

## State Advisory Panel for Special Education January 17-18, 2019



### Thursday, January 17, 2019

10:00 -10:15 am The meeting was called to order by the Paul West, the Chair of the State Advisory Panel.

10:15 – 10:45 am

- ✓ Elise James, GaDOE Transition Specialist, provided awareness information about transition and self-determination statewide initiatives for students with disabilities (SWD).
- ✓ Vision Statement: Every student should graduate with the skills needed to participate in postsecondary activities as he/she desires to improve the quality of his/her life!
- ✓ Schools and Vocational Rehab must work together to provide best services.
- ✓ Self-determination skills are critical for all students-especially students with disabilities.
- ✓ Assistive technology (devices and services) supports the transition process.

How can we all partner in student transition? We should include GVRA and Career, Technical and Agricultural (CTAE). GVRA also supports SWD with a range of services such as career assessment tool, cross training in self-determination initiatives.

Statewide Transition Planning Technical Assistance: full day of training on quality and connectivity at each Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Georgia-Learning-Resources-System.aspx>

#### State Initiatives

ASPIRE, initiative to promote student-led IEPs

Self-determined learning model of instruction: Process for goal setting and goal attainment, introduced to 100 educators & administrators in 2017-2018, hands-on training for over 250 additional educators.

Transition webinar series on topics including health, mental health, guardianship, AT, etc.

#### SAP Feedback on the Unmet Needs of the State:

- ✓ It is very important to get a general education high school diploma, not a special ed diploma or certificate of attendance, to meet the demands of competitive employment.
- ✓ Some students with disabilities are unable to meet the requirements of regular education diploma and may will not be competitively employed.

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Carol Seay, GaDOE Part B Program Manager, shared State Performance Plan data. Carol Seay shared performance plan data for LRE, Assessment and preschool outcomes. Per the data, Georgia continues to have unmet needs in the areas of proficiency for statewide assessments. The Least Restrictive Environment data have been relatively consistent approximately 65% for the past couple of years.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm State Systemic Improvement Plan

Leigh Ann Cross, Program Manager from GaDOE, shared updates about Georgia's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

- ✓ State identified 3 main barriers to student success: Access to the general curriculum, access to positive school climate, and access specially designed instruction
- ✓ Student Success District Implementation Guide can be found here:  
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/SSIP/DistrictStudentSuccessImpGuideRevised%208-18.pdf>

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Tiered System of Supports for Students

Andrea Catalano, Rondalyn Pinckney & Deshonda Stringer (Tiered System of Supports Coaches) shared information about the work on Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students (MTSS), a 5-year grant from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The first cohort of districts includes Clarke, Decatur City, DeKalb, Dodge, Glynn, Houston, Marietta City, Muscogee, Paulding, and Savannah-Chatham.

- ✓ Each cohort district received technical assistance via a coaching model.
- ✓ OSEP defines MTSS as a tiered system of supports that integrates assessment and intervention within a school-wide, multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and reduce behavioral problems.
- ✓ Response to Intervention (RTI) and Student Support Team (SST) are contained within MTSS. Tiered System of Support is a preventive, collaborative framework and available to ALL students.
- ✓ Information to districts includes website to register for events, step-by-step guidance, professional learning units of study; webinar series, newsletter & Georgia Learns Modules.  
[www.gadoe.org/TieredSystemofSupports](http://www.gadoe.org/TieredSystemofSupports)

SAP feedback:

- ✓ Can we ensure that higher education aligns the framework for preparation programs?
- ✓ Families feel that their kids get "stuck" in RTI for years – don't know how to access services and/or request an evaluation.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 4:00 Continue the Georgia' Tiered System of Supports Discussion

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm Public Comments

Four people offered public comments via in-person or phone.

73 comments were submitted online; motion made by Paul West to defer reading some written comments until the next SAP meeting day. This motion was seconded by Susan Moody. SAP members agreed, and meeting dismissed.

Themes included inclusion, mental health, reading/dyslexia, executive functioning, low salary for teachers and paraprofessionals, and need for timely interventions.

### **Friday, January 18, 2019**

8:00 am – 8:30 am Day One Reflections

Co-Chair Juree Hall led the Panel in reflective discussion per Day 1 content.

Paul West made a motion to remove committee meeting times from the agenda. The motioned was affirmed by Allen Mueller and passed unanimously.

8:30 am – 9:30 am State Level Data (Disproportionality)

The State Advisory Panel discussed salient trends with the disproportionality data.

9:30 am – 10:30 am Georgia Alternate Assessment

Mary Nesbit-McBride presented awareness information for the new Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 to receive stakeholder feedback about content for individual student reports.

Website: [http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GAA\\_2.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GAA_2.aspx)

- ✓ GAA 2.0 is a standardized assessment, very different from previous GAA, which was a portfolio.
- ✓ GAA 2.0 will have scale score, standard error of measurement, comparison of score to state average, & achievement level.

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am – 11:30 am

Zelphine Smith-Dixon, State Director, shared implementation questions and next steps for the State Advisory Panel and asked for feedback about other areas that must be addressed through training efforts.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm GaDOE Updates/Next Steps

The SAP discussed critical updates per the content shared from various presenters. Due to the volume of public comments, the Panel continued to review some public comments.

After reviewing additional public comments, Paul West made the motion to end the public comment review for this SAP meeting. The motion was affirmed by Karin Fisher and passed unanimously.