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...GESA is a professional development program that is grounded in educational equity and helps educators reduce disparities in the way teachers interact with students. The program is based on over seventy years of research on race, gender, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability expectations and teacher / student interactions. Research has shown that the relationships teachers have with their students impact student achievement.

The Jefferson County Public Schools has been involved in the implementation of GESA ... for several years. During the school year of 2004-2005, the Jeffco Office of Educational Equity targeted four middle schools in order to assess what impact GESA had on student achievement. Looking at historical changes of SAR data at these four Jeffco middle schools, the SAR index increased at these schools when GESA was implemented. The SAR is one of the indicators of student achievement. In my opinion, when GESA is implemented with fidelity, there is a positive impact upon student achievement.

I would highly recommend the GESA program for schools interested in improving student achievement and meeting the equity needs of students. GESA is a great place to start on the road to closing the achievement gap based on race, gender, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status and disability.

Sincerely,

Beverly Joyce Cosey
Director of Professional Development / Human Resources