**GCTM Roundtable**

The first in a series of **GCTM Roundtables** was held in December. The topics for this session included updates on the revised math standards and COVID-19. The guest for this session was Matt Jones, Chief of Staff to Superintendent Woods at the Georgia Department of Education.

Here are a few highlights from the conversation:

**What is the latest update on the revision process and roll-out for the Georgia Standards of Excellence Math Standards?**

**“***We had hundreds of Georgia teachers that met for about 6 days to work on the math standards over the past year. The teachers came from across the state of Georgia and represented rural, suburban and metro districts. We had different grade levels represented with some beginning teachers and some veteran teachers and many in between. The teachers were all together in the same room so it was a powerful group. This diverse group of teachers looked at the individual standards and had the important discussions on the content and how best to organize. The teachers actually finished those meetings in January and February right before the pandemic hit. We feel lucky that all those teachers were able to come together to do that work in person.”*

Proposed Timeline

December 2020 Review of the proposed standards by the Academic Review Committee and the Citizen Review Committee

February/March 2021 Submission for Approval to the State Board of Education

School Year 2021-22 Professional Learning opportunities for educators and Assessment Development

School Year 2022-23 Implementation of the NEW standards and NEW student assessments

**What are some ways that the Georgia Department of Education plans to support math educators and students during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

*“So one thing we worked on early was to get the major connectivity and Internet providers together to negotiate prices on behalf of the state for school districts. Interestingly, we had a lot of states contact us and ask to use the Georgia contract for their own state negotiations. We were excited to also collaborate to equip school buses with Wi-Fi hotspots and we’re working to equip outside Wi-Fi hotspots that can be attached to school buildings or housing or apartment complexes. We’ve been able to use some of our stimulus money for those types of things but we have also partnered with the governor’s office and they’re using some of their stimulus funds to increase access to devices and hotspots. It’s been encouraging to see lots of different state agencies starting to look at their resources and their tools and pull together on how to create the infrastructure not only in our bigger cities but in our rural areas so that students have access from their homes.”*

**Final thoughts…**

“*Some things I don’t think we’re all excited to jump back into include testing and accountability and teacher evaluation. I think there’s an opportunity to reimagine and maybe empower our educators so we have developed a plan to reimagine education in Georgia.”*

Here is a link to learn more about “A Roadmap to Reimagining K-12 Education”: [https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/A\_Roadmap\_to\_Reimagining\_K-12\_Education.pdf](about:blank)

Hope you will join us for the next **GCTM Roundtable** session in January. We anticipate the session will be held during the first break in the 2021 legislative session about mid-January. More information will be sent out to the GCTM membership through email with the registration link and an opportunity to share a topic or question you would like to have discussed.