Deputy Superintendent Updates:  
Teaching and Learning  
Contact: Caitlin McMunn Dooley

Our Teaching and Learning team is excited about the progress Georgia’s teachers and students are making! We recently published the L4GA Evaluation Report for the 2017 Cohort. This four-year study suggests that all elementary schools and all middle schools, and over 80% of high schools, have made progress in literacy beyond what would have been expected without the granted projects.

What made these school systems successful?
• Well-networked community services for families and children
• High-quality curricula and aligned professional learning
• Formative assessments and routine attention to formative data (a.k.a. “data digs”)
• Assessments that are “for learning” not just “of learning”; in other words, they do not interrupt learning and can be conducted during instruction.
• Consistent school leadership
• High-quality professional development being offered by local RESA and University partners

Want to learn more? Check out the L4GA Webpages. 

Associate Superintendent Updates:  
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate  
Contact: Justin Hill

Happy Black History Month!

Originally recognized first in 1976, Black History Month honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape this great nation. February was chosen because the month contained the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln was influential in the emancipation of slaves, and Douglass was a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement to end slavery. Here are links to some great resources:

• The National Archives
• Black History Month Website

SUBSCRIBE TO CLASSROOM CONVERSATIONS

Classroom Conversations is a new podcast from GaDOE and GPB. Hear from classroom teachers as they discuss topics such as positive classroom climate, computer science, community partnerships... and that’s just the first 5 episodes! New episodes released every Monday (20-30 minutes each). Classroom Conversations is available on iTunes, Spotify, Google, NPR, Stitcher, or on the GPB website.
The GRE4T (pronounced GREAT) Personalized Learning (PL) Initiative is designed to improve student engagement across all subgroups, especially during this transition period of learning experiences and educational progress across Georgia. Personalized learning allows learners and educators throughout Georgia to reach their individual potential. Several research studies showed measurable academic growth when PL is implemented (Pane, Steiner, Baird, Hamilton, & Pane, 2017; RAND, 2020), thus the state has done pilots and reviewed the work of districts to create a roadmap for this work. As a result, GRE4T is guided by the following two goals: build human and organizational infrastructure to excel in PL statewide; and bolster technology capacity of Georgia Virtual School (GAVS) for PL infrastructures.

- GRE4T Roadmap
- GRE4T Services

**GEORGIA’S VISION AND STANDARDS FOR PERSONALIZED LEARNING**

Georgia has a [vision](#) and [standards](#) for personalized learning that allow teachers and leaders to reimagine education for all students across the state.

**THE GRE4T CONNECT: TEACHER’S PERSONALIZED LEARNING BOOTCAMP**

Teacher’s PL Bootcamp is designed to provide instructional modeling and resources for classroom use based on Georgia’s personalized learning standards. Teacher’s Bootcamp offers high-quality training and ready-to-implement resources designed to assist educators to achieve their full personalized learning potential. Bootcamp aims to improve confidence and provide networking opportunities for teachers. All sessions are intentionally designed to build capacity and sustainability of personalized learning across Georgia. The bootcamp is optional but strongly encouraged for teachers and leaders. Recordings of sessions from December 2021 are here: [Foundations](#), [Elementary](#), [Middle/High](#)

**PARTNERUP: THE DIGITAL EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION**

Consider partnering with Georgia Virtual School in the PartnerUp program, a district- or school-based digital solution powered by your local teachers. Through PartnerUp, Georgia Virtual provides a learning environment and digital content resources along with technical support and professional development to create a comprehensive online or blended learning environment for your districts’ students. PartnerUp provides flexibility that accommodates online, hybrid or blended needs free of charge during the GRE4T initiative.

- [PartnerUp videos](#)
GEORGIA HOME CLASSROOM UPDATES

We now have 300+ K-12 Digital Learning Plans across all content areas, including new Mathematics Digital Learning Plans that support English Learners.

Classroom Conversations: a new podcast series from GaDOE Teaching and Learning and GPB Education featuring Georgia educators who are teaching and reaching students in innovative and impactful ways. A new episode is launched each Monday with four thus far.

Resources for February 2022: Look for new Let's Learn GA! middle grades teaching videos and new Positive Classroom Climate learning plans designed to help transition students back into classroom routines upon their return from winter break.

Are you a Georgia public middle school teacher with a great cross-curricular video lesson you would like to share? If so please visit: Create a Video Lesson for LLG! Participating teachers will receive a stipend for completed videos.

Resources to Improve Classroom Climate

Contact: Jason Byars

WE ARE GROWING!

GaDOE’s School Climate Team is hiring three new positions to support classrooms across the state:

- Elementary School Climate Specialist
- Secondary School Climate Specialist
- School Climate Program Specialist

All three positions, under limited supervision, advise and/or coordinate services to support implementation of School Climate within regions and local school districts. These positions will be responsible for assisting classroom teachers, school-level coaches, district coordinators, RESA School Climate Specialists in developing, implementing, and monitoring comprehensive classroom climate plans to address the needs of all students.

To apply for these positions, please visit the Georgia Department of Education website HERE. Questions can be directed to Jason W. Byars, School Climate Program Manager at JByars@doe.k12.ga.us.

NEW CLASSROOM CLIMATE FOCUSED RESOURCES IN GEORGIA HOME CLASSROOM

Access the Positive Classroom Climate learning plans.
Resources for Computer Science Teachers
Contact: Bryan Cox

COMPUTER SCIENCE IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

Each semester, GaDOE partners with the Constellations Center for Equity in Computing from Georgia Tech to offer the Computer Science Implementation Workshop. The workshop is designed for Local Educational Agency (LEA) teams to take a day to develop a comprehensive implementation plan. We discuss topics like building teacher capacity, developing meaningful partnerships, and choosing the right equipment and curriculum for your students. LEAs walk away with an actionable plan and a plethora of connections and insights they can use to implement this new discipline. A team usually consists of the computer science point person for the district, a school-level administrator, and a computer science teacher, as well as other stakeholders (counselors, tech support, and JROTC Commanders). Our next workshop is March 25. If you are interested in joining us, fill out the RSVP found HERE.

CLAW CONTROL

Claw Control is an addition to the popular GASHA GO! World online games and animations for kids ages 4-8. Claw Control leverages engaging characters and fun challenges to build kids’ foundational computer science (CS) skills. Claw Control was recently featured as GPB’s top 21 in ’21 most used resources.

2022 CS4GA SUMMIT

Save the Date: CS4GA Summit, "Computer Science is a Fundamental Literacy" March 24, 2022

Resources for Social Studies
Contact: Joy Hatcher

SOCIAL STUDIES UPDATES

Have you joined GaDOE Social Studies on GaDOE Community? We would LOVE for you to join us! We have groups for K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-7th, 8th, World History and World Geography, U.S. Government, Economics, and U.S. Intelligence. We have also added a NEW group for teacher leaders. Check out this document to get connected. We are better TOGETHER!

GaDOE Social Studies is excited to officially welcome Nancy Balaun! Nancy joined us January 4 as the Social Studies and ESOL Content Specialist and is an amazing addition to our team. Nancy has taught at Oakcliff Theme Elementary School in Doraville for the past 18 years, and has been the STEM lead for the past five. Social Studies has been a subject near and dear to her since a high school American History teacher made it all about the people and stories, the struggles and triumphs; that teacher made history meaningful and real. Nancy has shared her content area videos, activities, and PLs at the local, county and state level and can’t wait to share some ideas with you. She has written curriculum for GaDOE and was also the 5th grade teacher featured in our Everyday Inquiry in Elementary Social Studies Series. You may reach Nancy at nancy.balaun@doe.k12.ga.us.

Resources for Professional Learning
Contact: Dawn Ashmore

Find available professional learning opportunities through GaDOE. Click on this image or click on Professional Learning from the GaDOE Community log-in page.
**Georgia's Tiered System of Support for Students Updates**

**Contact:** Carole Carr

**APPLY FOR GO MTSS/SST**

GaDOE provides Georgia’s Online MTSS/SST (GO MTSS/SST) to local educational agencies at no cost.

**GO MTSS/SST** is a web-based tool that helps districts and schools create and maintain a record of a student’s response to interventions. GO MTSS/SST supports Georgia’s MTSS framework and its alignment with GO-IEP.

The application to apply for GO MTSS/SST will be available Friday, January 28. Applications are due February 28.

To explore the GO MTSS/SST application, visit the [GO MTSS/SST demo site](#). Please check out the [GO MTSS/SST Implementation Process Guide](#) to learn more about the implementation process.

If you have questions, please email rpinckney@doe.k12.ga.us or ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us.

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**Resources for World Languages**

**WORLD LANGUAGE AND DUAL LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

2022 is off to a good start and so are our World Language & Dual Language Immersion Professional Learning Communities! [Find out more](#) and connect with other teachers who are teaching your language and level. Please reach out to Mr. Patrick Wallace, Program Specialist for World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives, with any additional questions.

**Contact:** Patrick Wallace

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**Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Resources**

**FREE STANDARDS-BASED FIELD TRIPS**

The education staff at the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park is eager to host your students for a FREE virtual or on-site field trip. Standards-based programming is available for students in Pre-K to 12th grade. Please contact Marle Usry at musry@doe.k12.ga.us or visit our website [jimmycartereducation.org](http://jimmycartereducation.org) for programming information.

**Contact:** Marle C. Usry

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**Resources for College Readiness and Talent Development**

**Contact:** Mary Jean Banter

**GIFTED SERIES FOR EDUCATORS**

The College Readiness & Talent Development team has 27 upcoming professional development opportunities for gifted educators listed in [GaDOE’s PL catalog](#). Sessions include talent development, critical thinking, and advanced content for elementary education. Please see the catalog for more information including registration links. Also, please see the Gifted Education and College Readiness webpages for recordings of all previous professional development webinars.
Resources for Health & Physical Education
Contact: Therese McGuire

HEALTH EDUCATION; ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VAPING INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE

Vapor products have been added to the existing Georgia law that requires tobacco and alcohol use prevention education for public school students. Vaping prevention education is required for students in K-12. Tar Wars is an early prevention tobacco and vaping education and prevention program for students offered by the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance (GHFA) at no cost to Georgia schools. For more information or to schedule training, contact Abbey Carr; Statewide Manager, Tar Wars Education.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE) VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Looking for a way to connect with HPE teachers and administrators from across the state? On GaDOE Community, you can join groups of like-minded educators and share thoughts, resources, strategies, and encouragement.

- Visit HPE community on GaDOE Community

Resources for English Language Arts
Contact: Breanne Huston

ELA STANDARDS REVIEW

The review of the Georgia Standards of Excellence for the English Language Arts will move into the working committee phase in the coming months. These committees will be composed of educators from around the state with a range of teaching experiences. Their work will be informed by a number of sources, including feedback from over 10,000 respondents to GaDOE’s 2019 call for public review and a separate report from a citizen review committee that was convened in November 2021. You may access information about the standards review process here, including a summary of the results of the public review. A report of the citizen review committee will be made available soon. Please join the GaDOE ELA & Literacy Community group for regular updates as well as other fabulous resources from your GaDOE ELA team.

UPCOMING ELA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Our ELA Virtual Learning Communities, led by Georgia educators, are now active in the GaDOE Community platform! These groups will focus on evidence-based practices and high-leverage practices; please click on the flyers below for the direct links.

- Secondary (6-12) Virtual Learning Communities
- Elementary (K-5) Virtual Learning Communities
- Student Supports (K-12 Exceptional Students & K-5/6-12 English Learners) Virtual Learning Communities

For our early learning and elementary teachers, our partnership will continue with the Cox Center of Language & Literacy. The ELA Team will continue its facilitation of Science of Reading courses before each live discussion with the Cox Campus team; upcoming dates will focus on literacy workshops, reading fluency, multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), and oral language.

In the secondary realm, we will continue our partnership with science for another round of Symbiotic Relationships: Argument Writing in Science, where participants will expand their argument writing resource banks for both science and ELA classrooms. Then, our quick, multi-session Engaging Secondary Students with Meaningful Writing Feedback professional learning experience will ground itself in the research but serve as a pragmatic approach to engage in meaningful feedback on students’ writing (while saving your weekend)!

To register or learn more information, please click on the respective event flyer or visit GaDOE Community’s Professional Learning page.
Resources for Fine Arts Teachers

Contact: Jessica Booth

NEW PLC WEBINARS AND DISCUSSIONS ON GA DOE COMMUNITY

Looking for a way to connect with fine arts teachers and administrators from across the state of Georgia? On GaDOE Community, you can join groups of like-minded fine arts educators and share thoughts, resources, strategies, and encouragement. Watch a short introductory video and create an account on GaDOE Community using your school district email address.

We currently have 13 fine arts-specific community groups on the platform and a host of NEW PLC webinars and discussions on various, content-specific, educational topics that are being created and posted in their respective community groups on the GaDOE Community platform. To find your content-specific Fine Arts PLC group, start by visiting the main Fine Arts PLC Group and click on the Subgroups tab to find your specific fine arts content area and discipline.

UPCOMING: MARCH IS A BIG MONTH FOR CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN OUR SCHOOLS!

The National Dance Education Association, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes "Dance In Your Schools Month" by celebrating the artistic and academic achievement of exceptional students through the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA). The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) celebrates Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) to raise awareness about the importance of music education for all children. This year’s theme is “Music: The Sound of My Heart.” For more information and resources about MIOSM, take a look at the NAfME website.

The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), International Thespian Society, and the American Alliance for Theatre Education sponsor Theatre in Our Schools Month to raise public awareness of the impact of theatre education. For more information and resources about Theatre in Our Schools Month, take a look at the EdTA website.

The National Art Education Association is promoting Youth Art Month, which aims to recognize art education as a viable factor in the total educational curriculum that develops citizens of a global society. This year’s theme is: “Art Connects Us.” For more information and resources about Youth Art Month, take a look at the CFAE website.

DEADLINE: GADOE FINE ARTS DIPLOMA SEAL APPLICATION AND THE ARTS INTEGRATION SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

GaDOE Fine Arts has a couple of deadlines that are quickly approaching so be sure to check out this information before they pass by!

The NEW, online Fine Arts Diploma Seal application deadline for school districts is February 15. Each month, submitted applications will be reviewed for approval. Districts who had their applications accepted previously do not need to resubmit. Districts are responsible for submitting qualifying seniors to the Fine Arts Program Manager by April 15 annually.

In addition, GaDOE recognizes schools with the Creative School, Arts Integration School of Excellence Award. The winners are schools where all students have access to arts integration in every subject and there is both rigor and relevance in the arts integration programming. Arts integration professional development is ongoing, the program is well-organized, and the school involves the community in the arts. Application materials are due to Jessica Booth (jbooth@doe.k12.ga.us) on April 15.

Visit the GaDOE Fine Arts webpage for more information on the GaDOE Fine Arts Diploma Seal and Arts Integration School of Excellence Award.
Teacher and Leader Support and Development

**Contact:** Shauntice Wheeler

**GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GATAPP) GRANT**

GaDOE will award grants to approved GaPSC Educator Preparation Providers and Education Preparation Programs for a total amount of $5 million to be allocated over the three-year implementation period to provide financial assistance to Georgia public school teachers enrolled in TAPP. You can access the RFP at [GaTAPP Grant RFP](#). *(NOTE: Due date for applications for this grant only has been extended to March 4, 2022)*

**GEORGIA TEACHER ENDORSEMENT GRANT**

GaDOE will award grants to approved GaPSC Educator Preparation Providers and Education Preparation Programs for a total amount of $5 million to be allocated over the three-year implementation period to provide financial assistance to Georgia public school teachers enrolled in endorsement programs. RFPs are available at [Georgia Teacher Endorsement Grant RFP](#).

**GEORGIA TEACHER LEADERSHIP ENDORSEMENT GRANT**

GaDOE will award grants to approved GaPSC Educator Preparation Providers and Education Preparation Programs for a total amount of $1,800,000 to be allocated over the three-year implementation period. The objective is to provide financial assistance to Georgia public school teachers enrolled in endorsement programs to support professional growth and foster teacher leadership. RFPs are available at [Teacher Leadership Endorsement Opportunities Grant RFP](#).

**RESA EDUCATOR PIPELINE WORK SESSIONS**

The TLSD Division will conduct RESA Educator Pipeline Work Sessions to improve statewide capacity to attract, prepare, support, develop and retain educators. The purpose of the work session is to support RESAs as they determine the most effective ways to collaborate with LEAs to build talent development opportunities in the field of education. These meetings will take place virtually in the month of February. Each RESA will be able to select the day and time for the meeting during initial registration. Sessions are available in the morning (9 to 11:30 a.m.) and the afternoon (1 to 3:30 p.m.). We look forward to collaboratively building a strong educator pipeline for Georgia students. Please contact Shauntice Wheeler at swheeler@doe.k12.ga.us with any questions.

**TLSD NEW HIRES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Background</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allison Beasley</td>
<td>Title II A State Activities Educational Program Specialist</td>
<td>Allison is from Jesup, a small town in Southeast Georgia. She has been in education for 19 years as an elementary school teacher, intervention support specialist, and assistant principal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Bilton</td>
<td>Teacher Leader Support &amp; Development Teacher Induction Specialist</td>
<td>Heather lives in Savannah and has been in education for thirty years. She has served as a teacher; National Board facilitator; professional learning, GaTAPP and induction coordinator; evaluation system specialist; and most recently as a Director of Employment and Talent Acquisition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeOnna Dalton</td>
<td>Title II A State Activities Educational Program Specialist</td>
<td>DeOnna is an Atlanta native and a professional educator with 16 years of experience as a high school English teacher, graduation coach, instructional coach, school improvement coach, and educational consultant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim McMickin</td>
<td>Teacher Leader Support &amp; Development Leader Induction Specialist</td>
<td>Jim is a native of Sylvester and currently lives in LaGrange. He has worked in education for 28 years as a teacher, academic coach, school administrator, and district administrator.</td>
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INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: MULTIMODAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES THAT DAZZLE!

It is a new year, and an exciting time to refresh approaches to teaching English learners (ELs). If you are already familiar with WIDA’s English Language Development Standards (ELDS) Framework, you may recognize that ELs use language for different academic purposes (narrate, argue, explain, inform) in the domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Prior to the NEW WIDA ELDS Framework, 2020 Edition, WIDA referred to these “modes of communication” as EXPRESSIVE (Speaking and Writing) and RECEPTIVE (Listening and Reading).

In keeping with the broader scope of state academic standards, WIDA has expanded Language Expectations into two more inclusive modes of communication. The new Expressive communication mode definition encompasses speaking, writing, and representing. The new Interpretive communication mode (previously referred to as “Receptive”) includes listening, reading, and viewing.

Given these exciting and more expansive definitions, it is a wonderful time to consider EL teaching strategies that incorporate all modes of communication. Here are some fresh ideas! Though not an exhaustive list, these strategies can ensure that ELs have opportunities to listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent as they increase their English language proficiency while mastering the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

For more information on strategies for expressive and interpretive communication, see the The GO TO Strategies: Scaffolding Options for Teachers of English Language Learners.

Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading in Georgia (L4GA) will offer several new professional learning opportunities for grantee districts (some sessions have availability for all GA school districts) in early 2022.

For more information, please visit the L4GA webpage or connect with us on Facebook.

Resources for Science Teachers

Contact: Keith Crandall

SCIENCE UPDATES

We are excited to announce our new team member: Laura Canepa-Redondo! Laura will serve in the brand-new position of Science/ESOL Program Specialist. She brings experience and passion to this position as a science and ESOL teacher, and ESOL department chair and program facilitator. In this position, Laura will design professional learning and resource development to support teachers in providing effective science instruction to all students.

• Join us in welcoming Laura: Laura.Canepa-Redondo@doe.k12.ga.us

Have your science teachers joined GaDOE Community? We have seven specialized groups led by teachers from around the state that share classroom-ready resources and strategies for science teaching. See our community flyer for how to sign up!
MATHEMATICS VIRTUAL SPECIALIST 2ND SEMESTER MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSIONS UNDERWAY!

GaDOE Mathematics is excited to announce our second year of virtual professional learning series. This year, our Mathematics Virtual Specialists will highlight Georgia’s K-12 Mathematics Standards in each of their sessions. Attendees will discuss changes and improvements embedded within the new standards, learn the intent of the standards in each grade level and course, discuss the importance of mathematical reasoning that is woven into the standards, and explore the ideas of Mathematical Modeling and the Framework for Statistical Reasoning and discover how these can impact student learning of mathematics.

The Mathematics Virtual Specialist PL sessions are either pre-recorded or live and are available for every grade level, K-8 and multiple high courses. To register for any of these courses or watch a recorded session, please click the link for the Virtual Mathematics Professional Learning Catalog.

All of the sessions were recorded, and can be accessed along with all MathCON Encore Resources on the MathCON website.

Resources for STEM/STEAM

Contact: Meghan McFerrin

STEAM/ARTS INTEGRATION COHORT

Applications are now open for the Spring 2022 STEAM/Arts Integration Professional Learning Cohort!

Join our online community as we discuss how to authentically integrate the arts with core curriculum and work with experts to transform your approach to adding the A to STEM. All sessions will be held virtually beginning February 9.

STEM/STEAM MICRO-TOURS

Want to get a peek into some GaDOE STEM/STEAM Certified schools? Check-out our virtual micro-tours. Spotlight:

- West Fannin Elementary School
- Lanier High School

GEORGIA STEM DAY - MARCH 4

Mark your calendars for March 4 - the 2022 Georgia STEM Day, presented by TAG Education Collaborative, is right around the corner! Georgia STEM Day is a day for schools and organizations to raise awareness and engage in activities involving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Group and student applications are available online along with registration details. For questions, contact Heather Maxfield.

STEAM AND TECHNICAL THEATRE WORKSHOPS

GaDOE and the Alliance Theatre are pleased to present STEAM and Technical Theater Workshops. Learn how technical theater concepts can connect to classroom curriculum, contribute to employability skill development, and support your STEAM goals. These fully virtual workshops will be held March 9, 23, and 30.

- Learn more and register

STEAM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT GEORGIA TECH

Join STEM/STEAM Leaders online March 14-17, 2022 for the sixth annual STEAM Leadership Conference at Georgia Tech. This year’s theme is STEAM with Purpose.

- Learn more and register