2014 GSIS Conference Evaluations Breakout

1. What SIS system are you using? If you select Other please tell us the name of your SIS program.

Infinite Campus	Power School	Tyler SIS	SASI	SchoolMax	Aspen	Total
37	30	3	1	4	1	76
48.7%	39.5%	3.9%	1.3%	5.3%	1.3%	

2. What is your building level?

District Level	High School	Middle School	Elementary School	Total	
47	7	11	6	71	
61.8%	9.2%	14.5%	7.9%		
Other, please specify:					
District Level , Help Desk				1	1.3%
Elementary School, District Level				1	1.3%
Elementary School, Middle School				1	1.3%
Elementary School, Middle School, High School				1	1.3%
Middle and High				1	1.3%
Total				76	

3. Which session level best meets your needs?

Advanced	District	State	Beginning	Intermediate	Total	
16	12	3	4	14	49	
21.1%	15.8%	3.9%	5.3%	18.4%		
Other, please specify:						
All					1	1.3%
Advanced, District					4	5.3%
Advanced, District, State					5	6.6%
Advanced, State					1	1.3%
Beginning, District , State					1	1.3%
Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, District, State					1	1.3%
Beginning, Intermediate, District, State					1	1.3%
District, State					6	7.9%
Intermediate, Advanced					3	3.9%
Intermediate, Advanced, District, State					1	1.3%
Intermediate, District					1	1.3%
Intermediate, District, State					1	1.3%
Intermediate, State					1	1.3%
Total					76	

4. Do you prefer?			
No preference	1 day and ½ day conference	½ day, full day, and ½ day conference	Total
27	9	40	76
35.5%	11.8%	52.6%	

5. Using the scale shown, please indicate your satisfaction with the 2014 GSIS Users Group Conference   Not Satisfied…1………2………3…..……4……………5….Very Satisfied

	Not Satisfied				Very Satisfied
Area	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Satisfaction	0	2	3	26	43
Facilities	0	3	0	18	54
Relevance to your Job	0	1	4	29	39
GSIS Website	0	1	7	25	40
GSIS Newsletter	0	1	7	23	42
Registration Process	0	0	4	19	50
Vendor Presence	0	9	13	27	24
Variety of Presentations	0	2	9	25	38
Knowledge of Presenters	1	0	4	25	42

6. Please check below areas you would like to see an increased number of sessions at the next GSIS Conference:

DOE Updates	49	19.0%
State Reporting	59	22.9%
Grade Reporting	21	8.1%
Scheduling	28	10.9%
Attendance	12	4.7%
Discipline	22	8.5%
Special Education	1	0.4%
Product Demonstrations	8	3.1%
CCRPI	1	0.4%
MS Excel	23	8.9%
MS Access	10	3.9%
MS Word	10	3.9%
Counselor Roles	1	0.4%
PowerSchool Sessions	1	0.4%
SQL Server	1	0.4%
Reporting Entities (i.e. TLE)	1	0.4%
HOPE (Gacollege411)	17	6.6%
Total	258	

	7. What was your best experience of the conference?
1	Food
2	All the sessions with Flora!!!
3	networking with others around the state
4	The DOE sessions were very informative.
5	Networking with others.
6	Learning all the State changes.
7	Networking with other users and learning better ways to collect data along with the updates to our systems
8	DOE Information.
9	Human Networking
10	The full breakfast was awesome compared to what was there in the past. Snack time with the chips and toppings, corn dogs, and desserts were delicious too. I really enjoyed the quick Access review too. I havent used that program much recently but liked to learn how other systems are using it with reporting.
11	The number of sessions offered relevant to my job. and the warm cookies during a break. I enjoyed the breakfast and lunch set up, too.
12	Networking! It's always a wonderful time to learn from others and to obtain clarification. I also appreciated the "Coming in FY2015" updates from GaDOE.
13	The food was excellent this year! Thank you!!
14	Districts sharing information with others.
15	I stayed in the same room in the same presentation the whole conference, on Power Scheduler. The presenter was great. It was good but really long, a lot to cover in 2 days. It was really a lot to take in. I wish we would have had more time to do hands on. Overall it was awesome.
16	FTE updates, Infinite Campus presentation, Student Records update
17	Being in a relaxed environment to learn and the ability to have some one on one time with DOE and Infinite Campus.
18	Winning the last prize drawing:)
19	Everything was great, facilities, food, fellowship, it was like being at church! :)
20	Wonderful vendors and speakers. Conference personnel were wonderful (servers and food).
20	The presentation that Newton County gave. Tools you just cant live without-Episode II I have attended this session the first year they presented also, they are extremely insightful. Can't wait to see what they add to it next year!!!!!
21	Networking with people from other school systems who do the same job and may have valuable insight on better ways to do so.
22	The variety of sessions offered for principals and the great door prizes! :-)
23	Learning more about PowerSchool that I thought I already knew.
24	I felt that the presenters did a great job of providing information and answering individual questions. I learned some new tips (THANKS!!!)
25	I sat in the Power scheduler presentation the whole conference. VERY helpful could sit in two more. Would love to have more of these presentations.

7. What was your best experience of the conference? … Continued

26	I had not been to the GSIS conference for the past 5 years, primarily due to funding. I made the decision to go this year as DOE staff was scheduled to present so many sessions. Their information is so valuable, especially this time of year. It is because of their increased presence that my staff and I went to the conference this year. We will continue to attend as long as DOE continues to offer several sessions.
27	I enjoyed the entire conference. Great way to stay informed on state reporting updates. Being able to talk over issues with other data entry people and with state level personnel. Great learning experience every year I have been. Enjoyed the food...did miss scrambled eggs though.
28	I learn alot at the sessions but my best experience is when we all gather in the main hall. I have meet so many people that have great input to make my job easier. With our school system switching from School max to Infinite campus this year I am sure the conference will have much more to offer next year.
29	Getting ideas/feedback from other counties
30	Experience was great... can we order spring weather next yr?
31	very little changes to the schedules...so I was able to get to all but one of the sessions I had planned on attending.
32	All sessions
33	I am new to this position and meeting everyone was wonderful. The information I received gave me a better sense of what to expect in the coming months as well.
34	N/A
35	getting to know coworkers and registrars from other districts that we talk to on the phone several times a year also the food was AWESOME!
36	This year's GSIS conference was overall a great experience, perhaps the best so far. I was pleased with the overall representation from DOE this year. Hopefully, next year will also bring representation from Accountability and Policy as well.
37	More counties representing "how they do it" in their county and sharing documents they use.
38	Facilities

	8. What was your worst experience of the conference?
1	None
2	rooms were too hot the first day
3	The information presented during the PowerSchool sessions may or may not apply to all districts. Many options within PowerSchool are driven by the size of the district. It would be helpful to know if the presenter is from a small district or a large district.
4	None
5	limited sessions related to PowerSchool on the first day of the conference
6	None
7	Realizing how much I didn't know ....
8	By the end I was ready to go. Wished it was a little shorter.
9	Powdered Sugar...of course I can't blame anyone but me for being a klutz.
10	Weather-can we do it a little later so it might not be so cold and wet.
11	A couple of presenters mentioned things, such as giving para's SIS logins to access grades, that I feel do not follow GA DOE policy. and not winning a door prize :0
12	Not enough seating in the cafeteria, difficult to hear.
13	No experience
14	I didn't have a bad experience at all. I learn something every time I go to GSIS.
15	Not having classes for just Registrars. The classes I went to were more so for experienced users and I felt that the information was over my head. I am a new to Powerschool and needed classes for registrars.
16	Not having Accountability there to discuss CCRPI. The TLE session left a lot to be desired. Questions seemed to be misdirected more than answered, I rarely get frustrated during a conference session, but that session was frustrating. Not eating at Leopold's more. I spent $30 on Ice Cream, probably gained two pounds...
17	Didn't have a bad experience.
18	N/A
19	None
20	Leaving. Enjoy all the presentations that I attended but could not attend all that I wanted to get to.
21	I didn't have any 'bad' experience. However,if pressed.... Some of the presentation rooms were uncomfortably warm. We had to ask staff to turn up the A/C. the staff were wonderful, helpful and friendly. Would also have liked a few more rooms with tables, to make note taking a little easier. This is just personal preference, but I would've liked to have some 'hand outs'... I take notes, but it is always nice to have reference documents from each presenter, so I can go back and review or find the resources more easily than trying to read my chicken scratch handwriting.
22	Because i committed to the Power scheduler for the whole conference i missed some other opportunities to learn some other things. I forgot to cancel one of my days at the hotel and they would not refund me the money. Thought that was stinky!
23	None.
24	N/A
26	Food @ the convention center not too good.
27	nothing applies

8. What was your worst experience of the conference? …. Continued
28	NA
29	N/A
30	N/A
31	Lack of knowledge of some presenters
32	Finding out about the additional data entry that will be necessary to accommodate the TLE Platform
33	Didn't have one...

	9. Which presenters do you feel shared information that will assist you in doing your job?
1	Dawn Everett, Denise Epperson, Wanda Jones, Josh Griffis
2	USHA Software Presentations
3	Flora
4	NoraLea does a great job! I always make it a point to attend her sessions. Her delivery is great, straight to the point and ALWAYS relevant.
5	All GaDOE presenters
6	State DOE due to the fact of the amount of changes. Followed by Vendors indicating the implementation process.
7	Wanda Jones - DOE, Kim Rhodes, There was another lady from the DOE who did a remarkable job on her presentations. Unfortunately, I do not remember her name.
8	All sessions that I attended.
9	Ed Dedic
10	State presenters
11	All the presenters did an excellent job. This was my first experience with GSIS and I was very impressed with how well it was organized and how well-prepared the presenters were.
12	DOE
13	All of the sessions I attended had really good presenters.
14	DOE
15	Sean Curran
16	All of them! I learned something at every session, & I brought back valuable information to colleagues as well.
17	I came away with something from each presenter.
18	DOE Department and Tyler
19	Same presenter the whole conference.
20	Wanda Jones, Infinite Campus presentation, DOE presenters
21	Jeff Hodges, Wanda Jones, The lady from Effington County that spoke about maximizing your funding
22	NA
23	DOE, Other District presenters.
24	The one who did PowerScheduler. He was AWESOME
25	All.
26	Flora Contreras and Chris McManigal
27	All
28	DOE, Wanda, Betty, Levette, Bonnie, Hubert, Bob Swiggum, Infinite Campus always provide the pertinent information to their users but it is always nice to have some Refreshers.
29	All that I attended especially sessions on maximizing FTE.
31	To be honest, I feel like I got at least a little something useful from each one! They did a great job!
32	Our presenter was awesome. we needed to move a bit more quickly!
33	DOE presenters and information shared was very helpful.
34	GA411, State, Jesse, Bill, Chris
35	Jesse Peavey, Wanda Jones, Bonnie Dye

	9. Which presenters do you feel shared information that will assist you in doing your job?
36	Since we were checking out infinite campus and power school to switch to we mainly went to meeting of the minds and talked with vendors to help us decide which system we thought would work best for out county.
37	GaDOE, District level - SIS specific, Other Entities (i.e. SpEd, TLE, etc.)
38	Most all presented data I needed or items I can use.
39	This year state updates and the updates in our SIS were of high priority with all of the changes.
40	N/A
41	Each session I attended was excellent.
42	DOE Staff/Infinite Campus-currently converting from SMAX
43	Aspen
44	Infinite campus - even though we are not on this system as of yet, seeing what it had to offer gave an overview of what was to come
45	DOE Staff, Chris McManigal, Kim Rhodes
46	DOE staff
47	Paula Crowley
48	All presenters shared relevant information

	Please share below your thoughts on ways the GSIS Users User Group can grow in the future.
1	Day and a half is more than sufficient time for the updates / changes since we are all exposed to the Fall Data Conference. Or the conference needs to turn more toward workshops that focus on the data entry components that the secretaries / data clerks do on a day to day for data management / integrity and relationship of why what is reported to support this effort of connection at the local level.
2	In recent years I have noticed many of the school level users are no longer attending. The sessions could be more geared toward the local school. But keep the district sessions.
3	Stay in Savannah, Monday-Wednesday schedule is the best
4	More Prizes! (Just kidding) =) You guys put on an absolute great presentation! I always come home with so much more knowledge! Thanks!
5	I would like to see more information shared from the State DOE - I really enjoyed Bonnie Dye and Bob Swiggum.
6	It would be nice if the GSIS Users Conference was more centrally located in the state. For those of us that live in North Georgia it is a long way to travel and keeps some systems in the area from being able to attend.
7	We have come a long way since we started years ago...just keep on keeping on. This conference lends itself to learning and implementing ways to do our jobs better.
8	This was my first GSIS conference, so everything was new to me. Not having a previous conference to compare this one to, I still felt that it was informative and relevant to my position. I enjoyed getting a better "feel" for how information is used from the local school to the state level.
9	This year's conference was one of the best we have had in a while. The variety of sessions is what made the difference. I think the sessions setup needs to be accomplished earlier to allow for more participation from administrators or counselor roles.
10	Advertise / spread the word to more people in all roles. There is great information for principals, APs, data clerks, counselors, even superintendents! Data is so big and getting bigger, and it affects every educator & employee of a school district. If the course descriptions could be posted sooner (and maybe in a shareable PDF format), I believe I could recruit more people to attend with me. Thank you for putting this conference together!
11	no ideas
12	more DOE and FTE information, More Special Education coding issues
13	DOE and Infinite Campus provide us with an error session of what are the most common errors, what are they looking for and how can we fixed them or prevent them. (I am a newbie)
14	Have classes for the different users in all areas....Principals, Support staff, teachers, etc
15	We really need to get Accountability down there. We need much more clear information on CCRPI! That's one of the only things I can think of that can improve GSIS. Thank you for a fantastic conference.
16	Great conference; great presenters.
17	I would like to have more like Newton County presentation.

	Please share below your thoughts on ways the GSIS Users User Group can grow in the future.
18	I love, love, love Savannah but maybe a change of location might be nice. It is a long drive for North Georgia people. Possibly Callaway Gardens or Macon.
19	Get the word out. Let us put your banner on our website. Send us the snippet to link back to your site and we can put it on our site.
21	The only problem I have is that I am the only person from my school level that attended the conference. And some of the PS sessions/LDS(that I need to attend) that are only offered one time are scheduled the same time as state sessions so I had to pick one over the other. Maybe offer some repeat sessions on the last day? And maybe have registration earlier so more sessions could be offered? Thanks to all involved in the organization of this year's conference....job well done.
22	I would like to see the conference moved to later in the year (spring or summer) so we could enjoy the city and sites. This may also work better to get people to conference. With students in school it is hard to get the main user to conference. This year report cards went out while we were at conference. It may not work with the FTE and DOE changes - but it may be something to check out.
23	Great job
24	1.) Due to financial constraints, our SIS Specialist (clerks) are not able to attend the conference, what if you guys set up a webinar - video session for maybe the top State Reporting sessions (FTE / Stu Rcd / Stu Class, etc.) which allowed them to login to have access to a video webinar. Allow the user to pick a session/day/time (you could limit the number per session). I believe their are some free webinar applications out there (not sure about video). This would provide our school users with first hand information. If they were aware of the event ahead of time, and the principals would buy into the importance of the information and their participation, then maybe they can step away from their office. I think I remember DOE, speaking about FY2015 and maybe having principals sign off on a data collection, I think they would want the SIS specialist to be able to provide information. Now you might ask, then everyone will want to login to the webinar and not attend the conference. I don't think so, make it strictly available for those users and only for certain sessions. My job includes providing support for these users and yes its part of my role to deliver the information back (which I do) but what better way to include them, now that we live in a world of such advanced technology. Well, that's my two little cents. 2.) I know this is not your responsibility, however, I usually travel alone to the conference and I'm always forced to try to get with someone for dinner. It would be great if we could pre-purchase say a deli type meal (sandwich, chips, cookies) for those traveling solo. I usually have to settle on eating within ($$$$) the hotel facility. Or perhaps your committee could ask if local vendors (pizza hut, chinese vendors etc.) will provide delivery services, of course this would have to be okay with the hotel. Just a thought. Thanks for all your work. I served on the GSIS Board for 3 years back in 2002, so I understand your challenge and task.
25	I am please with everything. Keep the location definitely!!!
26	Keep up good work!
27	getting more districts involved in the conference

	Please share below your thoughts on ways the GSIS Users User Group can grow in the future.
28	Due to budget constraints, perhaps the vendor (i.e. IC) can incorporate a large group session that will provide an opportunity to share application updates for those users who did not have the opportunity to obtain the information via Interchange. ...or provide updates that have occurred post the vendor conference.
29	With all of the reporting requirements, it is time to consider moving this to other areas of the state. Savannah is wonderful, but you will get higher participation from my district and others if you move this to metro, Macon, or Athens.
31	DOE Updates and other counties sharing State Reporting experiences.
32	great job! keep up the good work!