



March 1, 2024 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Stay determined and finish strong

Directors,

I am looking forward to seeing everyone next week at G-CASE Spring Legal Conference in Athens. It is hard to believe we are about to enter the final quarter of this school year. Following a healthy dose of legal updates next week, you will be prepared to finish the school year strong!

Today's message includes several resources and links to technical assistance centers that contain premier professional learning and support. Please take time to watch the sneak peek from Johnson County Schools. You will love it! Please share with your teachers.

I hope you will join me in congratulating Johnson County Schools on the grand opening of three sensory spaces. The link allows a sneak peek. You will be impressed! Way to go Johnson County! [Sensory Space Sneak Peek Link](#)

Come celebrate our
**GRAND
OPENING**

3 Unique Sensory Spaces. One Common Purpose.
A sensory space in the school environment promotes a positive school culture and climate in supporting students' health and wellbeing.

Johnson County Schools
February 28, 2024

JCES Ribbon Cutting 9:00
SENSORY
CLUBHOUSE @ JCES

JCMHS Ribbon Cutting 9:30
SENSORY
LEGO LAB @ JCMS
SENSORY
THEATRE @ JCHS

Resources for Leaders and Teachers

The Progress Center led by Dr. Tessie Baily has numerous resources to support special education teachers. You will also enjoy visiting the website for High Leverage Practices in Special Education. The National Center on Intensive Intervention is another excellent source of the latest information on interventions.



Setting Goals

- Visit these sites for more information on setting goals
- for students with and without disabilities.

Teacher resources with the most usage across the state are listed below. Hope you find some of these options helpful for your students.

1. Game-Based Learning Collection - 3.1 million views

-**Lights, Camera, Budget!** – An online game designed to help secondary students learn, study, and review financial literacy topics while also practicing their budgeting skills. A collaboration with the Georgia Council for Economic Education.

-**GASHA Go! World** – A suite of 13 games, 7 animated videos, and support materials that teach kids ages 4-8 foundational computer science and problem-solving skills. Aligned to Georgia's computer science framework for K-2.

-**Start It Up** – An entrepreneurship simulator game designed to provide high school students and young adults an opportunity to experience challenges and rewards associated with starting a new business. A collaboration with the Georgia Council for Economic Education.

-**Georgia Race Through Time** – In this history adventure game aligned to Georgia standards for 8th grade social studies, students get to show off their knowledge of Georgia history by helping Savannah and Peaches find artifacts and beat the clock.

-**Make That Paper** – An online game designed to help high school students learn about the forestry industry and career employability skills. A collaboration with Georgia Forestry Foundation and aligned to CTAE standards.

2. Georgia Studies Collection – 2.5 million views

-**Georgia Studies online course** – A course that teaches the Georgia standards

for 8th grade Georgia history in an interactive and engaging format.

-**Virtual Field Trips** – Over 40 interactive virtual field trips that allow students to explore and learn about Georgia without leaving the classroom.

-**Georgia Stories** – A video series consisting of 100+ streaming video segments, educator resources, and primary source materials that support the teaching of Georgia Studies.

3. Science Collection – 976K views

-**Physics in Motion** – A digital series for high school physics comprised of seven units of study and 59 video segments with support materials.

-**Chemistry Matters** – A digital series for high school chemistry comprised of 12 units of study and 88 video segments with support materials.

-**Let's Go Enviro** – A digital series for high school environmental science comprised of six units of study and 26 video segments with support materials.

4. Economics Collection – 455K views

-**Econ Express** – A unique online resource that helps teachers and students learn, practice, and assess basic economic concepts in a creative and engaging way. Covering 51 concepts, Econ Express serves as a general overview of the content typically taught in a high school Intro to Economics course.

5. Georgia Home Classroom Collection – 166K views

-**Let's Learn GA!** – Teachers from across the state of Georgia recorded lessons and instructional support for students, teachers, and parents. Videos in all content areas can be used for student instruction and educator professional development.

-**K-12 Learning Plans** – Georgia Standards-based lesson plans that were specifically designed as support for school districts, administrators, teachers, and parents. The plans, designed by content specialists at GaDOE, are easy-to-use and include both “plugged and unplugged” activities.

-**School Stories** – School Stories is a collection of videos that highlights innovation in teaching and learning in classrooms across Georgia.

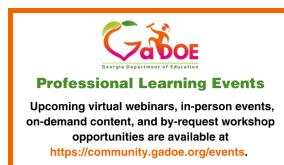
-**Georgia Home Classroom** – A collaboration between GPB Education and GaDOE that began as a response to the pandemic but has since evolved to provide support for educators and families for both in-person and remote learning. All GPB resources mentioned above are linked on the Georgia Home Classroom landing page, and GPB is working with GaDOE to produce more content and enhance the experience for users.



How to finish the school year strong!

We have all heard of finishing strong. The intent is to be just as strong or stronger at the end as you are in the beginning. Have you ever heard of “farm strong”? This was a new saying for me when I first heard it while visiting an Iowa State basketball game a few years ago. Whether you are farm strong or finishing strong, I hope the resources provided today will give a boost for your teachers. Thank you for all you do to support teachers, families, and students each day! It may feel like a race or even a marathon but stay determined and finish strong!

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

March 6 at 3:30 p.m. Significant Cognitive Disabilities Best Practices Series: Significant Cognitive Disabilities and Communication

March 6 at 10 a.m.. Special Education and School Administrator Academy: What it Means to be an LEA in an IEP meeting

March 7 at 10 a.m. Implementing Inclusion Strategies for Mathematics

March 14 at 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Core Components Workshop

Reminders

March 7 FTE Cycle 3 Count Day, CPI and Student Class Open (Data Collections)

March 14 MOE Reconciliation Deadline (Submit reconciliation evidence to Budget Liaison)

March 28 FTE Cycle 3, Student Class, and CPI Final Transmission Date, Deadline for Superintendent's Sign Off (Data Collections)

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

New Director Spotlight: Lisa Futch, Long County School District

GaDOE is excited to feature Lisa Futch for our New Director Spotlight this week.

Lisa Futch is the Special Education Director for Long County and has been in the field of education for 25 years. Within Ms. Futch's career, she has been a middle school Special Education Teacher at the Georgia Network of Educational and Therapeutic Supports (GNETS), a GNETS Program Coordinator in the areas of counseling and school psychology, a GNETS Program Coordinator in the area of educational leadership and administration, a Special Education Director for Jeff Davis County Schools for one year, a Director of Coastal Academy GNETS Program, a part-time Site Director at Coastal Plains Charter School, a private practice licensed Professional Counselor, a certified School Psychologist, a certified School Counselor, certification in Educational Leadership, and is currently the Director of Exceptional Learning for the Long County School District.

The diversity of the student population served while working with GNETS had the most impact on Ms. Futch's educational career. The intrinsic reward that she obtained from assisting students to regulate challenging behaviors and / or mental issues both in and out of the classroom setting allowed her to recognize that working with students with disabilities was a calling rather than simply a career.

Married to John Futch for 13 years, Ms. Futch is the mother of three children: 9-year-old Ava, 25-year-old Jackson, 29-year-old Britany and son-in-law, Nathan. Ms. Futch is also Mimi to her four grandchildren: Greyson, 10 years old; Charlie, 5 years old; Connor, 4 years old, Lincoln, 2 years old, and dog mom to Murphy, a German Shepherd; Moon, a miniature Dachshund; Dixie, a Brittany Spaniel; and Log, a miniature Dachshund.

In her free time, Ms. Futch's hobbies include camping, cycling, watching Ava in dance and gymnastics, and binge-watching Netflix.



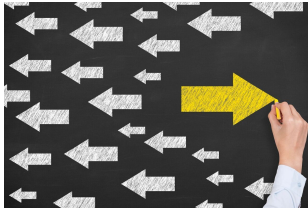
Effingham County Schools
logo

District Highlight: Effingham County School District

South Effingham High School (SEHS) presented its first PIE (Parent Information Event) Transition Night on February 15th. Parents and students were presented with an abundance of transition information and resources along with homemade pies. Parents were able to meet with Gina Campbell, Effingham County School District Transition Specialist, and Kristen Finlen, Special Education Department Head, to discuss transition opportunities and to answer questions. Mrs. Campbell made homemade pies for everyone to enjoy while parents and students picked up information and had discussions with SEHS special education teachers.



The flyers, pamphlets, and resources were broken down into sections (general transition information, transfer of rights, guardianship and waivers, post-secondary, vocational rehabilitation and high school high tech) for families to navigate and retrieve information. This night was a great success and families were provided with a plethora of knowledge to assist with planning for transition after high school.



Arrows

Practice Pointers – Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team: Amendment Meeting

QUESTION C-9: WHO MUST PARTICIPATE IN MAKING CHANGES TO THE IEP WHEN AN IEP IS AMENDED WITHOUT CONVENING AN IEP TEAM MEETING?

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has emphasized in a Questions and Answers Document that under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the regulations in 34 C.F.R. § 300.324(a) (4)(i) provide that, in making changes to a child’s IEP after the annual IEP Team meeting for a school year, the parent of a child with a disability and the public agency may agree not to convene an IEP Team meeting for the purposes of making those changes, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the child’s current IEP. The IDEA and its regulations are silent as to which individuals must participate in making changes to the IEP where there is agreement between the parent and the public agency not to convene an IEP Team meeting for the purpose of making the changes.

QUESTION C-10: MUST A PUBLIC AGENCY PROVIDE A PARENT WITH PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE (PWN) IF AN IEP IS AMENDED WITHOUT CONVENING A MEETING OF THE IEP TEAM?

The regulations in 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(a) require that written notice consistent with the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(b) must be given to the parents of a child with a disability a reasonable time before the public agency (1) proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the child; or (2) refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a FAPE to the child. This provision applies, even if the IEP is revised without convening an IEP Team meeting.

For more information, please see our [Special Education Rules Implementation Manual](#), our [IEP Resources](#), our [Parent Information Fact Sheets](#), and the

Braille and Large Print Book Orders

It is time to start planning for and ordering materials for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have students that need braille, large print, or digital textbooks please ensure orders are placed with GIMC as soon as possible. You may need to coordinate with your Teacher of the Visually Impaired, AT specialist, and curriculum department to ensure accurate orders are placed for next school year. It is important to place these orders as soon as possible to allow your students with disabilities to have access to the same materials at the same time as their peers. If you have any questions about the ordering process, please contact Dr. Emily Adams at emily.adams@doe.k12.ga.us or Paula Gumpman at <mailto:pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us>.

FY25 Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Updates

The FY25 Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) will open on March 8, 2024, and will be due on June 30, 2024. Please join us for an overview of the FY25 CLIP application process!

Date: March 7, 2024

Time: 1 p.m.

[Register here](#)



Trophies

Awards of Excellence 2024

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports is seeking to recognize high school seniors with disabilities who have had academic and/or extracurricular accomplishments. This is a great opportunity to spotlight the outstanding achievement of a senior in your school district, as well as honor the

hard work and supports of the family, teachers and staff.

A review of all applications will be completed by the Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Support staff. There will be one winner from each GLRS region, and we will be sure to share the winner's information with district leadership.

There will be a virtual awards ceremony this year on May 3, 2024 at 9 a.m. and it will feature a message from our State Superintendent.

Please complete the [Awards of Excellence 2024](#) no later than Friday March 24, 2024.

For questions contact Paula Gumpman at pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us or Lynn Holland at lholland@doe.k12.ga.us.

Office of Teaching and Learning: February 22, 2024 Right Now Resources

There is still time to register for the Heart of GA/Middle GA/First GA RESAs T&L Summit on March 12 or the Oconee/CSRA RESAs T&L Summit on March 22. Registration is available on the respective websites. As always, our team stands ready to serve and support.

Please review the February 22, 2024 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. You are in a place to purposefully impact teaching and learning in your districts, schools and classrooms.

As always, our teaching and learning team is here to serve and support. Continue to reach out as needed and thank you for your continued commitment to Georgia students and educators.

SDI District Pilot Application

Through a partnership with American Institutes for Research, the Instruction and Systemic Improvement unit began our Specially Designed Instruction professional learning series with the goal of increasing knowledge and building awareness related to specially designed instruction. As we prepare to round out this year's activities with Cohort I, we are happy to announce the application window for participation in Cohort II is officially open!

The SDI Project partnership focus is on developing and implementing high-quality, specially designed instruction practices to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Through partnership with selected LEAs, the Georgia Department of Education, through the Instruction and Systemic Improvement Unit, uses a comprehensive approach that includes supporting LEAs through professional learning, job-embedded training/coaching, implementation and sustainability planning.

The application deadline for submission is March 15. For additional information, please contact Yyanisha Bass Bonner at Yyanisha.Bass@doe.k12.ga.us or Katherine Johnson at Katherine.Johnson@doe.k12.ga.us.

SDI District Pilot Application

Important Budget Announcement: FY23 Maintenance of Effort Compliance Results Now Updated in the GaDOE Portal

The FY23 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Compliance results are now updated. The MOE results can be viewed in the GaDOE Portal by going to Special Education Programs > Special Education MOE. LEAs that do not meet compliance may take allowable exceptions, if applicable, to reduce effort. Please see the [Exceptions to MOE Requirement](#) document. If your LEA determines there are applicable exceptions, please complete and return the form to your Budget Specialist with supporting documentation by March 14, 2024. **This is the final deadline.** Reconciliations must take place before this deadline. Please begin the reconciliation process as soon as possible. This process can be time-consuming and may require the support of your Finance Office. If eligible exceptions are not determined, repayment may be required. Please note, that budget amendments will be delayed until MOE Compliance is met.

Sign up for Summer Grow at Roosevelt Warm Springs

In order to attend Summer Grow 2024, a student has to be enrolled in a public school and have a 504 or IEP. Want to sign up a student? Please fill out the [Summer Grow 2024 Application](#) and email it to RWS_Summer_GROW@gvs.ga.gov by April 12.

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER GROW AT

ROOSEVELT Warm Springs



Criteria

- Pre-Ets Permission form
- Current IEP
- Enrollment in High School
- Independent in all activities of daily living
- Able to ambulate and navigate campus
- Able to self-monitor behavior

*****In order to attend Summer Grow 2024, a student has to be enrolled in a public school and have a 504 or IEP. Students that have graduated from high school and are no longer enrolled in a GA public school, will not be eligible.

Dates

- June 3rd -6th (18 years and older)
- June 10th -13th (18 years and older)
- June 17th -20th (14-17 years)
- June 24th-27th (14-17 years)

Want to sign up a student? Send an email with application to the address below....

RWS_Summer_GROW@gvs.ga.gov

Find us on
FB →



Deadline to sign up is April 12th! 706-542-9579 OR 706-620-0073

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