

December Friday Email Blast

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Friday, December 2, 2016

Directors,

On this week, I had a great opportunity to visit with Kennesaw State University's (KSU) Inclusion Program and chat with a cohort of doctoral students who currently serve our schools as special education teachers. It was such a rewarding experience that increased motivation to continue the hard work and offered tangible "next steps" that could improve barriers for local students and teachers. I applaud the local efforts to align district-level initiatives with Institutions of Higher Education.

On another note, I presented the preliminary dropout data for students with disabilities during the GCASE Conference; however, the finalized FY16 Dropout for Students with disabilities is **5.7%**. We celebrate this information as a step in the right direction!

The district dropout rate is now available in the portal. Please note that your rate is calculated by dividing students with disabilities in 9th – 12th grade that you reported as dropouts by the total number of students with disabilities in 9th – 12th grade in your district. You may view your district's data by navigating to the Documents/View Documents in the GADOE Portal. Click on Special Education. In the Documents Search Results click on the Adobe icon next to the FY16 LEA Dropout Rate. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

	Children with IEPs 9th - 12th grade Student Record	9th - 12th Dropouts - Data	Dropout percentage
2015-2016	59,059	3,339	5.7%

Directors' Webinar will be December 14th @ 1:00 pm.

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7274218672988268803>

Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Items

[Leadership Launch Webinar for the Fifty Districts](#)

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Old/Updated Items

[Expansion of the GaDOE's Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Program](#)

[Transition Planning Survey](#)

Leadership Launch Webinar for the Fifty Districts:

The **Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar** will be **Tuesday, December 6, 2016 @ 1:00 pm**. The purpose of this webinar is to share important updates and support your district's implementation of the Student Success Process. Access the [Student Success webpage](#) for ongoing updates and resources. Below, you will find registration links for both the December and March Leadership Launch Webinars.

On November 17th, Directors received the email message below with two attachments. We will provide guidance during the upcoming webinar about this information. Have a great day.

Registration Link for December 6th: [Student Success Leadership Launch](#)

GIMC Update:

Forward this information and consent forms to anyone in your district involved with APH registration of blind students. To register students in the 2017 APH annual census, Districts must obtain parental consent. The three most important things to remember are below.

- Parents must sign the attached form (one for Spanish if needed) (or a district form with the same information).
- The form must be notarized.
- A copy must be sent to the GIMC (we are working on an electronic submission).

If students are not registered, then teachers will not be able to order books, supplies, or equipment using quota funds.

Deaf-Blind Child Count:

Special Education Directors should have received the Deaf-Blind Child Count reporting package in the mail. Please return your updated list to GSAP (Georgia Sensory Assistance Project) as soon as you can so GSAP can begin the annual collection for the Office of Special Education Programs. The contact person you designate to update records should receive an invitation to go into a secure database in the next week, but there districts in which GSAP has not received information. GSAP and OSEP need that information to update individual records.

For additional information regarding this registration, please contact GSAP at gsap@uga.edu or call: Carol Darrah –706-542-2433

To add a new student who is not on your list, please contact Martha Veto: mveto@uga.edu 478-550-2367.

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project is a grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, which provides services to children and youth with deaf-blindness from birth through 21 years of age. GSAP is housed at The University of Georgia.

Assistive Technology:

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is pleased to announce the *Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits Journal* (ATOB) Vol 10 Issue 1 is now available.

This focused issue titled, **Assistive Technology Outcomes: Meeting the Evidence Challenge**, discusses a long-standing topic in the world of assistive technology-outcomes measurement.

This volume is now freely available for download via open access on the ATIA website at <https://www.atia.org/at-resources/atob/atob-volume-10/>.

Expansion of the GaDOE's Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Program:

Based on the success of the GaDOE's Facilitated IEP (FIEP) Team Meeting pilot project, the FIEP Team Meeting program is now expanding to other Georgia districts. Starting in January 2017, trained IEP facilitators will be available to facilitate IEP Team meetings in participating school districts free of charge. In order to become an FIEP district, the district's special education director and his/her superintendent or direct supervisor must sign a GaDOE FIEP Team meeting assurance document and return the signed assurance document to Jamila Pollard at jpollard@doe.k12.ga.us by **December 23, 2016**. A sample assurance document is attached. For more information about IEP Team Meeting Facilitation, go to <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IEP-Facilitation.aspx> or contact Jamila Pollard at (404) 657-7329.

Transition Planning Survey - Collection 1 closes on December 9th (see attachment):

Collection 1: November 14, 2016 - December 9, 2016

An initial review by the district to ensure compliance of randomly selected individual student transition plans - 5 to 50 students contingent on the district size. **Collection 1 is a factor in Timely Submission – Indicator 20.**

Collection 2: January 9, 2017 – January 23, 2017

State review of individual student transition plans to verify compliance. A minimum of 1 to 5 students contingent on the district size and all district reported non-compliant plans. **Compliance is determined after Collection 2 – Indicator 13.**

Collection 3: February 15, 2017 – March 3, 2017

Correction of non-compliance

Please contact Carol Seay: cseay@doe.k12.ga.us or Wina Low: wlow@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

Attachment titles that were included with the December 2 Email Blast.

-  FY17 Transition Planning Survey Reporting and Document Upload Guidance.pdf (1 MB)
-  Parent Consent to Release Information GIMC.pdf (246 KB)
-  Spanish Parent Consent to Release Information.pdf (428 KB)
-  FIEP Pilot District Assurances Template.docx (147 KB)
-  FY17 Facilitated IEP Policies Manual GA updated 9-9-16 (3).pdf (203 KB)
-  December 2nd Email Blast.pdf (434 KB)

Friday, December 9, 2016

Directors,

Lakesha Stevenson joined the GO-IEP Unit in October, and Deborah Keane joined the PBIS Unit in December. Both Lakesha and Deborah will be great assets to the Division's work.



Also, the Department's PBIS Unit cohosted the 9th Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Conference along with Georgia State University and Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). The PBIS Team shared technical assistance during the conference, and Dr. Heather George, a National PBIS Consultant, was the keynote speaker. The conference had over 1200 people in attendance.

The Department anticipates formally notifying districts of the Disproportionality Determinations by the end of next week. The formal notifications will be automated through the GaDOE Portal; however, we need each district to designate a "primary" user to receive district notifications as the special education director. In some instances, local districts may have several employees designated as special education director, which is a local option. Consequently, automated notifications will generate duplicate letters to each person, which is not an efficient process. We have collaborated with IT to resolve this issue by asking each **special education director to log into the Special Education Dashboard** (GaDOE Portal) **to designate ONE primary contact person**. The option will be available in the portal on today after 5 pm and must be completed by Tuesday before 5 pm. This request will ensure that the Disproportionality notification letters are copied to the appropriate individuals. Screenshots are attached to the email blast.

We look forward to the upcoming [Directors' Webinar](#) on Wednesday, December 14th @ 1:00 pm, which will provide technical assistance on several topics. As a gentle reminder, FY16 data have been posted on the following websites that will be critical to your work.

<http://gosa.georgia.gov/report-card>

<http://www.gadoe.org/CCRPI/Pages/default.aspx>

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Items

[Georgia Compensatory Educational Leadership \(GCEL\)](#)
[Coordinated Early Intervening Services \(CEIS\) Application](#)

[IDEAS 2017 Conference](#)

[Assistive Technology Tech Tip](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Transition Planning Survey](#)

[Expansion of the GaDOE's Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Program](#)

Georgia Compensatory Educational Leadership (GCEL):

Don't miss out on a great opportunity to network and learn among Federal Programs at the 2017 GCEL Conference in Savannah. The conference is almost at capacity; you should access the registration link on the following webpage to register and secure lodging.

Conference Website: <http://www.gcel.org/>



Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Application:

Districts identified as Significantly Disproportionate and required to provide CEIS during FY17 should note that there is a new CEIS Portal Application. The application is now available in the portal; an updated user guide will be shared during the Directors' webinar. Remember, local districts must finalize student information in the portal no later than July 31, 2017.

IDEAS 2017 Conference:

SAVE the DATE

June 6-9, 2017

2017 IDEAS Conference

Epworth by the Sea

St. Simons Island, GA

Special Education and General Education Teachers, you are invited to attend Georgia's only teacher conference supporting the education of students with disabilities, which will showcase excellence in the field. Come to expand your knowledge and professional development through expert educational sessions, discover the latest in products and systems, share your own expertise, and network with others who like you, make a difference in the lives of students.

Additional information can be found on the 2017 IDEAS Conference website
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IDEAS/IDEAS-Conference.aspx>.

Assistive Technology Tech Tip:

Speak selection is an accessibility feature in iDevices that reads aloud any text that has been highlighted on your iPhone or iPad. It can be used as a support for students who have difficulty making out text because of small text size or style, have reading difficulties, or just want the words spoken to improve understanding. Speak Selection can also highlight words as they are read to aid in comprehension. Tap Settings > General > Accessibility > Speech > Speak Selection

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Attachment titles that were included with the December 9 Email Blast.

 Directors' Contact Change in Portal.docx (83 KB)

 FY17 Transition Planning Survey Reporting and Document Upload Guidance.pdf (1 MB)

 December 9th Email Blast.pdf (328 KB)



Friday, December 16, 2016

Directors,

Disproportionality data and determinations were released on yesterday and are now available in the GaDOE Portal (Special Education Dashboard). Data are available for Discipline Discrepancy (Indicator 4a and 4b of the SPP/APR), Discipline Disproportionality (Events per Student and Duration & Type), Identification Disproportionality, and Placement Disproportionality. If you have questions regarding your data, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

Thank you for participating in the **Directors' Webinar** on Wednesday. If you were unable to access the live webinar, we strongly encourage you to view the webinar by using the following link. [Director's Webinar 12/14/2016.mp4](#)

On December 6th, the State hosted its **Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar** for districts receiving intensive technical assistance. Unfortunately, we had technology issues that impacted the quality of the recording; therefore, we have rerecorded a portion of the webinar guidance, which are available on the Student Success webpage. [2016-12-13 15.57 Student Success Leadership Launch, December 6, 2016.mp4](#)

The **Heart of Georgia Transition Alliance** hosted a Champion Awards Ceremony on December 10th at the Terry L. Coleman Conference Center in Eastman Georgia. The Gala brought awareness that will create opportunities for meaningful transition for students with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities showcased various talents and gifts during the gala! Our very own Program Specialist for Transition, Wina Low, offered greetings on behalf of the Division. We salute the Heart of Georgia's Transition Alliance and believe that this collaboration supports student success.

In addition, I would like to share of the work happening in [Gainesville City Schools with the implementation of PBIS](#) and its impact on attendance and discipline. Way to go Gainesville City, and we look forward to other opportunities to share your success stories, as well.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelpine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Items

[2017 Federal Programs Conference \(Save the Date\)](#)

[Budget Updates for Cross Functional Monitoring](#)

[UDL Webinar Series](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQ](#)

[GO-IEP Demonstration Video](#)

[PBIS News](#)

Old/Updated Items



2017 Federal Programs Conference (Save the Date):

It's that time again, and we are planning for the 2017 Federal Programs Conference next June 20-22, 2017 at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC). June 20th will be dedicated to new directors. Save the date and plan to see you there.

Budget Updates for Cross Functional Monitoring:

If you are being monitored this spring, your district will receive information from your Cross Functional Monitoring Team Lead about the upcoming monitoring visits. This information will be sent to Title I coordinators and will include monitoring dates, along with resources you may need for the upcoming visit. Please note that we will conduct special education interviews at 9:30 AM on the day of the visit with the Special Education Director.

Additionally, the Department will conduct a webinar on January 4, 2017 at 10:00 am to support LEAs involved in the monitoring process. This webinar will include information on submitting documentation in advance online, submitting documentation for desk-top monitoring online, and accessing results of the monitoring event via the portal. Please register for this webinar at this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/737166850617839364>. This webinar will be recorded.

During the Director's Webinar on December 14th, it was requested that we provide a copy of the monitoring rubric. It is attached to this email blast.

UDL Webinar Series:

This is a reminder to register for the 2nd in a series of 3 webinars hosted by the GaDOE regarding Universal Design for Learning in Education (UDL). Please join us for this exciting webinar to increase your knowledge of UDL in the classroom! For additional information on this series of webinars, [click here](#).

Applying UDL to Scaffold Texts for Struggling Readers K-12

Description

How can we provide struggling readers with access to complex texts? What does a scaffolded text look like? These and other questions will be answered in this webinar as participants see what UDL looks like in a scaffolded text and learn how to use the UDL Guidelines to scaffold texts for their own students.

This webinar is presented by Cynde Snider, Cynde Snider Consulting.

Date and Time

Wed, Jan 11, 2017 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM EST

Registration Link

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4907811262566212867>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For further information, contact DeeDee Bunn at dbunn@doe.k12.ga.us.

Assistive Technology Frequently Asked Question (FAQ):

- Q. Can school administrators instruct personnel not to include assistive technology in the Individualized Education Program (IEP)?
- A. No. The IEP Team determines a student's need for assistive technology devices and services. An administrator may not prevent IEP Teams from identifying a student's need for assistive technology.

Go-IEP Demonstration Video:

The GO-IEP Team invites you to learn more about the project by watching our demonstration video. Please use the link below to visit the GO-IEP webpage. Then use the "GO-IEP Video

Demonstration” link to access the recording. Feel free to contact any member of the GO-IEP team with questions.

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Georgia-Online-IEP.aspx>

Application Deadline: January 31st

Please use the link below to find the **GO-IEP application**:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/Ga%20Online%20IEP/ApplicationGO-IEPAug%202017.pdf>

PBIS News:

On Nov. 29th, Gwinnett County Public Schools hosted an amazing PBIS bus tour for 150 people that visited 6 high schools. Visitors were welcomed by district administrators and then bused to local elementary, middle, and/or high schools. Below is a video link that highlights the tour.

<http://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/home/gcpstv/videos/news/in5ive>

Attachment titles that were included with the December 16 Email Blast.

 FY17 CFM Document MASTER FILE FINAL.PDF (1,001 KB)

 Directors' Webinar_December 14, 2016.pptx.ppt (3 MB)

 Friday, December 16th Email Blast.pdf (403 KB)