



Federal Programs

March 8, 2024 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

It was great to see everyone at G-CASE Legal Conference. A special shout out to our new directors participating in SELDA. I loved having an opportunity to spend time in the session. A big thank you to Mandy Harper from Ware County Schools. Mandy provided great advice from a veteran's perspective for SELDA. As always, I appreciate Belinda Tiller, Lynn Holland and Elise James for their ongoing leadership. The future is bright with our new directors!

Thank you, GLRS leaders for supporting our new special education teachers through the induction program. So many induction teachers have provided feedback about using high leverage practices as well as the coaching provided. I read a comment earlier this week from a new teacher that stated she would not continue in teaching for the second year if she did not have the coaching support. Whatever it takes because I believe in our new teachers! GLRS rocks!

Thank you for your patience with the Parent Mentor application. I expect the grant application will be available soon. Please consider applying. I would live to provide every LEA with funding for at least one Parent Mentor. Contact Anne Ladd with any questions at aladd@doe.k12.ga.us.



Believe in you



I believe in you!

Don't forget to spring forward this weekend. Daylight savings time returns.

Our next Director's Webinar is Tuesday, March 12 at 1 p.m. Link is available on the main webpage.

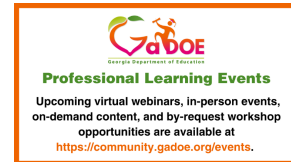
Thank you for all you do each day. You have a tough job but handle it with grace.

Thank you for believing in students with disabilities. You are making a difference.

Keeping students first,
Wina

Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.



*Professional Learning
Events*

Coming Up

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

March 20 at 11 a.m. Conversations Around Collaboration: Leveling Up: Part 1
and 2

Reminders

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: Dr. Mandy Condit, Bryan County Schools

GaDOE is excited to feature Dr. Mandy Condit for our New Director Spotlight this week.



Dr. Mandy Condit, Special Education Director, Bryan County Schools

Dr. Mandy Condit is the Special Education Director for Bryan County Schools and has been in the field of education for 20 years.

Dr. Condit is currently the Director of Exceptional Student Services and Federal Programs with Bryan County Schools. She worked as the Director of Accountability and Federal Programs for six years and one year as the Coordinator of Students Services while in Bryan County before this year. Dr. Condit is a School Psychologist with the Multi-Tiered System of Support endorsement, as well as having leadership positions as Coordinator of Psychological Services and Director of Student Services with Clayton County

Public Schools. She was honored to be named Clayton County Public Schools Support Leader of the Year in 2016. As a public-school educator, Dr. Condit has gained over 17 years of leadership experience as a District 504 Coordinator, 12 years with supporting students in need of Hospital Homebound services, and 5 years as a System Test Coordinator.

Dr. Condit's education career has been impacted by her involvement in Leadership Bryan, which is sponsored by the Richmond Hill/Bryan County Chamber of Commerce. As a graduate of the 2018 cohort, which was comprised of a diverse group of community leaders focused on the future of Bryan County, Dr. Condit's classes focused on leadership, communication/team building, history, government, economic development, education, and the environment. These classes expanded her perspective of how schools can leverage support for students and families by partnering with community agencies. specifically in Bryan County.

Dr. Condit is married and has four children that attend Bryan County Schools in grades 11, 10, 8, and 5. Her children keep her busy with marching and concert band, high school and club soccer, and middle school and all-star competition cheer. She enjoys reading, traveling with her family to the beach, the mountains, and to Caribbean and European destinations, and she has one dog named Xena who loves to take walks.

Practice Pointers – Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team: Parent Participation



Arrows

Under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, the local educational agency (LEA) may conduct an IEP Team meeting without a parent in attendance when the LEA is “unable to convince the parent to attend.” The LEA should make, and document, all attempts to schedule the meeting using multiple formats (e.g., written notice, telephone calls,

home visits, etc.). If the parent does not respond, the LEA may have the meeting without the parent present and then send the parent a copy of the IEP. If a parent responds and indicates that he or she wishes to participate in the development of the IEP, but cannot meet, the LEA must document the multiple good faith attempts to involve the parent, considering various participation options such as virtual meetings or alternative locations before conducting the IEP Team meeting without the parent. If, after multiple attempts to contact the parent using multiple formats, the LEA is unable to convince the parent to attend, the LEA should keep detailed records of any letters, telephones calls, and/or visits to the parent. If attempts to ensure parental participation do not result in parent attendance, the LEA may conduct the IEP Team meeting without the parent. A copy of the IEP will be sent to the parent in a timely manner. The IDEA provides the parent the opportunity to participate in and be a part of the Team that makes the decision about the child’s educational program. If the parent disagrees with the IEP, he or she should inform the LEA. The LEA may set up another IEP Team meeting to determine whether an agreement can be reached.

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**.

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>.



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 Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

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

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.

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