**GAC Expectations of Schools During the COVID-19 Crisis**

The Georgia Accrediting Commission is carefully monitoring the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on our member schools. While student safety is of paramount concern, we are also trying to keep student instructional needs in focus. The GAC is prepared to grant temporary flexibility to its standards to allow teachers to safely teach children.

* GAC expectations for schools that have face to face instruction
  + The GAC expects schools to follow guidelines for safe schools as developed by appropriate agencies. Below are links to three sources:
    - GA Department of Public Health Guidance
      * <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>
    - CDC Guidance
      * <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
    - GA Department of Education - COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and Schools
      * <https://www.georgiainsights.com/recovery.html>
* GAC expectations for schools with remote instruction
  + Schools are still responsible for providing content
  + Schools should use resources such as study packets, cable access, virtual school/online classes, Zoom, etc.
  + Schools should develop a plan to ensure content is being delivered
  + The plan should provide a way to monitor student progress and provide feedback
  + The plan should describe how student progress is assessed.
  + The plan should describe formal assessments.
  + If on-line resources are used, there should be accommodations for those without this capability
  + There should be a plan to provide student transcripts in a timely manner
* Consultant Visits
  + The GAC has developed guidelines for its consultants to utilize for site visits.
  + Your consultant will discuss the guidelines appropriate for your school with you before a visit.
  + The consultants are prepared to modify certain standards to accommodate a school’s temporary response to the COVID-19 crisis.