

What seems to be the most promising learning advantages afforded to students attending to this school?

I love the "culture of calm." There was a part of me that knew that some parents and students would balk at metal detectors, uniforms and having to be 'orderly,' but then I realized that those students wouldn't choose to attend VOISE. As a disruptive innovation, VOISE is perfectly situated. If the only educational choice is a chaotic public school system that is dealing with cultural issues first and education second, VOISE with its calm and order would appeal to the students who want to break out of the poverty cycle.

Laptops instead of schoolbooks, refurbished computers for home use – very exciting stuff.

Being able to work at their own pace, but having the teacher there to guide them – sitting at the back of the room so he/she can see all the computer screens!

What aspects of the VOISE blended model can we emulate in Georgia public schools?

I have seen many teachers hired right out of college in Atlanta and Decatur, but what happens is these teachers are left to sink or swim, adapt to the chaotic, undersupplied school they find themselves in and to keep from drowning in paperwork, they adapt to the 'old' way to teaching instead of being given an opportunity to do what they were hired to do.

Given the opportunity to work in an entirely new school, administrators that are on the same page, new teachers excited about using technology rich lessons and students that are focused on learning, this could be a huge success.

What are some aspects of the VOISE blended model that would be difficult to replicate in Georgia public school(s)?

Echoing Bliss, the lowest socio-economic bracket learns to take care of themselves early. A lot of them resent being told what to do. The parents that are involved are usually voicing negative opinions about the positive changes that are being implemented: dress code, security gates, etc.

I honestly don't think that the VOISE model can be implemented as such, in a Georgia public school. Opening an entirely new school? That could be made to work. Students have to apply and be accepted, contracts of conduct to be signed and students held to. If attending VOISE is a choice, then you won't have the distraction of forcing students who don't want to be there to conform.

It is a fantastic model, and I know a lot of students who could have really benefitted from attending a school like VOISE. I know plenty of students now who would thrive in that environment. If the opportunity came up for me to work at a school like VOISE, I would leap at it!

They let the little things slide, and in my opinion, if the little things were taken care of, the big things would never happen.