

# February Friday Email Blast

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Friday, February 3, 2017

Directors,

We are proud to share that the [IEP Team Meeting Facilitator](#) project is gaining momentum throughout the state. Bartow County, Fulton County, Greene County, Turner County, Union County, and White County are participating districts. As the project expands, we welcome 13 new districts: Bryan County, Butts County, Catoosa County, Clayton County, DeKalb County, Evans County, Gainesville City, Ivy Prep Academy at Gwinnett, Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood, Jackson County, Lowndes County, Pierce County, and Rome City. IEP Team Meeting Facilitation is a collaborative dispute prevention and resolution process used when members of an IEP Team agree that the presence of a third party would help facilitate communication and problem solving. Please visit the website to learn more about this exciting work.

In addition to Facilitated IEP, we invite you to join the 101 LEAs that utilize Georgia Online-IEP. The GO IEP Team invites you to learn more about the project by watching the demonstration video, which can be accessed on the [GO-IEP webpage](#). Feel free to contact any member of the GO-IEP team with questions. The [application deadline](#) has been extended to **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

We would like to recognize Ware County, Carroll County and Lamar County for their voluntary participation in the [QI-2](#). There is still time to take advantage of this opportunity. Also, it is that time again, and the [Special Education Parent Satisfaction Survey](#) is new and improved. We are excited to share that the survey may be accessed on several public websites to include the GaDOE website. You are encouraged to consider strategies to make the survey as accessible as possible for your local families.

On yesterday evening, I sent a Federal Programs Update email with critical information for your work in the upcoming months. The email has been attached to the blast for your information and will be discussed on the next [Directors' Webinar](#) (**Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** @ 1:00 pm). Happy Falcon Friday and enjoy the weekend!

Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon (@gaspeddiretor)



## EMAIL BLAST

### New Items

[GLRS Needs Assessment](#)

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[Georgia Sensory Assistance Project Training Needs Assessment](#)

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[Deaf or Hard of Hearing High School Seniors](#)

[Assistive Technology Tech Tip](#)

[Universal Design for Learning](#)

**Old/Updated Items**  
[Awards for Excellence](#)  
[Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs](#)

**GLRS Needs Assessment (see attachment):**

The Georgia Department of Education is collaborating with the Southeast Comprehensive Center to conduct a needs assessment for the Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS). We believe that the needs assessment will support the state in sustaining good practices, identifying gaps, and alleviating barriers. As a critical part of the need assessment, we need your feedback. You will use the survey link below to share your perspective and voice. The needs assessment survey will be available through Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Respondents' identifiable information will remain anonymous; the Southeast Comprehensive Center will collect and analyzed the data. We are excited about this partnership and believe that the needs assessment will support a critical opportunity for continuous improvement. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Survey Link: [Special Education Director Survey](#)**

**Important Budget Update:**

The LEA Excess Cost Calculation webinar has been posted on the website [here](#). Financial Review has prepared other resources to assist LEAs with the reporting of expenditures for the LEA Excess Cost Calculation. The resources will assist with navigation of the portal and provide step-by-step instructions for reporting. For this first submission, Financial Review will post pivot tables for each LEA in the portal for **your** use, **as needed**. We previously stated that the due date for entering expenditures in the portal was March 1<sup>st</sup>. We have pushed that due date to March 15<sup>th</sup>. Correspondence will be sent to all Finance Directors; however, please communicate the location of the resources with the appropriate staff within your district. If you have any questions, you may contact your special education budget liaison.

**Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP) Training Needs Assessment:**

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project is a federally funded OSEP grant service housed at the University of Georgia. GSAP has a responsibility to provide training and technical assistance for school teams and families working with children who have combined vision and hearing loss. GSAP is exploring options for training projects **during** 2017-2018. Please let GSAP know what your district's needs are by completing a brief Training Needs Assessment: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GSAPTraining>

You can contact GSAP directly with questions: Martha Veto, Georgia Sensory Assistance Project Coordinator, [mveto@uga.edu](mailto:mveto@uga.edu); Office: 478-751-6083 x 4120.

**Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium – Educator Seminar:**

**Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium Educator Seminar**

*An opportunity for Georgia educators to learn, plan, and share about*

**How to Prepare Students and Plan for Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs**

by Lisa Ulmer, Ph.D & Susanna Miller-Raines

*This is the same presentation that was given in Swainsboro & Atlanta last September.*

Thursday, March 9, 2017

10:00am-12:00pm

8:30am Registration



University of Georgia  
Institute on Human Development and Disability  
850 College Station Rd.  
Athens, GA 30602  
Registration Fee-\$5

Register at <https://gaipseceducatorseminarathens.eventbrite.com>

For more information, contact Susanna Miller-Raines at [smiller65@gsu.edu](mailto:smiller65@gsu.edu) or 404-413-1013

### **Graduation and Dropout Prevention:**

In our ongoing partnership with districts to increase the graduation rate and improve student outcome, the GaDOE is inviting you to attend Dropout Prevention for Student Success Leaders: Where Are We? What Have We Learned? What Works? by Mr. John Gailer, Assistant Director for Programs and Outreach, National Dropout Prevention Center, on February 27 or February 28, 2017 at the Marriott Macon City Center in Macon.

The presentation will:

- review current status of graduation rate improvement in the United States, in Georgia, among students with disabilities, the lessons learned over 30 years of dropout prevention efforts, and the status of most schools and districts in Georgia today;
- discuss research on risk factors, the elements and conditions that are correlated with non-school completion, and will address the need to remediate risk factors that influence graduation outcomes of special education students to improve graduation rates;
- address strategic application of the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention, a concept map for designing dropout prevention programs that is adopted by a majority of states, and will teach leaders to use the 15 Strategies to guide design on high-impact local dropout prevention plans; and
- apply both the historic and current research on what works to raise graduation rates, will apply that research to students with disabilities, and will guide leaders to move schools and districts from various and random interventions toward a more strategic, locally-specific, and research-based approach that will improve student outcomes.

This presentation will be at the Marriott Macon City Center, 200 Coliseum Dr, Macon, GA, on February 27, 2017 OR February 28, 2017 from 9-3. There is no cost to districts to attend, and lunch will be provided.

You may bring up to 3 participants from your school/district. Participants may register through this link:

- [Dropout Prevention for Student Success Leaders Meeting: Where Are We? What Have We Learned? What Works? February 27, 2017](#)
- [Dropout Prevention for Student Success Leaders Meeting: Where Are We? What Have We Learned? What Works? February 28, 2017](#)

**If you have questions, please contact Lynn Holland [lholland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lholland@doe.k12.ga.us) or Wina Low [wlow@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wlow@doe.k12.ga.us)**

### **Parent Mentor Partnership Drive-in University (See Attachment):**

The Parent Mentor Partnership holds a biennial drive-in University. This is one of the activities that districts agree to in the GaPMP application for participation. There will be three opportunities to attend the 2017 University. Parent mentors may choose the one that is most

convenient for them. Parent mentors were sent the registration links in January. A draft agenda is attached.

**Middle University**

Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
Career Training Annex  
Bibb County Schools  
2007 Riverside Drive  
Macon, GA 31204

**9:00-3:00**

[2017 GaPMP Middle University - February 28, 2017](#)

**North University**

Thursday, March 2, 2017  
Lanier Career Academy/The Oaks  
2719 Tumbling Creek Rd.  
Gainesville, GA 30504

**9:00-3:00**

[2017 GaPMP North University - March 2, 2017](#)

**South University**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
SW GLRS  
915 S. McKinley St.  
Albany, GA 31701

**9:00-3:00**

[2017 GaPMP South University - March 8, 2017](#)

**Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application for Participation:**

The application for participation in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) will be available on February 16, 2017 and due back to the GaDOE by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Both districts who currently have a parent mentor and districts who will be new to the partnership are required to return a signed application for participation.

**Deaf or Hard of Hearing High School Seniors (\$5,000 Scholarship Opportunity) See Attachment:**

Quota International of Northside Atlanta offers the John T. Wheeler Memorial \$5,000.00 Scholarship to Georgia Deaf or Hard of Hearing High School Seniors who have a diagnosis of moderate to profound hearing loss in both ears. Applicants must be an American citizen, plan to attend college in the 2017-2018 school year, excel academically and participate in extra-curricular activities (e.g., school clubs, community organizations, employment and volunteering). Please see the attached Quota 2016-17 Application.

**Assistive Technology Tech Tip:**

**What is the difference between a web app, an extension and an add-on?**

To support more people, Google grants third parties the ability to create supports that will support *its* tools. These supports *and* tools come in three forms: Chrome Extensions, Chrome Web Apps and Add-ons for Google docs, sheets and forms. The link below gives you more

information about this ecosystem: <http://www.controlaltachieve.com/2016/06/extensions-webapps-addons.html>.

### **Universal Design for Learning:**

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a scientifically based framework designed to guide educational practice to reduce learning barriers in the classroom and provide flexibility in how students are engaged in learning, how materials are presented, and how students respond and demonstrate their knowledge. The website [Understood](http://www.understood.org) has a series of articles and videos that provide information on UDL in a clear and concise manner that may be helpful to your teachers as they work to meet the needs of all their learners. The direct link to this UDL material is <https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/treatments-approaches/educational-strategies/the-difference-between-universal-design-for-learning-udl-and-traditional-education>.

### **Awards of Excellence (See Attachment):**

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports is seeking to recognize high school seniors with disabilities who have had academic and/or extracurricular accomplishments, as shown by:

1. Earning a scholarship to a four-year, two-year, or vocational technical school;
2. Earning a Regular Education Diploma with outstanding extracurricular involvement in school/community; and
3. Earning a Special Education Diploma with transition to career education and/or employment.

Students will be honored at the Superintendent's Recognition at Twin Towers on May 10, 2017.

Our office would like Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) centers and local school systems within your area to nominate qualifying students for this year's recognition award. The Awards Recognition application is available here and is also attached to this update.

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Awards-of-Excellence-2015.aspx>

Please complete the form for each student nominated and return by **March 6, 2017** to the address below:

Frank Nesbit  
Division for Special Education Services and Supports  
1870 Twin Towers East  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
PHONE: 404-844-8741  
FAX: 404-651-6457  
[fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs' Needs Assessment (QI-2):**

The opportunity to participate in the **Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs' Needs Assessment (QI-2)** was extended to the 50 SSIP districts receiving intensive technical assistance. The State believes this is an excellent opportunity to obtain a "snapshot" of your district's existing secondary transition programs and services. We currently have the capacity to support a few other districts. If you are interested in participating, then you must meet the criteria below.

In order to receive district level results, you must have at least 10 people. **Districts who would like to participate should first identify ten (10) or more individuals as listed in the**

**description and contact Wina Low ([wlow@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wlow@doe.k12.ga.us)) or Lynn Holland ([lholland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lholland@doe.k12.ga.us)) to obtain further information to access the survey.**

**Attachment titles that were included with the February 3 Email Blast.**

 DRAFTAgenda 2017GaPMPUniversity.docx (2 MB)

 GLRS Needs Assessment One-Pager.pdf (290 KB)

 Quota 2016-17 application.docx (45 KB)

 Federal Programs Updates.docx (24 KB)

 Awards of Excellence Application 2017docx.docx (58 KB)

 Friday, February 3rd Email Blast.pdf (629 KB)

Friday, February 10, 2017

Directors,

It was great seeing you at the GCEL Conference this week, and I look forward to [Tuesday's webinar](#), as well. Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement Overview Webinar will begin this morning at 10 am. It's not too late to [register and attend](#).

On Thursday, one of Georgia's student success, [Joshua Williams](#), addressed the Special Education State Advisory Panel, and I doubt that there was a dry eye in the room. Joshua shared his personal journey to achieve a diploma, which included lots of great advice for every educator. He advocated for himself and didn't accept "no" as an answer. Mr. Williams is currently pursuing a postsecondary opportunity and personally thanked Superintendent Woods and his leadership team for alleviating barriers that impede graduation as a viable option for students. Way to go, Joshua!

District teams partnered for success at the Counseling for Careers (C4C) session in Hall County and Houston County. Nearly 400 district and school administrators, counselors, general and special education teachers, GLRS, GaDOE, and Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency came as members of their district teams to attend these lively sessions given by Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and hosted by the Department's CTAE Division. Many attendees cited the opportunity to collaborate and discuss the work across the district disciplines as a highlight of this two-day opportunity. We want to thank both **Hall County** and **Houston County** for hosting these sessions at their facilities along with the logistical supports.

As gentle reminders, you should register for the [LEA Winter Collaborative Meeting](#), and GO-IEP [application deadline](#) has been extended to February 15<sup>th</sup>. Have a great weekend.

***Partnering in Student Success, Zelfhine Smith-Dixon***

#### EMAIL BLAST

##### **New Items**

[Professional Development Opportunity](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

[UDL Webinar Series](#)

##### **Old/Updated Items**

[Graduation and Dropout Prevention](#)

[Transition Survey Collection](#)

[Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

#### **Professional Development Opportunity:**

The American Printing House for the Blind, in association with Atlanta Public Schools and the Georgia Department of Education, will sponsor a great opportunity for professional learning. The program focuses on students with visual and multiple impairments. For additional details and registration please visit the [meeting's website](#).

#### **Active Engagement for Students with Multiple Disabilities: Using the Sensory Learning Kit**

Millie Smith

March 6, 2017 (Atlanta, GA)

### **GIMC Updates:**

We have obtained permission to extend the parent consent submission through Spring Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. If you have not obtained the notarized signed consent forms, please continue this process at upcoming opportunities to meet with parents. Students will not be registered for the 2017 census without these documents. If students are not registered, then new supplies and equipment will not be available for purchase.

### **UDL Webinar Series:**

This is a reminder to register for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#).

### **Promoting Engagement through Student-Led Discussions K-12**

#### **Description:**

While classroom discussions are essential for deep learning, to be truly effective, they need to move beyond a scenario where the teacher asks the questions and the students provide the answers. In this strategy-acked webinar, participants will learn how to plan and facilitate student-led discussions that engage students in self-assessment, reflection, and goal setting, while fostering collaboration and community—essential checkpoints for developing purposeful, motivated learners from kindergarten through high school. This webinar is presented by Cynde Snider, Cynde Snider Consulting.

#### **Date and Time**

Wed, March 1, 2017 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM EST

#### **Registration Link**

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1142079594945149699>

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](mailto:dbunn@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **Graduation and Dropout Prevention:**

In our ongoing partnership with districts to increase the graduation rate and improve student outcome, the GADOE is inviting you to attend **Dropout Prevention for Student Success Leaders: Where Are We? What Have We Learned? What Works?** by Mr. John Gailer, Assistant Director for Programs and Outreach, National Dropout Prevention Center.

#### **The presentation will:**

- Review current status of graduation rate improvement in the United States, in Georgia, among students with disabilities, the lessons learned over 30 years of dropout prevention efforts, and the status of most schools and districts in Georgia today.
- Discuss research on risk factors, the elements and conditions that are correlated with non-school completion, and will address the need to remediate risk factors that influence graduation outcomes of special education students to improve graduation rates.
- Address strategic application of the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention, a concept map for designing dropout prevention programs that is adopted by a majority of states, and will teach leaders to use the 15 Strategies to guide design on high-impact local dropout prevention plans.
- Apply both the historic and current research on what works to raise graduation rates, will apply that research to students with disabilities, and will guide leaders to move schools and

districts from various and random interventions toward a more strategic, locally-specific, and research-based approach that will improve student outcomes.

This presentation will be at the Marriott Macon City Center, 200 Coliseum Dr, Macon GA, on February 27, 2017 **OR** February 28, 2017 from 9-3. There is no cost to districts to attend, and lunch will be provided.

You may bring up to 3 participants from your school/district. Participants may register through one of these links:

- [Dropout Prevention for Student Success Leaders Meeting: Where Are We? What Have We Learned? What Works? February 27, 2017](#)
- [Dropout Prevention for Student Success Leaders Meeting: Where Are We? What Have We Learned? What Works? February 28, 2017](#)

If you have questions, please contact Lynn Holland [lholland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lholland@doe.k12.ga.us) or Wina Low [wlow@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wlow@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **Transition Survey Collection 2 Results - Available in the Dashboard:**

Transition compliance results are now available in the dashboard. Districts with noncompliant plans will advance to Collection 3 for correction of isolated noncompliance findings. Technical assistance will be provided. Corrected transition plans must be resubmitted through the dashboard beginning February 15th through March 3rd. Please contact Wina Low at [wlow@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wlow@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 463-0411 with questions or concerns.

### **Parent Satisfaction Survey (See Attachment):**

The 2017 parent flyer is now available in both English and Spanish.

Direct link to the parent survey:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx>

*or*

The survey can be accessed in the following locations:

[http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_exceptional.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx)

[www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org)

[www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org)

### **Attachment titles that were included with the February 10 Email Blast.**

 2017 parent survey flyer (003)\_Spanish\_Final.doc (467 KB)

 2017 parent survey flyer.doc (472 KB)

 A Success Story.jpg (3 MB)

 Federal Programs Updates.docx (24 KB)

 Friday, February 10th Email Blast.pdf (288 KB)

Friday, February 17, 2017

Directors,

We are excited to share that the upcoming Institute Designed for Educating ALL Students (IDEAS) Conference will be June 6-9, 2017 (**St Simons Island GA**). The IDEAS 2017 registration is now open. This is a premier conference for any educator working with students with disabilities. If you'd like to share your experiences to help others, please submit a proposal to present. It's not too late. All information is available on the [IDEAS website](#). Reserve your spot today.

Thank you for tuning in for the [Directors' Webinar](#) on Tuesday. We covered lots of great content and encourage you to refer back to this information. Have a great weekend.

***Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon***

#### EMAIL BLAST

##### New Items

[Georgia Instructional Materials Center Updates](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[FY18 Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQ](#)

[Speech Language Pathologist Week](#)

##### Old/Updated Items



#### **Georgia Instructional Materials Center (GIMC) Updates:**

Accessible Educational Materials (AEMs) orders are due by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Braille, large print, and digital texts can be difficult to obtain and produce. GIMC provides accessible educational materials to Georgia's students in a timely manner. To ensure timely access, please be sure that book orders are submitted as quickly as possible through the online GIMC registration/ordering system located at [www.gimc.org](http://www.gimc.org).

#### **Data Collections (See Attachments):**

The ***Preschool Outcomes Survey*** is now open in the Special Education Applications Dashboard. The survey data are due by July 29, 2017. Instructions for entering these data are located on the Special Education webpage under the heading [Budgets, Grants, Data Collections, and Reporting](#) and attached to the email blast.

The list of student names for the ***Postsecondary Outcomes Survey*** is now open for viewing and download in the Special Education Applications Dashboard. The application will open for data entry on May 17, 2017. Instructions for entering these data are located on the Special Education webpage under the heading ["Budgets, Grants, Data Collections, and Reporting"](#) and attached to the email blast. If you have questions regarding these collections, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us) or by phone at (404) 463-1713.

#### **FY 18 Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (See Attachment):**

The [Parent Mentor Partnership Application](#) is available on the website.

The purpose of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is to enhance communication and collaboration among families, educators and the community-ultimately leading to greater

success for students with disabilities and increased family engagement. In the 2017 – 2018 school year, parent mentors will continue to assist local school districts in implementing the Student Success work to increase graduation rates for students with disabilities. Some activities will include serving on the district Student Success stakeholder team, convening community stakeholder groups, building relationships and working to solve adaptive challenges.

- Applications are due back to the GaDOE by Friday, March 31, 2017.
- Applications must be received from both districts electing to continue with the GaPMP and new districts applying for the first time.
- Special Education Director and Superintendent signatures are required.

#### **Delivery options:**

1. Email the scanned application with signature(s) to [TMoore@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:TMoore@doe.k12.ga.us) or
2. Fax it to 404-651-6457 to the attention of Tonya Moore/Parent Mentor Application.

Ms. Moore can be reached at 404-656-3963. Please make sure you confirm delivery by email or phone. Email attachments that are not scanned will not be accepted because of the required signature(s).

If you have questions, contact Anne Ladd, Family Engagement Specialist [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us)

#### **Assistive Technology Frequently Asked Question (FAQ):**

- Q. Can a school district refuse to provide assistive technology (AT) because of limited fiscal resources?
- A. If the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team decides that the student needs AT, the district must provide the AT device and/or service(s). The devices and/or services included in a student's IEP should always be based on the student's individual needs, not the availability of funding. It is the responsibility of the school district to provide the equipment, services, or programs identified in the IEP.

#### **Speech Language Pathologist Week (September 11-15, 2017):**

Governor Nathan Deal has officially declared the week of September 11 through September 15, 2017 to be [School-Based Speech Language Pathologist Week](#) in Georgia. Georgia SSLP Week was issued in a proclamation that was signed by the Governor.



#### **Attachment titles that were included with the January 20 Email Blast.**

-  PMP FY18Application for PMP Participation.doc (290 KB)
-  FY17 Preschool Outcomes Documentation.pdf (515 KB)
-  FY17 Postsecondary Outcomes Survey for 2015-16 Exiters Reporting Documentation.pdf (895 KB)
-  Directors' Webinar\_February 14, 2017.ppt (6 MB)
-  Friday, February 17th Email Blast.pdf (437 KB)

Friday, February 24, 2017

Directors:

It was great seeing many of you at the LEA Winter Collaborative Meeting on yesterday. We believe the ongoing opportunities to engage and plan for the work will yield great outcomes. Some districts were on winter break this week, which is great that the email blast is small. We encourage you to note the items below and look forward to sharing technical assistance during the March webinar.

***Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon***

**EMAIL BLAST**

**New Items**

[Upcoming Budget Due Date Reminders](#)

[OSEP Dear Colleague Letter on Annual Progress Reports for Transition-Aged Students](#)

**Old/Updated Items**

[FY18 Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership](#)

**Upcoming Budget Due Date Reminders:**

High Cost Grant Submission Deadline – March 1<sup>st</sup>

Residential and Reintegration Grant Submission Deadline – March 1<sup>st</sup>

Excess Cost Calculation Expenditures (GaDOE Portal) – March 15<sup>th</sup>

State Charter School Expansion Notification – March 15<sup>th</sup>

Waiver Request for 100% Carryover – March 31<sup>st</sup>

MOE Adjustment for 50% Reduction – March 31<sup>st</sup>

**OSEP Dear Colleague Letter on Annual Progress Reports for Transition-Aged Students (See Attachment):**

On January 18, 2017, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) issued a letter to Ms. Lisa Pugh regarding guidance on the content of the progress reports required under 34 C.F.R. § 300.320(a)(3)(i)-(ii), and how progress reports can and should address a transition-aged child's progress on appropriate measurable postsecondary goals (*Letter to Pugh*). In the *Letter to Pugh*, OSEP notes that a student's IEP must include his annual goals, including functional and academic goals. See 34 C.F.R. § 300.320(a)(2). Additionally, if a student is 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team, the student's IEP must also include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills. See 34 C.F.R. § 300.43. In *Letter to Pugh*, OSEP notes that 34 C.F.R. § 300.320(a)(3) limits the periodic reporting requirement to the student's progress on the annual IEP goals as described in 34 C.F.R. § 300.320(a)(2), which are the student's academic and functional goals, and does not specifically identify "postsecondary goals" as an area for which the public agency must report student progress. However, OSEP notes that because "there would be a relationship between the academic and functional goals of a transition-aged student and that student's postsecondary goals," public agencies should "report on a student's progress in meeting postsecondary goals when reporting on the transition-aged student's progress in meeting related academic and functional goals."

### **FY 18 Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (See Attachment):**

The [Parent Mentor Partnership Application](#) is available on the website. The purpose of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is to enhance communication and collaboration among families, educators and the community-ultimately leading to greater success for students with disabilities and increased family engagement. In the 2017 – 2018 school year, parent mentors will continue to assist local school districts in implementing the Student Success work to increase graduation rates for students with disabilities. Some activities will include serving on the district Student Success stakeholder team, convening community stakeholder groups, building relationships and working to solve adaptive challenges.

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If you have questions, contact Anne Ladd, Family Engagement Specialist  
[aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us).

#### **No attachment titles were included with the February 24 Email Blast.**

 PMP FY18Application for PMP Participation.doc (290 KB)

 osep-letter-to-pugh-1-18-17.pdf (142 KB)

 Friday, February 24th Email Blast.pdf (278 KB)