



Federal Programs



December 1, 2023 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. I always have so many plans to finish decorating the house and making lots of progress on shopping, but I need at least another week to complete my 'to do' list.



*Queen Charlotte of England
decorating a Christmas tree*

I read an interesting fact this morning about Queen Charlotte of England being credited with having the first Christmas tree in England. I love to watch historical dramas on PBS as it makes all the pieces fit together of the various royal families of Europe. According to historical accounts, a festive holiday yule bough was usually brought in the house, but Queen Charlotte decided a bough was not sufficient for a children's party and asked to have the entire tree brought in Windsor Castle starting the tradition of Christmas trees in England. Just a fun fact about the tradition.



Loved seeing everyone at the Fall G-CASE Conference. Kudos to the executive committee for their thoughtful conference programming. Congratulations to the Lillie Moncus award winner, Dr. Zabrina Cannady. Dr. Cannady has served as the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services in Houston County Schools for many years. She is very deserving of this recognition as she exemplifies the qualities of the highest award given annually by G-CASE.

Excess Cost Calculation Resources

The following information was sent to finance directors earlier this week. The excess cost calculation resources are available for you to begin the Excess Cost calculations for 2023 Results and 2024 Base. We will notify you when the portal is available for data entry.

District DE 46 Data Packets

Financial Review has uploaded the DE 46 Data Packets that can be used to perform the calculation to the FY 2023 Attachments in the Financial Review section in the password protected MyGaDOE portal. Please note that the Fund 420 – CARES/CRRSA Act and 448 – ARP Act funds are included, and you will not reduce the calculation by the amount of ESSER Funds expended in FY 2023.

Other Reminders

The [Excess Cost excel template](#) can be used to calculate excess cost prior to entering the portal. It is not required to use this template; however, the template will assist you in completing the calculation before the data entry process into the portal.

The Excess Cost RESULTS for FY 2023 must be submitted by the LEA and approved by the Special Education Services and Support Division before the FY 2024 BASE calculation can be completed. The FY 2024 BASE calculation must be finalized by January 31, 2024.

Please note this calculation is required for all school districts and state charter schools. If you have questions about the calculation, please contact the Financial Review Division. If you have programmatic questions about meeting the minimum requirements, please contact the Special Education Budget Office. [IDEA Excess Cost Calculations Guidance and Instructions Handbook](#)

Tourette's Syndrome

Please take advantage of a free course on Tourette's Syndrome provided by the University of Florida through a grant opportunity. The course is free and will be available until July 2025. Tourette's is a low incidence disability but having the necessary knowledge is beneficial to you as a professional educator as well as to your district and students. Join this continuing education and professional development program to help educators and school professionals to better understand tics and Tourette Syndrome, learn the impact on schooling, gain strategies for the classroom and recognize ways to enable children with tics to succeed. The program has been created by the Tourette Center of Excellence at the University of Florida.

- Free
- Open to educators of all types
- Online and self-pace learning
- 6 Continuing Education, Professional Development and ESE Credits*
- Endless Resources

[Learn More & Register](#) and see the flyer [here](#).



If we all could see the world through eyes of a child, we would see the magic in everything. - Chee Vai Tang

The holidays are super busy for everyone but slow down and take time for family and friends. Your holiday memories will be about those you love rather

than how perfect the decorations might be. Holidays also need to include children. Find time to visit a school for a holiday play or chorus. Seeing the magic of the holidays through the eyes of a child is a good reminder for us all. Enjoy every minute!

Thank you for your commitment to students with disabilities. You are making a difference!

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

December 4-7 at 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention: Oconee

December 5 at 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Elementary Schools: Special Education and School Administrator Academy: Master Scheduling

December 7 at 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Middle Schools: Special Education and School Administrator Academy: Master Scheduling

December 7 at 1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. High Schools: Special Education and School Administrator Academy: Master Scheduling

December 7 at 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Back to Basics: A Guide to Writing Transition Plans

December 7-8 at 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Special Education Open Office Hours - CFM

December 11-14 at 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention: SW Georgia

December 11-14 at 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention: South Central

Reminders

December 1 Amend IDEA Budgets for CEIS Carryover and Proportionate

Share Carryover (Consolidated Application in GaDOE portal)

December 13 Student Record: Data Cleanse -Closes (Data Collections, Indicators 1, 2, & 4)

January 1 High Cost Grant Applications Available (Submitted via www.gahcf.org)

January 1 Grant for Residential and Reintegration Services Grant Applications Available (Submitted to Budget Liaison using Portal email)

January 1 American Printing House (APH) Census Opens (Submitted via GIMC website direct link)

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



Arrows

Practice Pointers – Individualized Education Program (IEP): Accommodations and Modifications

Accommodations can be defined as changes to instructional materials, procedures, or techniques that allow a student with a disability to participate meaningfully in grade-level or course instruction and are based on the individual needs of the student identified in the present levels of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP). Children with accommodations are still expected to meet the same grade level standards as their peers without disabilities. In comparison, modifications change what the student is expected to master, and course activities are altered to meet the student’s needs. Although modifications may help students with skill deficits progress in the general education curriculum at their own pace, they also change the target skill and may reduce learning expectations or affect the content in such a way that what is being taught is fundamentally changed. Modifications should not result in reducing a student’s opportunity to learn critical knowledge, skills, and concepts in certain subject areas.

For more information, please see our [Special Education Rules Implementation Manual](#), our [IEP Resources](#) and [Specially Designed Instruction \(SDI\)](#) webpages, our [Parent Information Fact Sheets](#), and the [PROGRESS Center](#) at [American Institutes for Research / IEP Tip Sheet PLAAFPs](#).



*Parent to Parent of Georgia
logo*

Parent to Parent of Georgia Trainings for December

Webinar: Georgia Medicaid Basics and Care Management Organizations (CMOs)

Learn about Medicaid Basics including the different type of Medicaid Programs. Participants will also learn how to be effective advocates when they have Medicaid services provided by one of the following Care Management Organizations: Peach State Health Plan, Care Source or Amerigroup Community Care.

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Georgia Medicaid Basics and Care Management Organizations (CMOs)

Webinar: Crossing the "Medical Bridge: Transition to Adult Healthcare for CYSHCN

Learn what health has to do with transition; who makes up the transition team and their roles, how to incorporate health transition into a medical home, healthcare financing, legal issues and timelines.

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

Crossing the "Medical Bridge: Transition to Adult Healthcare for CYSHCN

Webinar and In-Person Training: Movin' Up! Planning Your Child's Successful Transition at Age 3

Prepare and plan for a smooth transition from Babies Can't Wait/Early Intervention. The presentation includes an overview of various programs and services that may be available for three year olds with special needs in your community.

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Movin' Up! Planning Your Child's Successful Transition at Age 3

Transition Self-Determination Survey

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports, as part of our Transition Strategic Plan, is attempting to determine what self-determination initiatives are being implemented across the state. Please take a moment to complete the [Transition Self-Determination Survey](#). This information will be used to ensure that we are capable of providing support for your district to improve transition postschool outcomes for students with disabilities. Please complete this survey by Friday, December 15, 2023.

If you have questions, contact Elise James atejames@doe.k12.ga.us or Laurie Ponsell at lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us.

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