



July 7, 2023 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Hope your 4th of July was great! Our weather turned out to be mostly sunny and cool for this time of year. Always wonderful to have time to relax and spend time with friends and family.

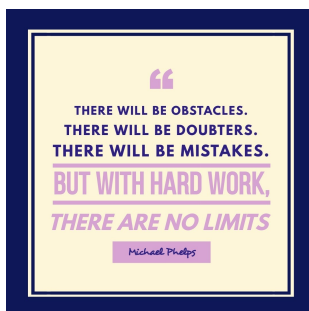
Last week, I heard a story about a 13-year-old young man who had accomplished much with his involvement in sports. He was recognized in almost every sport he played as one of the best players if not the best player. He plays just about every sport but what is unique is that he has a prosthetic device for one leg. That is all he has ever known, and it has not stopped him from living life to the fullest. His parents were key to his success as they never tried to limit him or his experiences. As a result, he not only plays numerous sports, but he also excels at a high level. When asked how he has accomplished so much, his response was, "I live with no limits." Living without limits has served him well in all aspects of life. His mother continued by saying that they always let him try and supported his decisions along the way. She reinforced that his mantra is no limits. If we could all adopt that same spirit or belief, just think of what could be achieved. Do we ensure students with disabilities have no limits?



*Have no limits*

Next week is Summer GAEL at Jekyll Island. Our own, Dr. Zabrina Cannady, is the presiding GAEL President. This year's theme is "Ring in 50 Years of Believing". The Division for Special Education Supports and Services will be presenting during a breakout session on discipline guidance. Jamila Pollard, Senior Program Manager/Legal Officer and Bridget Still, Program Specialist will reinforce the new discipline guidance from OSEP and what a building leader should know. Hope to see you there!

Join me in celebrating Caleb Guy from Ball Ground, Georgia, and his accomplishments in kayaking from the Special Olympics World Games in our highlight this week. The full story is below. Caleb is living with no limits!



*There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are no limits.*

I challenge you in this upcoming school year to ensure your students are living life with no limits. Some thoughts include:

-Ensure the least restrictive environment is provided. Always start with the general education setting. What accommodations and/or supports are needed to meet the goals of the IEP? Students should be allowed to learn with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible.

-Give all students a chance to follow the standards-based curriculum. How do we know extended

standards are needed until we try the regular standards first? Decisions made early in the child's school career can have a profound impact on the outcome in high school.

-Provide a full continuum of services. If some students require small group instruction, it should be provided. The same applies to the full range of options. Every student will not fit the mold of all co-teaching or require self-contained services on the other end of the spectrum. A full range of services is the mandate as specified in IDEA.

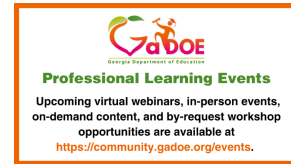
-If students are instructed in the general education classroom with standards-based instruction, their assessment measure will be Georgia Milestones. Making early decisions about the path a child will follow can be life changing. Provide an opportunity to all students to live with no limits!

Thank you for supporting all students with disabilities and their families to live and learn with no limits!

Keeping students first,  
Wina

## Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.



*Professional Learning  
Events*

### Coming Up

**July 27** at 10 a.m. Special Education and School Administrator Academy: Cohort 3 Kickoff - GaDOE Community

### Reminders

**July 30** Budget Completion Reports Deadline for all State Grants for FY23

**July 31** CCEIS/CEIS FY23 Student Events Data Upload Due

**July 31** CCEIS/CEIS Plan for FY23 Due

**July 31** Preschool Exit Data (FY23 Data)

**July 31** Timelines Data (FY23 Data) - Child Find and Early Childhood Transition Deadline

**July 31** Post-School Outcomes (for FY22-23 Exiters)

Visit GaDOE Community for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.



**Cherokee  
County  
School  
District**

*Cherokee County School  
District logo*

### District Highlight: Cherokee County Schools

Our district highlight this week is from Cherokee County Schools. Caleb Guy, 20 years old from Ball Ground, participated in the Special Olympics World Games held on June 17-25, 2023 in Berlin, Germany.

Caleb competed in the 200 meter and 500 meter singles kayaking races as well as the 200 meter tandem kayaking race. He earned silver medals in all three events! Way to go, Caleb!

Read the full article on the Cherokee Tribune & Ledger-News webpage.



Caleb Guy kayaking



Passport to Paris informational flyer

## District Highlight: Jefferson County Schools

Each year Jefferson County School District has a culminating activity for students with disabilities who attended Extended School Year. This year the theme was "Passport to Paris". Read the flyer to learn more about this amazing event!



Arrows

**Practice Pointers – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):**

## Incarcerated Students

**Student incarcerated in a local jail within the jurisdiction of his/her local educational agency (LEA) of residence:** The LEA where the jail is located is responsible for providing special education services to students in that jail. The LEA must convene an individualized education program (IEP) Team meeting and determine appropriate special education services. Students incarcerated in local jails in the LEA's jurisdiction should remain enrolled in the LEA and receive special education services. The LEA will need to work closely with the local jail to gain access to the students and to deliver services. The LEA should document all correspondence with the local jail, especially if the local jail will not permit the LEA to provide a FAPE to the child with a disability.

**Student incarcerated in a local jail outside the jurisdiction of his/her LEA of residence:** The LEA where the jail is located is responsible for providing special education services even though the student is not a resident of the county/city where the jail is located. It is best practice for the LEA where the student resides to work with the LEA where the jail is located and participate in the IEP Team meeting to determine appropriate services. The two LEAs should collaborate to do what is most appropriate for the student. The student may be withdrawn from their LEA of residence and enrolled in the LEA where the jail is located. If this occurs, the LEA where the jail is located will provide the services.

For more information, please see our [Guidance for Serving Youth who are Detained or Incarcerated](#), and the [Dear Colleague Letter on the IDEA for Students with Disabilities in Correctional Facilities](#).

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), which is the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Georgia State University (GSU) will offer a 4-day, in-person training on the functional behavior assessment/behavior intervention plan (FBA/BIP) process. Participants will learn the FBA/BIP process from start to finish and will receive free, modifiable FBA/BIP materials for their district's use. Training participants will have access to follow-up coaching/technical assistance calls, as well. There will be a maximum of 50 participants per training session.

### FBA/BIP Professional Learning Schedule

Training Dates	Region
August 28 -31, 2023	Metro East Region
August 28 -31, 2023	Regions 8 & 13
September 11-14, 2023	Region 6
September 25-28, 2023	Regions 1 & 2
October 2- 5, 2023	Regions 3
October 23-26, 2023	Region 5
October 23-26, 2023	Metro West Region
November 6-9, 2023	Regions 7
November 13-16, 2023	Region 10
December 4- 7, 2023	Region 9
December 11-14, 2023	Region 16
December 11-14, 2023	Region 18
January 22 -25, 2024	Region 14
January 29 -Feb 1, 2024	Region 15
February 2 – Feb 8, 2024	Regions 11 & 12
February 26 – February 29, 2024	Region 17

## Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) will hold its 22nd annual Kickoff on Thursday, September 14, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Middle Georgia State University, Robert F. Hatcher, Sr Conference Center, Macon, Georgia 31206. Registration will open in July and there will be no registration fee. We look forward to being in-person with our 88 participating district's special education directors or designee and 98 parent mentors. If you have any questions, reach out to Anne Ladd, [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us).

## Office of Teaching and Learning: June 2023 Right Now Resources

Hard to believe last week was the end of June 2023 - where has time gone? We hope that many of you enjoyed some time off as we celebrated July 4th Week. We hope to see many of you at Summer GAEL, GRE4T Convening, MathCON, or the Governor's Literacy Summit the week of July 10 - 14. As you prepare for the coming new school year, our team is ready and willing to provide support as needed. Please see the [June 28, 2023 Right Now Resources](#) newsletter for Teaching and Learning Updates, or subscribe on the [Curriculum and Instruction webpage](#) to have them delivered straight to your inbox.

Atlanta, Georgia

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July 14, 2023 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Summer GAEL at Jekyll Island celebrated 50 years as an organization. The greatest benefit of our collective professional groups is the gift of collegiality. If you are not active in G-CASE and GAEL or any of the other affiliates, I encourage you to get involved. Having other professionals with the same professional opportunities and challenges can be invaluable. Leverage the experience of many to elevate student outcomes.

The Georgia Department of Education recognized over 90 schools this week for increased achievement to exit the School Improvement designations.



*Alone we can do so little.  
Together we can do so much.*



Jamila Pollard, Esquire and Yyanisha Bass Bonner from the Division for Special Education Services and Supports had a standing room only crowd for their breakout session at Summer GAEL. Their session on discipline for students with disabilities reached many building leaders.



As we begin a new school year, surround yourself with people you trust, cultivate professional relationships and strive for meeting the needs of all students. Whether it is through G-CASE, GAEL, SELDA or any of the many supports we have available, turn to others when you need support, a listening ear or technical assistance. One of the greatest honors in my life has been supporting other special education directors through support and mentoring. You may be a new director now but before you can hardly blink, you will be a veteran ready to support other directors. Working to support each other will make us all stronger.



*Multicolored hands holding one another.*

Thank you for all you do for students with disabilities. Special education directors have a tough job but you will receive the greatest rewards. Just know, you have a friend!

Keeping students first,  
Wina



*Professional Learning  
Events*

## Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.

### Coming Up

**July 18-19** Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA)

**July 27** at 11 a.m. Special Education and School Administrator Academy: Cohort 3 Kickoff - GaDOE Community

### Reminders

**July 30** Budget Completion Reports Deadline for all State Grants for FY23

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Visit GaDOE Community for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.

## **Practice Pointers – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): Incarcerated Students**



*Arrows*

**FAPE for students incarcerated in the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) and Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ):** Both the GDC and the Georgia DJJ function as their own local educational agency (LEA). Students incarcerated as juveniles must be withdrawn from their LEA of residence and enrolled in DJJ or GDC. An individualized education program (IEP) Team will need to convene and determine appropriate services. The United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) makes it clear “that regardless of the structure in a State, the State as the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act] IDEA, Part B grantee, has ultimate responsibility for ensuring FAPE is made available to all eligible students with disabilities residing in State and local juvenile and adult correctional facilities.” [Dear Colleague Letter on the IDEA for Students with Disabilities in Correctional Facilities, U.S. Dep’t of Educ., Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\), December 5, 2014.](#) LEAs that have youth with disabilities in adult prison do not have the responsibility of meeting the requirement for: (1) state and districtwide assessments; and (2) transition planning, and transition services if the student’s eligibility under Part B of the IDEA will end, because of their age, before they will be eligible to be released from prison based on consideration of their sentence and eligibility for early release. In addition, the IEP Team of a child with a disability may modify the child’s IEP or placement if there is a security or compelling penological interest that cannot otherwise be accommodated.

For more information, please see our [Guidance for Serving Youth who are Detained or Incarcerated](#), and the [Dear Colleague Letter on the IDEA for Students with Disabilities in Correctional Facilities](#).

## **FY24 Special Education Budget and Data: Filling your Toolbox with the Right Tools**

Special Education Directors are faced yearly with numerous requirements in the areas of Budget and Data. The Budget and Data teams are here to support you!

Please join budget and data specialists from the GaDOE Division for Special Education Services and Supports for interactive sessions designed to support your work for students with disabilities. The team will provide you with the information and tools you need to get the job done effectively and efficiently in all the key areas impacting budget and data submission. Some of the topics will include Maintenance of Effort (MOE), Equitable Services, Allowability, FTE, Student Class, Student Record, among others.

### Special Education Budget & Data Tools for the Job Registration

The time for each day of the two-day sessions is 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. All sessions are open for registration in the Professional Learning Catalog.

Survey: After registering for your session, please complete the FY24 GaDOE IDEA Budget and Data Technical Assistance Survey to enable the Budget and Data teams to provide information based upon your input.

Please contact Dawn Kemp at [dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us) or Malissa Roberts at [mroberts@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mroberts@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

## **Budget Update - IDEA Fiscal: It Pays to Follow EDGAR Webinar**

Can you believe the beginning of the new school year is just around the corner? As you enjoy the last few weeks of summer and prepare for the return of staff and students, we are preparing something special for you!

We are bringing the IDEA Fiscal: It Pays to Follow EDGAR webinar to you LIVE via our Special Education Budget & Data Tools for the Job professional learning event.

Two days will be filled with interactive sessions designed to support your work for students with disabilities. We will take a closer look at internal controls in-person on day two of our sessions. If you have already registered for the event, you're all set to go! If you haven't registered yet, register [here.pdf](#).

*Please note, the webinar scheduled for July 20 is canceled and will now be held in person.*

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

The Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), which is the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Georgia State University

(GSU) will offer a 4-day, in-person training on the functional behavior assessment/behavior intervention plan (FBA/BIP) process. Participants will learn the FBA/BIP process from start to finish and will receive free, modifiable FBA/BIP materials for their district's use. Training participants will have access to follow-up coaching/technical assistance calls, as well. There will be a maximum of 50 participants per training session.

**FBA/BIP Professional Learning Schedule**

<b>Training Dates</b>	<b>Region</b>
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Georgia  
Parent Mentor  
Partnership

*Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership  
logo*

**Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff**

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) will hold its 22nd annual Kickoff on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at the Middle Georgia State University, Robert F. Hatcher, Sr Conference Center, Macon, Georgia 31206. Our theme this year is Power of the Past/ Force of the Future. We look forward to being in-person with our 88 participating districts' special education directors or designee and 98 parent mentors. Please visit the [Parent Mentor Partnership webpage](#) for additional Kickoff information and updates. If you have any questions, reach out to Anne Ladd, [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) or Tracy Jones, [Tracy.BarberJones@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:Tracy.BarberJones@doe.k12.ga.us).

Registration Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff

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July 21, 2023 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

As soon as the fireworks are over, it feels like back to school to me. Having spent the last 40 years as a K-12 educator, you can't help but feel a little excitement when you see the school supplies on display. In the eblast this week, you will notice several very important messages, registration opportunities and schedules for the new school year. Please share this information as appropriate. Don't want you to miss an opportunity!



*Black bears in a kiddie pool*



Although we are about to start a new school year, I just have to share a few pictures of summer in the mountains of north Georgia. We see bears occasionally in our yard, but this spring and summer have been an exception. On Sunday afternoon, a picture-perfect moment happened in the middle of Wilderness Parkway. On one of the busiest roads in our development, a Mama Bear and her cub sat in the road having a bonding moment. A little later in the afternoon, another pair found a kiddie pool and had a great time. On Saturday, a Mama Bear and her cubs stopped for lunch in a neighbor's yard. Take time to enjoy summer as fall is fast approaching. I hope



you enjoy the pictures as much as I do. Don't let summer slip away!

Our first Director's Webinar is scheduled for August 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The agenda is packed so be prepared for longer than one hour. Registration and links will be available soon!

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports in conjunction with Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), which is the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Georgia State University (GSU), will offer a 4-day, in-person training on the functional behavior assessment/behavior intervention plan (FBA/BIP) process. Participants will learn the FBA/BIP process from start to finish and will receive free, modifiable FBA/BIP materials for their district's use. Training participants will have access to follow-up coaching/technical assistance calls, as well. There will be a maximum of 50 participants per training session. The course is free to participants. Registration links to come. Contact Vickie Cleveland at [vcleveland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:vcleveland@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

Emory Autism Center is delighted to announce upcoming informational Zoom sessions hosted by the Georgia School Nutrition Association (GSNA) in partnership with Autism Speaks. Cobb County Schools' commendable initiatives taken in creating employment opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related challenges.

Date: July 26, 2023

Time: Community Partners and Providers- 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Meeting Link**

Meeting ID: 917 8681 1050

Passcode: 692705

During this interactive session, we will delve into the successful collaboration between GSNA and Autism Speaks, focusing on the incredible work being done in Cobb County. Gain deeper insights into the strategies, opportunities, and resources dedicated to promoting inclusive employment opportunities for individuals with ASD in the county. We invite community members, educators, agencies, employment service providers, and anyone interested in advocating for and supporting individuals with ASD to join us for this insightful Zoom session. Your presence and active participation will ensure invaluable knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS) has enhanced program offerings to provide lifelong benefits to



students. There are six current pathway options at RWS strategically developed in correlation with job opportunities in Georgia's most high-demand areas. Successful completion of one of these sixteen-week programs allows students to obtain the professional certifications that employers want, giving a substantial advantage over other candidates in competitive job markets. RWS 900 acre campus provides residents with amazing dorms, recreation areas, instructional facilities and other amenities that many colleges and universities would envy. Please share the [promotional video](#) highlighting the new programs and other examples of campus life. LEAs may contact Chip Medders at [Dennis.Medders@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Dennis.Medders@gvs.ga.gov) with any questions. Students interested in attending RWS should contact their local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. [Applications](#) are being accepted now for the new school year. Students must be able to live independently to meet admission criteria.

The GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship Program is designed to encourage families with children who have disabilities to save tax-deferred for future qualified educational expenses through Georgia's P2C 529 Savings Plan. The Office of the State Treasurer (OST) is partnering with Georgia's Path2College 529 Savings Plan (P2C) and the Georgia STABLE Program to offer the GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship of up to \$2,500 for eligible existing or new Georgia STABLE account owners. The award amount will be a dollar-for-dollar match based on net contributions made to an eligible recipient's Georgia STABLE account between July 1 and December 31, 2023. Find out more in the full text below.



*Georgia Stable and  
Path2College 529 Plan logos*

The Low Vision Clinic Schedule for 2023-2024 from Smokey Powell Center of the Georgia Academy of the Blind is now available. Please share with your Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Please review the [schedule](#) and see other resources included in the full announcement.

The Department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) and its Safe and Supportive Schools' technical assistance centers released a series of [fact sheets](#) on how school leaders and communities may support students' emotional, behavioral, and academic well-being and success. Please see the full article below including access to a webinar series.



Georgia was featured in the July OSEP Newsletter for our work on teacher retention.

## How Georgia is Tackling Special Education Teacher Shortages

Georgia's Division for Special Education Services and Supports has been implementing a teacher retention/provider program for three years to address shortages in the critical area of special education. [EdNote blog](#) recently featured the program, the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy. Georgia focused on keeping new special education teachers in the classroom through partnerships with institutions of higher education and the [CEEDAR Center](#). In the 2021–22 school year, 84% of teachers who completed the program returned the following year, highlighting the program's success. The program, which has 220 participating districts, also supports special education directors and building leaders. "We are learning lots about what works and practices that are ineffective. It is fun to watch this grow," said Georgia State Director of Special Education Wina Low. Moving forward, Low hopes to turn this into a two-year model to continue supporting special educators early in their career. This project was made possible by the 325 Personnel Development Grant awarded through OSEP.

I have to admit that I loved back to school time as a kid. I liked everything about a new bookbag, notebooks, pencils and markers. I had everything ready by about this time each July. I think our daughter, Ali, loved school even more. She would prepare Excel spreadsheets about all the backpacks that she was considering and compare the attributes to make a selection. She was between 2 grade and 3 grade when this started. Needless to say, we were serious at our house about getting ready for school. We need to remember the excitement of a new school year as most of our students are really happy about school starting. As leaders and teachers, we have an enormous responsibility to keep the joy of learning for our students. Thank you for all you do to support and encourage. We are all very fortunate to have the opportunity to impact so many lives. Commit to make this the best school year ever!

Keeping students first,  
Wina



*Teachers rule*



*Professional Learning  
Events*

## Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.

### Coming Up

**July 27** at 11 a.m. Special Education and School Administrator Academy: Cohort 3 Kickoff - GaDOE

Community

**August 9** at 10 a.m. Special Education and School Administrator Academy

### Reminders

**July 30** Budget Completion Reports Deadline for all State Grants for FY23

**July 31** CCEIS/CEIS FY23 Student Events Data Upload Due

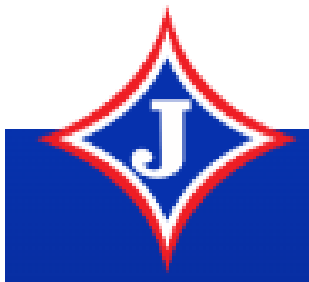
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**July 31** Post-School Outcomes (for FY22-23 Exiters)

Visit GaDOE Community for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.



### District Highlight: Jefferson City Schools

This summer, Jefferson City Schools has been able to train all of their co-teaching teams on the basics of co-teaching and collaboration. They have been able to use the Capacity Building Grant to pay stipends for their teachers to attend this training. This training laid the foundation for one of their special education district initiatives this school year, improving their co-teaching teams and experience.



Arrows

## **Practice Pointers – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): Incarcerated Students**

As a part of general supervision, the local educational agency (LEA) should ensure the following: 1) Written policies, practices, and procedures are in place that ensure compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for incarcerated students; 2) Procedures are in place for providing professional learning activities to ensure all teachers and administrators are fully informed of their responsibilities for providing services should enrolled students become incarcerated; 3) Sustained supervision is in place to monitor for the compliant practices involved in providing services for students who are incarcerated; and 4) Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local jails and state facilities is in place as a best practice to further support this area. To ensure the identification of special education students, communication lines should be open and ongoing with written procedures.

For more information, please see our [Guidance for Serving Youth who are Detained or Incarcerated](#), and the [Dear Colleague Letter on the IDEA for Students with Disabilities in Correctional Facilities](#).



## **Georgia STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship Program**

The GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship Program is designed to encourage

families with children who have disabilities to save tax-deferred for future qualified educational expenses through Georgia's P2C 529 Savings Plan.

The Office of the State Treasurer (OST) is partnering with Georgia's Path2College 529 Savings Plan (P2C) and the Georgia STABLE Program to offer the GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship of up to \$2,500 for eligible existing or new Georgia STABLE account owners. The award amount will be a dollar-for-dollar match based on net contributions made to an eligible recipient's Georgia STABLE account between July 1 and December 31, 2023. Net contributions are deposits less withdrawals made during the same period.

The GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship Program is designed to encourage families with children who have disabilities to save tax-deferred for future qualified educational expenses through Georgia's P2C 529 Savings Plan.

Matching Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for new or existing Georgia STABLE account owners who apply by entering the scholarship promotion code, MATCH2023, through the [Georgia STABLE website](#).

### **Who Is Eligible?**

ABLE qualified Georgia residents ages 18 and under who have net contributions made to their new or existing Georgia STABLE accounts between July 1 and December 31, 2023.

### **How It Works:**

Once an existing or new Georgia STABLE account has been opened, qualifying applicants apply for Matching Scholarships through the [Georgia STABLE website](#), by entering the scholarship promotion code, (MATCH2023).

Matching Scholarship recipients will be notified of their awards in early 2024 and given instructions on how to redeem their awards. Each recipient must open a P2C account and follow instructions to redeem their awards into their P2C account. The GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship Program allows award recipients flexibility to claim awards when they want and in desired amounts for qualified education expenses. At the time recipients claim their awards, they will receive information explaining how to open a P2C savings account to receive the scholarship funds.

Matching Scholarship funds will be held in the GA STABLE/P2C Matching Scholarship Trust until recipients claim awards to fund their P2C accounts.

For more information about the Georgia STABLE Program, call 1-800-439-1653. Consider investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before



investing. Before you open an account, you should carefully read and understand the STABLE Account Plan Disclosure Booklet found at the Georgia STABLE website.

For more information about the Path2College 529 Savings Plan, please the website. For information on OST, please visit the OST website.

Matching Scholarship Flyer

How to Apply for the Matching Scholarship-New GA STABLE Accounts

How to Apply for the Matching Scholarship-Existing GA STABLE Accounts



*Smokey Powell Center logo*

## **2023-2024 Low Vision Clinics**

The Smokey Powell Center of the Georgia Academy for the Blind is excited to bring to you our Low Vision Clinic Schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. As always, these clinics are no cost to the districts or the families. We thank everyone who has agreed to host us throughout the state of Georgia so please refer to the attached schedule for locations. As always, contact Heather Francis, [hfrancis@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:hfrancis@doe.k12.ga.us) for scheduling.

We also offer Vision Assistive Technology Consultations/Assessments. For your convenience, below are the Referral Checklists for Low Vision Evaluations and Assistive Technology Consults/Assessments (and the pre-observation form for AT). The checklists are also available at the Georgia Academy for the Blind website and click the Outreach Services tab.

AT Pre Observation

AT Referral Checklist

LVE Referral Checklist

## **Safe and Supportive Schools' Technical Assistance Centers Resources and Webinars**

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Please contact Dawn Kemp at [dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us) or Malissa Roberts at [mroberts@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mroberts@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

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February 2 – Feb 8, 2024	Regions 11 & 12
February 26 – February 29, 2024	Region 17



*Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership  
logo*

## Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) will hold its 22nd annual Kickoff on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at the Middle Georgia State University, Robert F. Hatcher, Sr Conference Center, Macon, Georgia 31206. Our theme this year is Power of the Past/ Force of the Future. We look forward to being in-person with our 88 participating districts' special education directors or designee and 98 parent mentors. Please visit the [Parent Mentor Partnership](#)

webpage for additional Kickoff information and updates. If you have any questions, reach out to Anne Ladd, [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) or Tracy Jones, [Tracy.BarberJones@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:Tracy.BarberJones@doe.k12.ga.us).

Registration Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff

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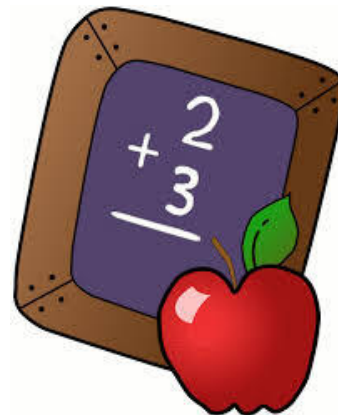


July 28, 2023 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

The OSEP Leadership Conference is being held in Washington, D.C. this week. Georgia is well represented including a breakout session presentation on our Teacher/Provider Retention Program. Hope you enjoy the picture of most of the Georgia team.



*2+3 equation on a cartoon blackboard with an apple in front*



*State Director Wina Low speaking at OSEP*

A huge emphasis at this conference is the new discipline guidance. OSEP is

releasing over 200 free resources. I will share the link as soon as available.



The Director's Webinar Series will begin in August. Please see the links below for FY24.

- August 8, 2023
- September 12, 2023
- October 10, 2023
- November 7, 2023
- December 5, 2023
- January 9, 2024
- February 13, 2024
- March 12, 2024
- April 9, 2024
- May 14, 2024



*Kathy Johnson pictured with  
OSEP Director, Valerie  
Williams*

I am proud to share that Georgia was recognized for our work with teacher retention by OSEP leaders. Thank you, GLRS, for your dedication and commitment in delivering the induction program.





*School buses*

As you prepare to welcome teachers back to school, please share our belief of high expectations for students with disabilities. Ensure all students have access to a full continuum of services and supports.

Let's make this year the best year yet! Thank you for your long hours of planning to begin a new school year.

Keeping students first,  
Wina



*Professional Learning Events*

## Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the [Due Dates Calendar](#) for deadlines and key dates.

### Coming Up

**August 9** at 10 a.m. Special Education and School Administrator Academy

### Reminders

**July 30** Budget Completion Reports Deadline for all State Grants for FY23

**July 31** CCEIS/CEIS FY23 Student Events Data Upload Due

**July 31** CCEIS/CEIS Plan for FY23 Due

**July 31** Preschool Exit Data (FY23 Data)

**July 31** Timelines Data (FY23 Data) - Child Find and Early Childhood Transition Deadline

**July 31** Post-School Outcomes (for FY22-23 Exiters)

Visit [GaDOE Community](#) for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning

Events.



## **District Highlight: We Want to Feature You!**

We are looking to feature the amazing work you are doing in your districts!

You can email Wina Low at [wlow@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wlow@doe.k12.ga.us) or Kris Rhee at [kristen.rhee@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kristen.rhee@doe.k12.ga.us) and we will be happy to feature your district's and students' successes.



*Arrows*

## **Practice Pointers – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): Incarcerated Students**

When a student with an existing individualized education program (IEP) from another public agency arrives in a correctional facility in the same State, the facility either must implement the existing IEP or hold an IEP Team meeting to modify the contents of the IEP. 34 C.F.R. § 300.323(e). If a student with an existing IEP from another public agency arrives in a correctional facility in a different State, the new public agency either must conduct its own evaluation and make a new eligibility determination pursuant to 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.304-300.306, if determined to be necessary by the new public agency, or develop and implement a new IEP for the student. 34 C.F.R. § 300.323(f). However, as an initial matter, the new public agency, in consultation with the parents, must provide the student a free appropriate public education (FAPE) (including services comparable to those described in the student's IEP from the prior public agency) in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 300.323(e) or (f), as appropriate.

For more information, please see our [Guidance for Serving Youth who are Detained or Incarcerated](#), and the [Dear Colleague Letter on the IDEA for Students with Disabilities in Correctional Facilities](#).



*PROGRESS Center logo*

## **PROGRESS Monitoring Center**

The PROGRESS Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and housed at the American Institutes for Research (AIR). It provides information, tools, resources and technical assistance to help support educators in establishing high-quality programs to enhance the academic outcomes for children with disabilities.

To learn more about upcoming events, trainings, and resources, please check out the [PROGRESS Center website](#).

## **Universal Protocols for Accommodations in Reading (uPar)**

### **What is uPar?**

uPar helps students access grade level text by identifying the reading accommodation that is right for the student.

To access this protocol for your students with disabilities please sign in through the AT Partnership Portal. If you have questions about how to access the portal, please reach out to Paula Gumpman at [pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us)

## **Assistive Technology Partnership**

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports in conjunction with Tools for Life is excited to share information about the Assistive Technology Partnership. The partnership is designed to build capacity across all Georgia school districts by providing assistive technology services and supports for grades Pre-K through 12 to support increased outcomes for students with disabilities. The following services and supports will be available at no cost to LEAs:

- TextHelp – Read and Write, Universal Protocols for Accommodations in Reading (uPar)
- Assistive Technology Lending Library
- EdTrade, Georgia Assistive Technology (AT) School Exchange Database

Contact Paula Gumpman at [pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us) with questions.

## **Office of Teaching and Learning: July 2023 Right Now Resources**

Awesome Georgia Leaders!

The State Board met July 19. To see important action items including Universal Screeners approval and Statewide Passing Score (EOC), visit the link [here](#). Please review the [July 19, 2023 Right Now Resources](#) newsletter for Teaching and Learning Updates, or subscribe on the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) webpage to have them delivered straight to your inbox.

We will continue to provide support as needed and invite you to reach out with questions and concerns. Thanks for all you do each and every day.

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