Parent and teacher associations have impacted the course of Fulton County Schools since the earliest days of the twentieth century. The Georgia Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association (GPTA) was organized in 1906, an offshoot of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). However, due to the state-mandated segregation of schools, there was a definite need for advocacy in support of African American students and teachers. In 1919, the Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (GCCPT) was founded by Selena Sloan Butler, a teacher and community leader. The GCCPT was the first such organization in the country and set the standard for organizations in other segregated states and for the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT) formed in 1926. The National PTA and the NCCPT shared the same objectives and coordinated literature and speakers for each organization’s annual meetings. By 1942, the NCCPT began working closely with the U.S. Children’s Bureau and had 20 state organizations including a branch in the District of Columbia. In 1970, 14 years after the US Supreme Court declared the segregated school systems unconstitutional — the two groups merged.

For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the Teaching Museum, contact Jena Sibille at SibilleJ@fultonschools.org.