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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cobb Alcohol Taskforce and Cobb County School District Join Forces to offer *Guiding Good Choices* – Free Training for Parents**

**February 23, 2009** - The Cobb Alcohol Task Force and the Cobb County School District Success for All Students (SFAS) project join forces to help parents of children ages 9 – 14 reduce the risk that their children will develop drug and/or alcohol problems. Parents' child-raising practices, attitudes, values and behaviors greatly influence their children. The *Guiding Good Choices* five session program is designed to give parents the tools they need to successfully raise drug and alcohol-free children.

The SFAS project is funded by a federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant, which provides school-based mental health and other intervention services. SFAS will train 12-15 community *Guiding Good Choices* facilitators at various times throughout the life of the grant. Training and all curriculum materials are free and provided to each participant/organization to enable them to implement the program in their communities on an on-going basis. The next *Guiding Good Choices* facilitators training will be March 1 – 3, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Mansour Center in Marietta. For more information about participating, please contact Stuart Bachman at [stuart.bachman@cobbk12.org](mailto:stuart.bachman@cobbk12.org) or call 678-736-9419. Community organizations and faith-based agencies are invited to become facilitators. Space is limited.

*Guiding Good Choices* – a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration model program – has gained national recognition for its sustainable results in local communities. In a four-year follow-up study, the *Guiding Good Choices* program was shown to reduce alcohol use by 40.6% and significantly reduce the rates of initiation for marijuana and drunkenness.

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#### **About Cobb Alcohol Taskforce**

Cobb Alcohol Taskforce is an alliance of individuals and organizations which mobilizes and challenges Cobb County adults to reduce underage drinking and youth binge drinking, by advancing strategic enforcement, policy and education goals. To learn more, visit [www.cobbat.org](http://www.cobbat.org) or call 404.791.7406.

#### **About Success for All Students**

The Success for All Students project encourages the belief that Bright Futures Begin Within and provides prevention and intervention strategies that reduce the risk factors that can come between children and their ability to learn - both in the classroom and at home. SFAS is a collaborative effort among CCSD, Cobb Community Services Board, Cobb County Juvenile Court and Cobb County Sheriff's Office.