



February 23, 2024 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Hope you have had a great week! Next week will include Leap Day. We all have heard of Leap Year, but did you know the other years are called common years? There is a 1 in 1461 chance of having a Leap Day birthday. I always thought as a child how awful it must be to have February 29th for a birthday. I don't like to miss a birthday party and worried you would only celebrate every 4 years. Did you know in 1288 in Scotland, a law was passed that women may ask men to marry but only in Leap Year. Leap Year balls and dances became popular as a result of the new law. Some were held for women to ask men to dance while others were held so a woman could ask for his hand in marriage. Sadie Hawkins Day is often confused with Leap Day, but it is actually supposed to be observed in November. Sadie Hawkins Day came from the Li'l Abner comic strip from the 1930s. Sadie was the mayor's daughter and always in search of a suitor. Enjoy Leap Day!



*February 29 Leap Day*

**NTACT:C's Collaborative Assessment Guide for Transition is [HERE!](#)**

The Age-Appropriate Transition Assessment Toolkit has been updated to reflect collaborative practices in assessment selection, implementation, and use of

results to drive a student/youth-directed process. The new Collaborative Assessment Guide for Transition Planning builds on the widely used toolkit with new information about the assessment process, uses for education and VR personnel and resources specifically for families and students.

### **Message from our OSEP technical assistance center for fiscal reporting**

#### **Under IDEA 34 CFR 300.133 (a) – Parentally-placed Private School**

**Proportionate Share Expenditures**, it is indicated that to meet the requirement of § 300.132(a), each LEA must spend the following on providing special education and related services (including direct services) to parentally-placed private school children with disabilities:

(1) **For children aged 3 through 21, an amount that is the same proportion of the LEA's total subgrant under section 611(f)** of the Act as the number of private school children with disabilities aged 3 through 21 who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district served by the LEA, is to the total number of children with disabilities in its jurisdiction aged 3 through 21.

(2) (i) **For children aged three through five, an amount that is the same proportion of the LEA's total subgrant under section 619(g)** of the Act as the number of parentally-placed private school children with disabilities aged three through five who are enrolled by their parents in a private, including religious, elementary school located in the school district served by the LEA, is to the total number of children with disabilities in its jurisdiction aged three through five.

We wanted to clarify, as it is noted above, that parentally-placed private school proportionate share requirements are distinct for Part B Section 611 and 619 funds. The requirements must be met separately and cannot be pooled and spent in different proportions between section 611 and 619.

Example:

-Section 611 subgrant: \$1,000,000

-Section 611 private school proportionate share: \$50,000

-Section 619 subgrant: \$100,000

-Section 619 private school proportionate share: \$5,000

The LEA is required to spend at least \$50,000 from section 611 and at least \$5,000 from section 619 separately.

### **Justice Department Finds Nebraska School District Discriminates Against Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students**

The Justice Department announced on February 14, 2024 that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) in Lincoln, Nebraska, violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by denying some deaf and hard of hearing students an equal opportunity

to attend their neighborhood schools.

“Denying students with disabilities the right to attend their neighborhood school based on a blanket policy is discriminatory and runs afoul of our nation’s civil rights laws,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “The Justice Department will defend children’s rights to equal educational opportunities in schools, including the right to attend school along with their siblings, friends and members of their community.”

Office of Public Affairs | Justice Department Finds Nebraska School District  
Discriminates Against Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students | United States  
Department of Justice  
Letter of Findings-Lincoln Public Schools

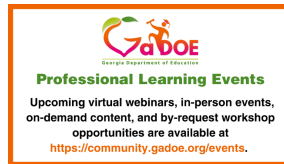
It was great to visit with Districts 17 and 18 a few weeks ago during their annual retreat. I love to have the opportunity to talk with directors to hear your suggestions and feedback. A special thank you to GLRS Directors Roxie Tumlin and Dane Heard for allowing me to be a part of the retreat.

I was honored to be a part of the Special Education Teacher of the Year celebration with Coastal GLRS on Friday, February 9, 2024. Each LEA in the region recognized teachers and other support professionals for their daily contributions to support students with disabilities. The guests of honor walked the red carpet and even posed for pictures! I am sharing a couple of pictures below so you can feel a part of the excitement.



As we bring February to a close, I hope you have time to notice the longer days, beautiful sunsets and early jonquils sending the promise that spring is on the way. Let's take the leap together to support students with disabilities. I appreciate each of you!

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

**February 26-29** at 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention: South Georgia

**February 27** at 10 a.m. IEP's and 504's: Exploring the Basics for School Nurses

**February 28** at 10 a.m. High Leverage Practices (HLPs) 101: Part 2

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

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

### 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: Dayna Kiley, Gainesville City Schools**

GaDOE is excited to feature Dayna Kiley for our New Director Spotlight this week.

Dayna Kiley is the Special Education Director for Gainesville City Schools and has been in the field of education for 16 years. Ms. Kiley obtained her bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Georgia, master's degree in reading, language, and literacy from Georgia State, and a specialist degree in special education from the University of West Georgia. Beginning her career as an Interrelated Teacher for grades K-5, Ms. Kiley also served in the role of RTI Coordinator, serving EIP and ESOL students, was a Special Education Elementary Coordinator, an Assistant Special Education Director, and currently serving as the Special Education Director.

Ms. Kiley shared that serving as the Special Education Director has been a joy and an honor with the most important lesson being learned thus far is that "surrounding yourself with an exceptional team makes all the difference in the world!" Compassion leads the department mantra as Ms. Kiley shared that she was the parent of a child that was struggling with behavior in school. "There was a time that I cried every single day while at work anticipating a phone call from his school asking me to come to pick him up because his behaviors had become so unmanageable. I was a special education teacher and did not know how to help my own son. I felt responsible and guilty, which eventually turned into anger. After a diagnosis of ADHD and Anxiety, we were able to implement various therapies and interventions which led to significant improvements in both academics and behaviors."

Impacting her leadership approach, Ms. Kiley believes that her experiences allowed relatability to parents by understanding how they are feeling. Having the opportunity to be on both sides of the table is why she can understand why parents may become emotional or shut down and say nothing. "It is never personal, and I remind teachers of this fact regularly," Ms. Kiley shared.

Ms. Kiley and Brad, her husband of 16 years, have two children, Lilly and Jack, and a Shih Tzu, Baxter. Lilly is a competitive flat water sprint canoe and dragon boat paddler and Jack plays the trumpet in the school band and is a master LEGO builder. The Kiley's are avid Georgia Bulldog fans, beachgoers, and campers that can be found at every home game. The family's favorite place to vacation is Flagler Beach, where their extended family has vacationed for over 50 years.

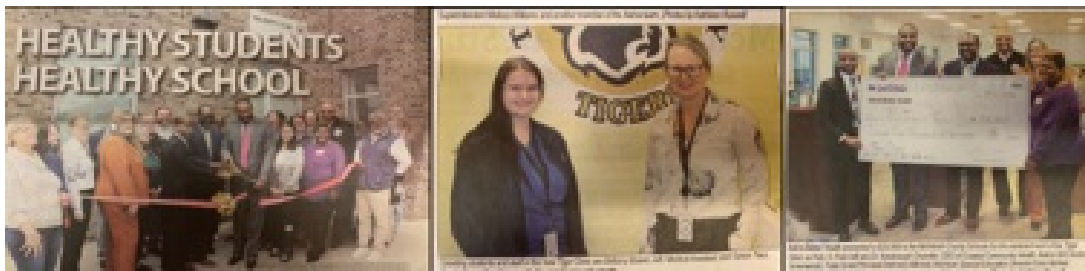


*McIntosh County Schools logo*

## **District Highlight: McIntosh County Schools**

McIntosh County Schools opened the doors to the first school-based healthcare clinic of the Coastal Empire on February 5, 2024. The clinic began with a grant and partnership with Coastal Community Healthcare. Tiger Clinic is a comprehensive primary care site which is available to any student or employee of the McIntosh County School System. The clinic accepts several insurance plans including Medicaid and private insurance. There is also a sliding fee discount program based on household size and income for patients that do not have any type of medical insurance. The Clinic's services include diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and minor injuries, management of chronic illnesses, routine health physicals, immunizations, counseling, behavioral health, hearing, vision, lab testing and referrals to medical subspecialists and community agencies. Telehealth services may be utilized to provide care as relevant to patient needs. The clinic also offers well child checks and routine sports physicals. The clinic is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Read the [news report from WTOC 11](#) to learn more!



*Arrows*

## **Practice Pointers – Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team: Informed of Changes**

### **QUESTION C-8: HOW MUST A PUBLIC AGENCY DOCUMENT THAT IEP TEAM MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF CHANGES TO THE IEP?**

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 regulations require that if changes are made to the child’s IEP, the public agency must ensure that the child’s IEP Team is informed of those changes. While neither the IDEA nor its implementing regulations specify the manner in which public agencies must document that they have ensured that the child’s IEP Team is informed of changes, they must maintain records to show compliance with this program requirement.

For more information, please see our Special Education Rules Implementation Manual, our IEP Resources, our Parent Information Fact Sheets, and the PROGRESS Center at American Institutes for Research / IEP Tip Sheet PLAAFPs.

## **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 [atpgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:atpgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us) or Lynn Holland at [lholland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lholland@doe.k12.ga.us).

## **Office of Teaching and Learning: February 15, 2024 Right Now Resources**

If you missed the Federal Programs Conference last Tuesday and Wednesday, you missed a great opportunity to engage and learn with educators from GaDOE and across the state. Mark your calendar NOW to attend the Summer Federal Programs conference that will be held June 11-13 (when registration opens, I will be sure and share). As always, the Teaching and Learning Team is here to serve and support you as needed.

Please review the February 15, 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.

## **\$5,000 Scholarship Opportunity for Deaf or Hard of Hearing High School Seniors**

Quota Atlanta offers the John T. Wheeler Memorial \$5,000 Scholarship to Georgia Deaf or Hard of Hearing High School Seniors who have a diagnosis of moderate to profound hearing loss in both ears. Applicants must be an American citizen, plan to attend college in the upcoming school year, excel academically and be active in extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to, school clubs, community organizations, employment and volunteering. For more information, please reach out to Sarah Moore at [SarahHouseMoore@gmail.com](mailto:SarahHouseMoore@gmail.com).

Completed applications should be mailed as one packet to: Sarah Moore, Quota Atlanta, Inc. 6465 Bridgewood Valley Road Sandy Springs, GA 30328, or emailed to [SarahHouseMoore@gmail.com](mailto:SarahHouseMoore@gmail.com). Applications must be postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. on March 1.

The winning applicant will be notified on or before April 1.

Quota John T Wheeler Memorial Scholarship Application

## **Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA): Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant**

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) is pleased to announce the availability of the Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant, which allows up to \$17,725 to be awarded annually to eligible students with disabilities seeking post-secondary and other Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.

Candidates for the grant must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan. To be eligible, they also must have a permanent disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment and be eligible for GVRA services. To apply, visit the [GVRA website](#).

GVRA's announcement of the grant follows policy changes that removed the financial-needs assessment as a requirement for individuals with disabilities seeking post-secondary opportunities. The changes became effective on January 1. In addition to removing that barrier, GVRA increased the maximum grant amount to match funding offered through the Pell Grant. The Bud McCall Grant provides up to \$7,395 for tuition, \$9,430 for maintenance (room, board, and meals), and \$900 for books annually.

The Bud McCall Grant is named in memory of the first-born son of former State Representative Tom McCall and Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Member Jane McCall, whose love for others served as an inspiration to his family, friends, and the entire community.

## **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](mailto:Yyanisha.Bass@doe.k12.ga.us) or Katherine Johnson at [Katherine.Johnson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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