The wintertime often brings a period of reflection and careful planning for the year ahead. I want to offer some reflections on the state of Georgia’s education system and what we know about Georgia’s amazing educators:

1) Our educators are highly educated. Over 81% hold a masters-level degree or higher.

2) The average beginning teacher salary in Georgia is about $44,000. The overall average teacher salary in Georgia is about $60,500. When compared to other states in the nation, these salaries rank at about the middle.

3) Our educators care. Ninety-one percent stayed in the profession last year (ending summer 2021); that was an increase of 2% since the year prior (2020) and an increase of 1% in the year prior (2019). At a time when we would have expected people to cry “mercy!” due to all the challenges these past few years have wrought upon us, our Georgia educators have stayed the course.

4) Each year, for the past five years, the average age and experience level of Georgia’s educators has risen. While we like seeing the profession remain strong and have people spend a whole career in education, we are also growing concerned that the entry to the profession needs to grow as experienced colleagues near retirement.

In the coming months, you will see several initiatives rolling out from our Teaching and Learning team that focus on recruitment and retention. We are committed to ensuring that all students in Georgia have well-prepared, certified teachers and leaders to guide their learning.

On December 9, 2021 the State Board of Education approved changes to the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for the current Economics (45.06100) course required for graduation. These changes will go into effect during the 2022-23 school year. The title for the course will change to Personal Finance and Economics. The crosswalk, teacher notes, and instructional resources reflecting these changes are coming soon.

GaDOE/GACIS WEBINAR SERIES

GaDOE in collaboration with the Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors (GACIS), concluded their LIVE webinar series on Accelerated Learning. Session nine concluded on December 8 with Lauren Gordon from Strong4Life at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta on Building Resilience in School-Aged. All nine recordings are available on the Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate webpage. The final installment in the series will take place in person at the February 2022 Winter GACIS.

GaDOE is providing a series of grants to support Whole Child Education. To ensure that students are engaged and challenged, these grants target educators’ professional learning in the areas of College Readiness and Talent Development, Fine Arts, Health and Physical Education, and World Languages. Information on the grants can be found on page two of this newsletter. All Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are available now and due January 24, 2022.
GaDOE Grants to Support Whole Child Education

COLLEGE READINESS AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Advanced Placement Teacher Mentor Grant, AP Pipeline Grant, Building Teacher Capacity for Accelerated and Integrated Learning RESA Grant, and the Summer Bridge Program for Rural Districts Grant

GaDOE will award 4 grants from the College Readiness and Talent Development team for a total of $330,000. RFPs are available on the College Readiness and Talent Development and Gifted Education webpages.

FINE ARTS

Fine Arts Consumable and Equipment (FACE) Grant

A total of $300,000 will be awarded for fine arts consumables and equipment to support quality fine arts instruction that occurs as a graded course during the school day. RFP available on the Fine Arts webpage at FACE Grant information.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education Fitness Education Program Equipment (STEP) Grant

Up to 180 awards of $1,000 each for a total of $180,000 to be awarded for fitness equipment to support student fitness instruction as a component of quality physical education instruction.

Physical Education Project Grant (PEPR) Grant

Up to 25 awards of $5,000 each for a total of $125,000 to be awarded to support sustainable physical education instruction initiatives to support quality physical education in rural districts.

Physical Education Project Grant (PEP) Grant

Up to 25 awards of $5,000 each for a total of $125,000 to be awarded to support sustainable physical education instruction initiatives to support quality physical education. The RFPs are available on the Health and Physical Education webpage at HPE Grant Information.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Dual Language Immersion Start-Up Grant (DLI Start-Up)

A maximum of seven awards in the amount of $10,000 each for a total of $70,000 awarded to new Dual language Immersion Programs at eligible Georgia public elementary or middle schools.

Dual Language Immersion Sustaining Grant (DLI Sustaining)

A maximum of 13 awards in the amount of $5,000 each for a total of $65,000 awarded to support existing Dual Language Immersion Programs at eligible public schools.

World Language Cross Curriculum Innovation Grant (CCI)

A maximum of 40 awards in the amount of $1,000 - $2,000 each for a total of $50,000 awarded to create and/or support sustainable Cross Curricular World Language Instruction initiatives that connect world language instruction with other curricular areas.

World Language Providing Access for Rural Teachers for New Equipment and Resources (PARTNER)

Up to 45 awards in the amount of up to $2000 each for a total of $90,000 awarded to create and/or support sustainable world language initiatives at quality world language programs in rural districts.

All World Languages RFPs are available on the World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives webpage found at WL Grant Information.
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.

Launching January 10th: Classroom Conversations, a new podcast from GaDOE and GPB featuring Georgia educators who are teaching and reaching students in innovative and impactful ways.

Resources for January 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.

Innovative Programs and Research

Contact: Juan-Carlos Aguilar

NOMINATIONS FOR THE PAEMST AWARD

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes outstanding individuals who teach science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and computer science at either an elementary or secondary grade level and bestows upon them the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public may nominate exceptional individuals who teach science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science. You can also self-nominate.

The nomination deadline is January 7, 2022

Contact Dr. Lya Snell (lsnell@doe.k12.ga.us) for information on mathematics and computer science and Dr. Juan-Carlos Aguilar (jaguilar@doe.k12.ga.us) for information on science and engineering.

Resources to Improve Classroom Climate

Contact: Jason Byars

NEW CLIMATE RESOURCE IN THE GEORGIA HOME CLASSROOM

In the latest episode of Let’s Learn GA! Georgia teachers Monyca Harper (Glynn County) and Whitney Montesinos (Gainesville City) demonstrate fun and engaging ways to conduct efficient Classroom Transitions and Celebrate Students.
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 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 admin, and a CS teacher, as well as other stakeholders (Counselors, Tech Support, and JROTC Commanders). Our next workshop is March 25, 2022. If you are interested in joining us, fill out the RSVP found HERE. We look forward to helping you build your CS program.

CS4GA COMPUTER SCIENCE CAPACITY GRANTS AWARDED

GaDOE recently awarded its third round of CS4GA Computer Science Capacity Grants. Each district will receive up to $25,000 to build their teacher capacity for computer science. These funds are part of the 2019 Computer Science (CS) legislation that requires all middle and high schools to offer CS, middle schools by the 2022-2023 school year and high schools by the 2024-2025 school year. To date, over 80 school systems in Georgia have been awarded the grant, and since 2018, the number of credentialed computer science teachers in the state of Georgia has more than doubled from 265 to 615 teachers. This is great but we still have a lot of work to do. The grant is a one-time award so if your school system hasn’t received it yet, you’re more likely than ever to receive it next year. For more information, go to GaDOE.org/computerscience. Here is the list of 2021 awardees, school systems that are working on their computer science program this year:

- Cherokee County School District
- Colquitt County Schools
- Dade County Schools
- Decatur County Schools
- Effingham County Schools
- Emanuel County Schools
- Fayette County Public Schools
- Gainesville City Schools
- Glynn County School System
- Greene County School System
- Jefferson City Schools
- McIntosh County Schools
- Pike County Schools
- Pulaski County Schools
- Seminole County
- Walker County
- Wayne County School System
Resources for Health & Physical Education
Contact: Therese McGuire

DECEMBER CALENDARS: HEALTHY ACTIVITIES

Looking for a way to provide a healthy activity every day in December? Here is an activity calendar with daily suggestions. This is a great way to get your students moving at school or at home.

- Health & Physical Education Calendars - English
- Health & Physical Education Calendars - Spanish

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES

2021 Georgia State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (GAHPERD) Convention
"Bridging the Gap"
February 27-March 1, 2022
Site - The Classic Center, Athens, GA
For more information:
- 2021 Convention - GAHPERD Georgia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance

HEALTH & PHYSICAL LITERACY SUMMIT 2022

February 13-15, 2022 - Birmingham, Alabama

Hosted by the Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Endorsed by the National Academy of Health and Physical Literacy

The Health and Physical Literacy Summit 2022 is a professional development opportunity focusing on the application of the dimensions of Health and Physical Literacy. Whether you work in K-12 Education, Higher Education, or a Clinical/Community setting the Summit is for you. Sessions will focus on topical areas that support health and physical literacy including health, physical education, research, physical activity, dance, and sport. For more information:

- Health and Physical Literacy Summit 2022
Resources for Fine Arts Teachers
Contact: Jessica Booth

GADOE FINE ARTS DIPLOMA SEAL APPLICATION IS NOW ONLINE!

There is a NEW, online Fine Arts Diploma Seal application through which school districts can apply for their high school seniors to receive a Fine Arts Diploma Seal.

Georgia public high school students may complete a Fine Arts Pathway in Dance, Music, Theatre, or Visual Art by taking a series of three full credits in one fine art subject area. Students who complete an additional fourth credit in the arts, complete 20 hours of arts-related community service and a capstone project are eligible for the Fine Arts Diploma Seal in school districts that have applied to award the seal.

The NEW, online Fine Arts Diploma Seal application deadline is rolling until 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 GaDOE Fine Arts Program Manager by April 15 annually.

Visit the GaDOE Fine Arts webpage for more information on the Fine Arts Diploma Seal as well as how to submit your online application!

Resources for English Language Arts
Contact: Breanne Huston

Kick off 2022 with two fabulous virtual professional learning experiences. The Science of Reading: A Yearlong Professional Development Journey picks back up, and we kick off virtual learning communities. View these videos: Science of Reading: A Yearlong Professional Development Journey; Virtual Communities for more information and make sure to click on the registration links here. We can’t wait to learn with you!
Georgia’s Tiered System of Support for Students Updates

Contact: Carole Carr

GO MTSS/SST & GO IEP, WORKING TOGETHER

Georgia’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports/Student Support Team application (GO-MTSS/SST) helps users create, monitor, update, and maintain a record of a student’s response to interventions. Georgia’s Online IEP application (GO-IEP) helps users create Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities, as well as other records needed to follow Special Education due process requirements. At the time of case manager assignment in GO-IEP, data already entered in GO MTSS/SST will prepopulate in GO-IEP.

“GO MTSS/SST users can document students’ response to interventions, as well as a team’s decisions about next steps. Many students receive interventions, experience growth, achieve grade level expectations, and are never referred to special education,” said Rondalyn Pinckney, Ed.D, GaDOE Research and Evaluation Program Specialist. “However, when a team decides to refer a student for special education evaluation, this should be documented as a recommendation in an SST meeting on the Complete Review Page of the SST form. With the two applications working together, the special education due process coordinator will need to be notified of this referral so that the appropriate steps can be taken in GO-IEP in the required period of time.”

Both applications can be accessed in SLDS once users are appropriately provisioned. For more information, contact Dr. Pinckney or Linda Castellano.

MTSS PARENT SURVEY

Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students is asking for feedback from families. GaDOE recently created three MTSS videos that explain how MTSS impacts families. The information provided in the videos is helpful to understanding the roles of MTSS, RTI, SST, and special education. Before January 31, we are asking parents and caregivers to please share, watch and complete the evaluation at the end of each video. Click on What is MTSS? to watch and share!

Resources for World Languages

GEORGIA LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT DLI AND WL EDUCATORS

GaDOE World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives is excited to announce the launch of 14 Professional Learning Communities to support World Language and Dual Language Immersion educators in Georgia. These PLC communities are led by Georgia WL/DLI educators and created to support our Georgia educators with level and language content-specific instructional assistance. All Georgia educators are welcome to join and attend. Sessions will be recorded. Find out more by visiting the GA PLC Master Page.

Contact: Patrick Wallace

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Resources

JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK PRESIDENT’S DAY COMPETITION

The Jimmy Carter National Historical Park Education Program invites your K-12 students to participate in the 2022 Literary and Visual Art President’s Day Competition. This year’s competition will focus on President Carter’s rich legacy of being a servant leader with the theme being: Change often begins with helping just one person. With so much need in the world, where would you start? Contest guidelines are on JCNHP Education.

Contact: Marle C. Usry
GEORGIA VIRTUAL INDUCTION SUMMIT 2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

On May 5 and 6, 2022 from 9 a.m. to noon, Georgia’s VIRTUAL Induction Summit 2022 will feature two keynote presentations and 20 breakout sessions.

- You are invited to submit the Call for Proposals (CfP) application form.

The summit will provide participants with induction practices, resources, and networking opportunities. The planning team is currently seeking presenters who are willing to share effective induction practices and facilitate induction conversations around these themes: Attracting, Preparing, Recruiting, Retaining, and Teacher Wellness.

GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GATAPP) GRANT 2021-2024

A series of grants funded by ARP/ESSER were announced by the TLSD team. Requests for Proposals were released to support GaPSC approved program providers in three areas. These grants will be used by awarded agencies to fund tuition (full or part), certification exam fees, and supplies/texts for the preparation programs.

- GATAPP grants in the amount of $5 million can be used by RESAs and LEAs for candidates to widen the pipeline of educators into the profession. The RFP can be accessed here.
- Teacher Endorsement grants in the amount of $5 million can be used by RESAs, Educator Preparation Programs, and LEAs for teachers to gain endorsements in critical need areas. The endorsements should reflect the certification needs of the region. The RFP can be accessed here.
- Teacher Leader Endorsement grants in the amount of $1.8 million can be used by RESAs, Educator Preparation Programs, and LEAs for teachers to gain an endorsement in one of six areas: Teacher Leader, Teacher Support and Coaching, Academic Coaching, Online Teaching, Student Support Team Coordinator, and Coaching. The RFP can be accessed here.

A webinar will be held on January 6 to provide additional information. All grant proposals are due February 4, 2022.

GEORGIA LEARNS KICKOFF

We are excited to announce GaDOE’s new professional learning platform, Georgia Learns. Georgia Learns will replace the current Professional Learning Opportunities (PLO) platform in January 2022. We are in the process of moving all courses over to GaLearns this month.

- Instructions for accessing Georgia Learns for LEAs.

We strongly advise Principals and TLSD Platform Admin pull the reports listed below for completion history. There will be a “Historical Transcripts” section added to the TLSD evaluation platform.

PL Reports in the TLSD Platform:

- PL Transcript Report
- PL Roster Report by Course

TLSD NEW HIRES SPOTLIGHT

Jertarius Cook (Title IIA A State Activities, Educational Program Specialist) is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She has been in the education field for 19 years as an Elementary Teacher, Instructional Coach, Title II-A Coordinator, and School Turnaround Specialist.

Tonya Johnson (Teacher Leader Support and Development, Local Support Specialist) is from Alma, a small town in South Georgia. She has been in education for 29 years as a Middle School Teacher, Instructional Coach, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Curriculum Director. She is excited to serve as a Local Support Specialist for our state.
Resources for Science Teachers
Contact: Keith Crandall

SCIENCE UPDATES
GaDOE Science is excited to share two new resources that support standards-based science teaching. Supporting the Science and Engineering Practices provides explanations and ideas for how to help students interact with this important dimension of our standards. Supporting the Crosscutting Concepts shows prompts and sentence frames to help students utilize the crosscutting concepts.

The 2022 Georgia Science Teachers Association (GSTA) Conference will take place February 10-12, 2022. This year’s conference strands include 3D Teaching, Learning, and Assessments, Virtual Learning, Literacy in Science, Science, for All, and STEM/STEAM. The conference will be held at the Peachtree City Conference Center with additional virtual sessions on February 12.

- Learn more by visiting the GSTA conference page.

College Readiness and Talent Development Resources
Contact: Mary Jean Banter

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING YOUR AP PROGRAM
The College Readiness and Talent Development team invites AP Coordinators to join us for an engaging roundtable discussion focused on how to build and maintain a successful Advanced Placement program. The webinar will be Wednesday, January 26 at 9:30 a.m. AP Coordinators will receive a direct link to the webinar in January. Please contact Alison Coker or Martha Smith.

Resources for L4GA
Contact: Julie Morrill

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
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 ESOL
Contact: Margaret Baker

PRINCIPLES OF HIGH LEVERAGE PRACTICES
GaDOE ESOL has compiled several research-based best practices for teachers of English learners into one overall document for you. Please note the categories on the left also indicate which TAP standards align to the best practices in that category. If you have any questions, please contact us.
Resources for Mathematics Teachers

Contact: Lya Snell

MATHEMATICS VIRTUAL SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL LEARNING - YEAR 2 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. One of the main goals of these professional learning sessions is to discuss changes and improvements embedded within these 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 School courses from Algebra: Concepts & Connections through Advanced Calculus and Advanced Statistics. To register for any of these courses or watch a recorded session, please click the link for the Virtual Mathematics Professional Learning Catalog.

2021 MATHCON ENCORE

GaDOE hosted a Fall 2021 MathCON Encore virtual mini conference over two days in early November, and there was a tremendous turnout by teachers and leaders throughout the state. Georgia mathematics teacher leaders, along with national mathematics experts, headlined MathCON Encore by offering some incredibly engaging Keynote and Special Sessions! The Lunch and Learn sessions also highlighted Georgia students who shared their experiences with mathematics teaching and learning in STEM/STEAM classrooms.

- Session Recordings and MathCON Encore Resources

Resources for STEM/STEAM

Contact: Meghan McFerrin

Resources from the Fall 2021 STEM/STEAM Virtual Summit are now available! To access session recordings and accompanying documents, please visit the GaDOE Community and join the STEM/ STEAM Groups.

Topics include, but are not limited to, integrating employability skills, project-based learning, arts integration, and CTAE integration.

For questions contact Allyson Morgan or Rontra Brown.