



State Advisory Panel

For Special Education

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Minutes Summary State Advisory Panel Meeting February 21-22, 2013 Georgia Academy for the Blind Macon, GA

February 21, 2013

Time	Events																							
1:00 – 1:30	Welcome Panel Members Introduction and Update	<p>Linda Meiring, Chair, and Steve Derr, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members.</p> <p>The following panel members were present:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Wendi Baird</td> <td>Scott Bales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan Brown</td> <td>Steve Derr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jennifer Dickson</td> <td>Kristie Johnson-Gregory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donna Kosicki</td> <td>Leslie Lipson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linda Meiring</td> <td>Phillip Mellor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Newton</td> <td>Candice Norris-Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sue Riner</td> <td>Danette Rogers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cathy Smith-Jackson</td> <td>Cynthia Spaulding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tangye Teague</td> <td>Karen Thrasher</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rahda Vettrano</td> <td>Donnie Winokur</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nancy Woods</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Wendi Baird	Scott Bales	Susan Brown	Steve Derr	Jennifer Dickson	Kristie Johnson-Gregory	Donna Kosicki	Leslie Lipson	Linda Meiring	Phillip Mellor	Mike Newton	Candice Norris-Brown	Sue Riner	Danette Rogers	Cathy Smith-Jackson	Cynthia Spaulding	Tangye Teague	Karen Thrasher	Rahda Vettrano	Donnie Winokur	Nancy Woods	
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1:30 – 2:00	Public Comment	No individuals were present to make comment and no public comments were requested at this meeting via phone or e-mail.																						
2:00 – 2:45	GaDOE, Division for Special Education Services and Supports Update	<p>Debbie Gay presented an update from the Division for Special Education Services and Supports.</p> <p>Mrs. Gay presented an update on legislation currently being considered. She discussed the accessing credit rule for students with disabilities related to their performance in the area of math. Questions and comments taken from panel.</p> <p>Mrs. Gay discussed the rigor for students with disabilities and stated that it would be more uniform with the common core. The incorporation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) into</p>																						

Time	Events	
		<p>instruction and assessment as well as in Response to Intervention (RTI) was discussed.</p> <p>The College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) reports will go out to schools this month. Each school is scored based on their performance and every indicator will have sub-group data. There will be a flagging system that shows if the school met or did not meet the targets.</p> <p>The Division of Special Education has been involved in meetings with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation program in order to work collaboratively.</p> <p>New Medicaid regulations have been released. School systems will need to obtain initial parental consent and annual notification to bill Medicaid annually.</p> <p>The Division is creating modules for teachers in Georgia to get a Visual Impairment endorsement. These modules have to be finished by June and then approved by the Professional Standards Commission (PSC).</p> <p>Questions and comments were taken from the panel.</p>
2:45 – 3:00	BREAK	
3:00 – 3:45	Accommodations	Tyrene Neil and Stephanie Knight from the Georgia Academy for the Blind (GAB) presented on the use of accommodations and how they can be used to support students with visual impairments. They demonstrated examples of how technology is used to provide students with access to the curriculum.
3:45 – 4:30	Universal Design for Learning	Dr. Cynde Snider presented on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and its importance in education. She reviewed the history of UDL and discussed applying universal design to learning. All students would benefit from UDL. Dr. Snider

Time	Events	
		<p>discussed the issues of retrofitting the curriculum for students with disabilities. When implementing UDL, the curriculum is designed from the beginning for a wide range of learners.</p> <p>She discussed UDL versus differentiation. UDL does not eliminate the need for additional modifications and/or accommodations if needed by students. Examples of how to scaffold a math problem to build in UDL was provided for the panel.</p> <p>Questions and comments were taken from the panel.</p>
4:30 – 5:00	State Advisory Panel Planning for Future Meetings	<p>Panel members provided input on topics for future meetings.</p> <p>The following topics were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the program at Kennesaw State University dealing with child abuse • A presentation on the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) data, where we are and how it impacts students with disabilities • An update on the PARCC assessments
6:00	DINNER	

February 23, 2013

Time	Events	
7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST	
8:30 – 9:00	Committee Meetings	All committees met.
9:00 – 9:15	Committee Reports	<p>Committees reported to the panel on current activities and recommendations.</p> <p><i>Operating Procedures:</i> The committee discussed changing the meeting days to Friday and Saturday in order to get more public involvement, including parents, individuals with disabilities, and school system administrators.</p>

Time	Events	
		<p><i>Family Engagement:</i> The committee is continuing to discuss the parent survey data from last year.</p> <p><i>Public Comment:</i> No public comments were made at this meeting. The committee discussed ways to boost public comment, such as when having meetings at schools to try to reach out to parents connected to the school.</p> <p><i>Dispute Resolution:</i> There have been 2 hearing decisions since the last meeting. Both cases involved Bryan County. In the first case, a parental request for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) was denied due to the Statute of Limitations applied to the parental request. In the second case, the parents requested a manifestation, which was denied.</p> <p>Dr. Blake discussed a recent survey for the facilitated IEP program. The Division would like to get more parent input. A link can be sent out to panel members. A link will be sent to the panel for the cadre webinars. Comments and questions were taken from the panel.</p>
9:15 – 10:00	Restraint and Seclusion	<p>Dr. Gary McGiboney presented an update on the Restraint and Seclusion rule.</p> <p>Dr. McGiboney provided an overview of the history behind the current Restraint and Seclusion rule. He stated there had been a great amount of concern regarding seclusion and restraint around the state, specifically in the GNETS program.</p> <p>The Department wrote guidelines to ban seclusion and limit the use of restraint for special education students in 2009. When seclusion was banned in the GNETS program, the number of restraint events went down. The same result was also reported in typical schools.</p> <p>In July 2010, the State Board of Education adopted a rule that banned seclusion and limited the use of restraint for all students. There were</p>

Time	Events	
		<p>concerns about the rule not requiring data collection. At that time, the federal government was considering a similar rule requiring data collection. Data collection in the Georgia rule was not included as the state was waiting to see what the federal government would do. That legislation has stalled. However, the US Department of Education does require that districts report on the use of restraint.</p> <p>Last year was the first year Georgia has looked at the data. The state anticipated data entry problems and those problems are occurring. 211 schools reported the use of restraint but when the data was investigated it was found they were reporting fights, not restraint.</p> <p>More training is needed on restraint and appropriate use of restraint. The GaDOE continues to see seclusion rooms in schools. The Department is very serious about this issue and continues to depend on parents, administrators and teachers to report any occurrences. Dr. McGiboney discussed the need to focus on school climate. In the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI), school climate is one of the indicators.</p> <p>Comments and questions were taken from panel.</p>
10:00 – 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 – 11:00	Georgia Academy for the Blind	<p>Staff from the Georgia Academy for the Blind (GAB) presented on their school, the students they serve and their curriculum.</p> <p>Dr. Cindy Gibson welcomed the panel and discussed the history of GAB. The school serves 113 students, ages 3 through 21, representing 52 school districts. The largest enrollment in the school was 124 in the 1970s. All staff have vision and content certification.</p> <p>Tyrene Neil discussed the placement of students</p>

Time	Events	
		<p>at GAB. GAB is an extension of services that are offered in school systems in Georgia. GAB receives referrals through the student's school district. Students have to be current Georgia students receiving special education services. The local IEP team reviews the needs of the student and their IEP goals. Then the team determines where appropriate services are best delivered. Most often students come because they need more intensive services.</p> <p>Dr. Chris Davis discussed the emphasis on an expanded core curriculum. Students follow the general curriculum which is then expanded by adding all services needed by the student to access the curriculum. This includes services such as Braille and mobility, but also other services. There are nine areas of expanded core curriculum; assistive technology, career education, reading and writing braille, use of an abacus, compensatory skills, recreation and leisure, orientation and mobility, sensory skills, and independent living skills. Students receive intensive instruction in areas that they don't always get in the core curriculum.</p> <p>Dr. Gibson presented students from the GEEK squad (Giving Enhanced Educational Knowledge). These students discussed their experiences at GAB and previous schools, as well as what they plan to do when they graduate. Students took questions from the panel.</p>
11:00 – 12:00	Tour of Georgia Academy for the Blind	GAB staff provided a tour of the Georgia Academy for the Blind.
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH	
1:00 – 3:00	Tour of the Georgia Instructional Materials Center and the Smoky Powell	Staff provided a tour of the Georgia Instructional Materials Center (GIMC) and the Smokey Powell Assistive Technology Center.

Time	Events	
	Assistive Technology Center	