award

For seven years, GASSP has been recognizing outstanding middle schools throughout the state with the Breakout Middle School Award. The award identifies schools that are doing an excellent job in the areas of: collaborative leadership, personalization of the school environment for students and staff, and the continuous improvement cycle with curriculum, instruction and assessment. The rubric requires high levels of demonstrated evidence for each category. The selection process is always difficult as each application showcases the many wonderful things that are happening in Georgia schools.

### Congratulations to the 2016 Breakout Middle Schools:

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Brantley County Middle School         | Dr. Angela Haney       |
| • Eighth Street Middle School           | Dr. Chad Stone         |
| • Snellville Middle School              | Ms. Katise Menchan     |
| • The Museum School of Avondale Estates | Ms. Katherine Kelbaugh |
| • The STEM Academy@ Bartlett            | Mr. Peter Ulrich       |
| • Thomson Middle School                 | Dr. Walter Stephens    |

From the winning group of schools, there were three schools selected as Distinguished Breakout Schools due to their outstanding performance with the stated criteria and also reaching high levels of student growth and success. These schools are committed to meeting the needs of all students. Congratulations to **Snellville Middle, The STEM Academy @Bartlett , and The Museum School of Avondale Estates.**

Thank you to Georgia State Principals Center and Dr. James Kahrs for the continued involvement and financial support of this program. Congratulations again to all the winners! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children every day.

#### Making RTI Work

Mid-year is a great time to reflect on RTI practices and assess the effectiveness of one's interventions. If you find that students aren't responding as expected, take some time to answer these questions: Do your teachers have the supports they need to deliver interventions reliably and with fidelity? Do chosen interventions match the student needs? And, do processes encourage collaboration and problem solving? If adjustments are warranted, visit a reliable resource such as those listed at <http://sstage.org/resources/web-resources/> to find research based interventions, progress monitoring practices, and professional development resources. There's still plenty of time to impact student achievement!

Cammie Tysver, Assistant Principal, Lithia Springs High School

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