Teaching & Learning Updates

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

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children’s Hospital Association recently released an alert regarding a mental health crisis among children and youth across the nation. Our children (and their educators) need us to be especially connected and present for them right now.

Please use the resources from our GaDOE for Suicide Prevention, Crisis and Bereavement, and Coping with the Holidays. We are hopeful that these resources provide much needed advice during critical periods.

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

HAPPY HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!

Hispanic Heritage Month started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. Here are links to some great resources:

- National Hispanic Heritage Month Website
- The National Archives

GaDOE/GACIS WEBINAR SERIES

Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate is continuing its partnership with GACIS to co-host a ten-part series addressing “learning loss” concerns through accelerated learning strategies. The recordings for the first seven sessions are available on the Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate webpage.

If you would like the invitations to the webinar series, please email mwelch@doe.k12.ga.us.

GOVERNOR’S HONORS PROGRAM

Now is the time for educators to nominate sophomore and junior high school students for the 2022 Governor’s Honors Program (GHP). Students may be nominated by public, independent, and charter schools. The deadline to nominate a student for the 2022 program is November 12. GHP-caliber students can be identified in every school district. As teachers and counselors consider student nominations, the GHP staff advises them to nominate students who have curiosity, passion, and interest in exploring and gaining skills and education in various courses and who pursue interests in and out of the school setting. GHP is a 59-year continuous running program in Georgia that has over 30,000 alumni throughout Georgia and the nation.

- Local Selection Process
- The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (georgia.gov)
GEORGIA HOME CLASSROOM UPDATES

Our Curriculum, Instruction, and School Climate team continues to add Georgia-grown content to the Georgia Home Classroom. We now have 300+ K-12 Remote Learning Plans across all content areas with new high school ELA plans just released!

Look for new Let’s Learn GA! videos in Fine Arts, Science, and Classroom Climate to support teachers and families. We’ve heard innovative ways (from all over the state!) in which teachers are using these resources. Please continue to send us feedback and ideas.

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 Updates

Contact: Juan-Carlos Aguilar

NOMINATIONS FOR THE PAEMST AWARD

Nominations for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are now open! Click HERE to nominate your most outstanding K-6th grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teachers for this prestigious award. Nominations close 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

EARLY LEARNING WEBINARS

The GaDOE and DECAL have partnered to offer a statewide early learning webinar series on school readiness, enrollment, and positive classroom climate practices to support Pre-K/Kindergarten students. More information and registration linked here.

Targeted Audience for Early Learning Webinars

- Elementary Schools (non-PBIS and PBIS schools; administrators or support staff attend and share the webinars with teachers, staff, and parents)
- Districts (all school district personnel that support Pre-K/Kindergarten teachers, elementary schools, and early learning centers)
- Early Learning Centers (administrators attend and share the webinars with teachers, parents, and staff)
- RESA School Climate Specialists
- PBIS District Coordinators
- Anyone who would find these webinars helpful is welcome to attend!
Resources for Fine Arts Teachers  
Contact: Jessica Booth

NEWLY UPDATED FINE ARTS COURSES ON GADOE PD HUB: GA LEARNS

We have recently updated three of our Fine Arts-related, self-paced online courses that are on the GaDOE PD Hub.

- Introduction to Music for the K-5 General Education Teacher
- Introduction to Visual Art for the K-5 General Education Teacher
- Dramatic Writing I: Micro-Endorsement Training

You can find the Georgia Learns PD Hub via your school district’s SLDS platform. If you need additional assistance with finding these courses, please reach out to Casey Hall, Fine Arts Program Specialist at casey.hall@doe.k12.ga.us.

The Fine Arts Team at GaDOE wanted to offer Fine Arts teachers and administrators across the state of Georgia an opportunity to collaborate and connect on our new Fine Arts on GaDOE Community virtual platform.

On GaDOE Community, you will be able to join groups of like-minded Fine Arts educators and share valuable thoughts, resources, strategies, and encouragement as a way of professional learning.

Watch a short introductory video and create an account on GaDOE Community.

FOLLOW GADOE FINE ARTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you follow GaDOE Fine Arts on social media? Stay up to date on all things happening with the Fine Arts in Georgia by following and using the tag #ArtsEdGa.

Be sure to follow Fine Arts on all major platforms:

- Twitter
- Instagram
- Facebook
- YouTube

FINE ARTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Fine Arts Department is continuing to offer professional development opportunities online for the Fall 2021 semester. Our goal is to provide content-specific staff development for Fine Arts educators across the state of Georgia geared toward a whole-child education for our students. There are several content-specific professional development opportunities that include webinars, self-paced online courses for art and music teachers, and content-specific professional learning communities on GaDOE Community. Be sure to take a look at the GaDOE Fine Arts website for more information.
Resources for ESOL

OFFICE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (OELA) RELEASES ENGLISH LEARNERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS PODCAST

The latest episodes from OELA’s podcast series have just been released! Dr. Aída Walqui from WestEd, Dr. Ilana Umansky from the University of Oregon, and Dr. Karen Thompson from Oregon State University reunited for a two-part podcast to answer questions submitted during the English Learners in Secondary Schools: Trajectories, Transition Points, and Promising Practices webinar hosted by OELA in early 2021. In part 1, the panelists discuss how to support ELs in meeting graduation requirements, mitigate risks that may lead ELs to drop out of school, and provide English language development instruction.

In part 2, the panelists discuss the needs of students with limited or interrupted formal education, professional learning opportunities for educators of secondary ELs, and promising practices that can help educators meet the needs of ELs in secondary schools.

Contact: Margaret Baker

Special Invitation to the High School Flight Academy

Please share this free flight opportunity for kids from 16-23 years old to get 15 hours of FREE instruction in an airplane. Student lodging, travel, and food is all 100% paid for by the US Air Force during your summer session. The application window is now closing on December 10, so make sure to get those applications submitted at AimHighFlightAcademy.com. Application instructions and details about the flight academy are posted on the website. Questions? Email AFRS.Det1.Flight@us.af.mil or use the “Contact Us” form on the website.

Summer 2022 AHFA Dates

- May 28, 2022 – June 18, 2022
- June 28, 2022 – July 16, 2022
- July 23, 2022 – August 13, 2022
Georgia's Tiered System of Support for Students Updates

Contact: Carole Carr

IDENTIFYING & IMPLEMENTING NEEDED SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

Data-Based Decision Making (DBDM) is an essential component of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). It is a process for making informed decisions about instructional needs, the effectiveness of instruction, and the level of intensity necessary to support students in need of interventions. Effective DBDM teams can easily identify strengths and areas of need for individual students which leads to greater gains in a shorter amount of time.

When planning for quality instruction, monitoring student progress, and planning/implementing school improvement processes, effective DBDM teams are essential. District and school leadership should plan to provide the support systems and resources necessary to implement DBDM, for example:

- Select universal screeners and create a schedule for administering screeners (a minimum of 2 to 3 times per year - fall, winter, and spring).
- Establish and monitor school-wide data teams focused on student achievement.
- Identify evidence-based interventions and progress monitoring tools needed and plan for tiered supports for students in need of interventions.
- Plan and implement a schedule that will provide protected time for tiered interventions.
- Use a variety of formative and summative data to drive instructional decisions.
- Progress monitor frequently so that the DBDM team can determine the effectiveness of evidence-based interventions as well as student growth in the specific areas addressed with interventions.
- Disaggregate and analyze data at different levels (schoolwide, grade-level, classroom, student, etc.) and utilize it in a timely manner.

For more information contact Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students Program Manager Karen Suddeth.

Resources for Health and Physical Education

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE) VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Looking for a way to connect with HPE teachers and administrators from across the state of Georgia? On GaDOE Community, you will be able to join groups of like-minded educators and share valuable thoughts, resources, strategies, and encouragement as a way of professional learning. Join by visiting the HPE community on GaDOE.

Contact: Therese McGuire

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Resources

2022 PRESIDENTS DAY LITERARY AND ART COMPETITION

The education staff at the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park is excited to announce that we will once again sponsor a Presidents Day essay, art, and poetry competition for students in Kindergarten-12th grade. The winning students will be invited to Plains High School and Visitors Center to participate in our Presidents Day program on February 21, 2022. Details about the contest theme and guidelines will be announced soon.

- Visit our website www.jimmycartereducation.org

Contact: Marle C. Usry
Resources for Science Teachers
Contact: Keith Crandall

SELF-PACED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Looking for PL that fits on your schedule? Check out our self-paced modules on SLDS! We have two modules to choose from that are located on the PL tab of SLDS. The first module, Three-Dimensional Science Instruction, is an introduction to our science standards and methods in Georgia. 3D Science Lesson Design and Supports for All students is the second module and covers the lesson planning process for science and how teachers can plan for all students to be successful.

Resources for STEM/STEAM
Contact: Meghan McFerrin

GaDOE is launching a second year of The Rural Education Innovation STEM/ STEAM Grant, as a part of the Partnership for Rural Growth. A limited number of grants between $10,000 and $25,000 each are available to rural schools or districts located in the First District RESA and Southwest Georgia RESA regions to expand STEM/STEAM learning opportunities. In collaboration with regional and/or local business and community partners, grant recipients will create professional learning opportunities that develop STEM/STEAM programs/ activities and help students make connections between the Georgia Standards of Excellence, their passions and curiosities, and the strategic partnership experiences within the local or regional community.

- Complete an Application

For questions contact Allyson Morgan or Rontra Brown.

Resources for English Language Arts
Contact: Breanne Huston

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR ELA STANDARDS REVIEW

The deadline for submitting nominations for participation in the English language arts standards review is fast approaching. Nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. on November 1. Read this memorandum to learn more.

LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS SUPPORT ENGLISH LEARNERS

Library media specialists are invited to join the ELA, ESOL, and Library Media & Resources teams for the two-part series: Engaging English Learners in the Library. Highlights of the series include learning about second language acquisition, exploring supports for students, and engaging with library media specialists who are making strides with the English learners in their schools. The first live session was held on October 12, but it isn’t too late to join in. You can access a recording of the first session on the Library Media Services webpage, and all library media specialists are invited to register here for the second session on December 7.
464,420. That’s the number of open, unfilled cybersecurity jobs in the US right now according to cyberseek.org, with 17,083 jobs in Georgia alone. Business, industry, military, government, and all other sectors of the workforce are not finding enough cyber workers. To put it simply, the cyber workforce shortage is a major National Security threat. And since we are not finding the workers needed among adults, business and industry are looking to K-12 schools as the source of the answer.

That’s why the National Cyber Scholarship Foundation (NCSF) and the SANS Institute produced the CyberStart America game. It’s a free game that teaches 9th-12th grade students cyber as they play fun puzzles and challenges over a series of levels. Students become eligible for national scholarships after completing only about 20% of the game.

To support this effort, five state leaders in cyber education joined forces to create the CyberStart Georgia Task Force including: the University of North Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Tech Research Institute, the Georgia Cyber Center, and Gwinnett County Public Schools.

The CyberStart Georgia Task Force produced the following to encourage students to play:

1. This student promo video
2. Teacher recommendations
3. A matrix showing the correlation of GSE standards to CyberStart levels (STEM@GTRI)
4. STEM@GTRI Cyber webinar series, such as this one on Cyber Warfare.
5. CASH PRIZES for Georgia students, teachers, schools, and districts!
6. Department of Defense cyber scholarship

The CyberStart game runs through April. Please help us address this major National Security threat by encouraging CyberStart at your school!
LEADER RESOURCE TO SUPPORT TEACHER INDUCTION

The GaDOE Teacher Induction Guidance provides a comprehensive, coherent, sustainable teacher induction model for Georgia districts. The purpose of the Teacher Induction Guidance is to provide Georgia districts and schools guidance in the creation, implementation, and sustainability of a quality teacher and leader induction program. These programs support not only retention, but also the induction phase educator’s growth, thereby increasing student learning and growth. Collectively, the domains of the Teacher Induction Guidance provide multiple layers and types of support for induction phase teachers and their mentors.

Seven Domains for High Quality Teacher Induction Support

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Leadership and Organizational Structures
- Mentoring
- Orientation
- Ongoing Performance Assessment
- Professional Learning
- Program Evaluation

The School Leaders’ Guide for Supporting Teacher Induction includes the GaDOE Teacher Induction Guidance, a process for creating, developing and implementing an effective teacher induction program and a suggested monthly timeline.

For more information contact Dr. Karen J. Wyler

CALLING ALL NEW GIFTED COORDINATORS!

Our first FY22 Share Fair for new gifted coordinators will be on Friday, October 29th from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Our topic will be: “What type of professional learning do we provide for our gifted teachers and regular education teachers in our districts? How does this look in my district?” Please bring your ideas to share. Let’s brainstorm ways to enhance our work with professional learning for our teachers.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEACHER TRAINING GRANT

To support ongoing efforts to improve the academic achievement of students, GaDOE announced the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Grant opportunity for Georgia high schools. The purpose of this grant is to assist in training teachers at AP Summer Institutes. Consideration will be given to all high schools with emphasis on schools with the fewest number of AP courses.

School districts may apply for a grant to fund AP teacher training in up to two courses per school. Funding is to cover costs, or to partially cover costs, of training expenses including registration, travel, meals and lodging, if required. Grants may be awarded from a minimum of $250 to a maximum of $1,000 per school. Stipends may not be paid from GaDOE grant funds. Administrators may not be trained with GaDOE funds. However, GaDOE grant funds may be combined with local professional development funds and a grant award may be used to train more than one teacher.

Instructions on how to submit applications were sent to Superintendents and District AP Coordinators. The deadline to submit applications is December 1, 2021. All applications must be received by the Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on or before December 1. For questions, please contact Alison Coker or Martha Smith.
Resources for Mathematics Teachers

Contact: Lya Snell

MATHCON ENCORE 2021

GaDOE is excited to host MathCON Encore 2021 on November 9 to 10, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily. This is a FREE, virtual conference provided for all mathematics educators in Georgia. The GaDOE Office of Mathematics is dedicated to partner with leaders and teachers to equip and empower all learners in Georgia with a high-quality mathematics teaching and learning experience each and every day. To achieve this mission, we provide ongoing professional learning, resources, and initiatives to help create a community of professional experts throughout the state to support learners in each and every classroom. Join us for this upcoming professional learning conference as session facilitators unpack high leverage instructional practices that can be used in classrooms to support mathematical reasoning and comprehension. Information and resources will also be provided to support the implementation of Georgia’s New K-12 Mathematics Standards in Fall 2023.

We encourage all teachers and leaders to join us for this engaging professional learning event. The conference will include several featured speakers, including State School Superintendent Richard Woods, Dr. Caitlin Dooley, Dr. Jo Boaler, and many more.

Register HERE! More details can be found on the conference website.

Resources for Social Studies Teachers

Contact: Joy Hatcher

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE GCSS CONFERENCE?

The 2021 Georgia Council for the Social Studies (GCSS) Virtual Conference will be here SOON! This year’s conference theme is “Teaching Social Studies in Challenging Times.” GaDOE Social Studies and Literacy for Learning, Living and Leading in Georgia (L4GA) have partnered with GCSS to provide keynote speakers related to this theme and to strengthen literacy. The conference will be virtual and will be live on Saturday, November 6 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 a.m.

Attendees will have the rare opportunity to hear the story of desegregating the University of Georgia from history-maker Charlayne Hunter-Gault, along with Fred Korematsu’s story of challenging Japanese internment. Attendees will hear from both Ms. Hunter-Gault and Dr. Karen Korematsu, Fred’s daughter, their stories of surmounting those obstacles and learning from the past.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to listen as Christy Hale and Duncan Tonatiuh share the stories they uncovered of little-known events in the history of school desegregation. Learn about the Lemon Grove lawsuit in 1931, the first in the U.S., as well as the story of Sylvia Mendes and her family’s suit in 1946 to expand school access. Both of these events occurred before Brown v. BOE and helped us build a more layered and complex story to deepen our students’ understanding.

There will be a brief Q & A time at the end of their talks.

Those who register for the conference will also be able to receive free books to use in their teaching, related to Hunter-Gault, Korematsu, Lemon Grove, and Sylvia Mendes. Books and speakers are provided with the support of GaDOE Social Studies and the L4GA Grant, along with the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement.

Check out the AMAZING line up of keynote speakers and engaging sessions. Learn more or register by visiting GCSS.
GEORGIA COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS) EDUCATION DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

GaDOE is collaborating with Computer Science for Georgia (CS4GA) and the Constellations Center for Equity in Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology to host the Georgia Computer Science (CS) Education District Implementation Workshop Spring 2022 on Friday, March 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., to expand access to CS education. This is a free, full-day virtual workshop that will immerse teachers, district leaders and administrators into the world of K-12 computer science. We will explore the importance of computer science and the benefits of adding it to our education system. We will assist your team in formulating a plan that will help meet the requirements for SB108 requiring all Georgia middle and high schools to offer computer science by 2025. We will work with your team to assess your current state of CS education including, but not limited to, a collaborative vision, district and school leadership, teacher capacity and development, materials and curriculum selection and refinement, and community engagement, to leverage existing resources, and to get connected with support programs to ensure successful implementation. Your team will also have an opportunity to build a network with other school districts and systems in your region and across Georgia.

What is a District Team?

A team that will be responsible for implementing this new and exciting discipline in K-12. A team consists of:

- 1-2 System Level Coordinators
- 1-2 School Administrators
- 1-2 Teachers
- 1-2 Invested Support Personnel (Counselors, school or district IT staff, etc.)

If you would like to bring a team, please RSVP using this link.

CS EDUCATION WEEK IS COMING!

The first week in December is Computer Science Education week. The GaDOE Computer Science team will be supporting many events going on that week and also hosting a few of our own. We are planning to have a CS4GA information webinar about how to fund the development of your computer science programs (check the CS page on GaDOE.org and the Computer Science Community on GaDOE Community for more info soon). We will also announce recipients of this year’s Computer Science Capacity Grant Award that week. If you have any events going on at your school, please let us know so we can shout you out. Finally, remember to encourage your teachers (and yourselves) to join the Computer Science Community on GaDOE Community. Exciting opportunities are shared there first!