

January Friday Email Blast

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Friday, January 6, 2017

Directors,

Happy New Year and stay safe during the upcoming inclement weather. Governor Nathan Deal has issued a state of emergency for 21 counties, and the GaDOE will close today at 12 noon.

We look forward to the next [Directors' Webinar](#) scheduled for **Monday, January 9th @ 1:00 pm**. The **Directors' Forum** will be **January 19th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** at the **Monroe County Schools Board of Education** (25 Brooklyn Ave Forsyth, Georgia 31029). Typically, a local special education director attends the forum per each GLRS region. It is a great time to partner for student success.

Attached, you will find a copy of the 2017 GCEL Concurrent Session Schedule; we look forward to seeing you there. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

[OSEP Dear Colleague Letter on Individualized Education Program \(IEP\)](#)

[Assistive Technology Webinar](#)

[Assistive Technology Tech Tip](#)

[Statewide VI Consortia Meeting](#)

[GIMC Update](#)

Old/Updated Items

[GO-IEP \(Urgent Timeline\)](#)

[Transition Planning Survey](#)

Parent Satisfaction Survey:

The Parent Satisfaction Survey helps the state to determine parents' perception of the success of parent engagement with the local schools. The information is gathered as a component of the State Performance Plan (**Indicator 8:** Percent of parents with a student receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving results for children with disabilities). The data collected are reported in the Annual Performance Report and on the system profile about each system. Each state is required to conduct a parent survey collection process to measure parent/family needs and perceptions.

We are excited to announce the changes with the Parent Satisfaction Survey. Based on input from stakeholders statewide and the State Advisory Panel, the 2017 parent survey has been shortened to 10 questions and will be open to *all* families of students with disabilities-not limited to a sample group. Previously, schools were selected through a sampling process, and districts received boxes with paper surveys for distribution. The 2017 Parent Satisfaction Survey will be administered through an online link available beginning January 15, 2017. The link will remain open until April 15, 2017 and can be accessed in the following locations:

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx or www.parentmentors.org or www.p2pga.org

- A limited number of paper surveys will be available. To request a paper survey, districts can call the Georgia Center for Assessment (1-888-392-8977) and ask for Lisa Ward.
- Both the online survey and the paper survey forms are available in Spanish.

For paper surveys in Spanish, contact the Georgia Center for Assessment (1-888-392-8977.) The survey will close on April 15, 2017. Paper copies will be due to the Georgia Center for Assessment on or before April 15, 2017.

OSEP Dear Colleague Letter on Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team membership (see attached):

In February 2016, OSEP, through a Dear Colleague Letter, issued guidance regarding IEP Team membership. The letter explains that a parent has no duty to notify a district before bringing an attorney to an IEP Team meeting. Whether or not a district may reschedule an IEP Team meeting when a parent unexpectedly brings his or her attorney, so that it can include its own attorney, depends on: (1) whether or not the parent agrees to reschedule; AND (2) whether or not rescheduling will interfere with the student's timely receipt of a free, appropriate public education. If the parent insists on proceeding with the IEP Team meeting, or if rescheduling will delay or deny needed services for the student, rescheduling on the basis of the attorney's presence may not be an option.

Assistive Technology Funding Webinar:

The Center on Technology and Disability is hosting a free webinar on funding resources for assistive technology. You can register for this [webinar](#).

Funding AT for K-12

Chris Gibbons, Smartbox Inc, Vice President of Education and Assessment

Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 - 4:00pm to 5:00pm EST

- Assistive technology (AT) can change the lives of students with disabilities, helping them reach their full potential. Yet the rubber meets the road when it is time to pay for AT devices and services, and information about AT funding is often hard to find. In this important webinar, Chris Gibbons will discuss AT funding sources for children with and without IEPs. He'll provide information on 3rd party funding, offering specific examples and providing participants with useful resources.



Assistive Technology Tech Tip:

For individuals who experience difficulties reading the text on an iDevice, **Speak Screen** is an accessibility feature that can read the text on the screen when activated. Turn on Speak Screen and swipe down from the top with two fingers, or tell Siri to Speak Screen, and all the text content of the page will be read. An onscreen menu is available so that the voice's speaking rate can be adjusted as text is being read. In some documents, text can be highlighted as it is being read.

- Tap Settings> General> Accessibility >Speech>Speak Screen

Effective Interventions: Supporting All Students Drive-in Conference:

1st Annual Effective Interventions Drive-in Conference "Behavior, Math, & Literacy Strands"
Highlights:

- Engaging Key Note and Concurrent Session Presenters
- Strands:

- ✓ **Effective Math Interventions to Increase Student Success**
 - ✓ **Reading & Writing: Support for Students Who Struggle**
 - ✓ **Behavior Interventions that Work**
 - ✓ **Progress Monitoring & Support Services Across All Tiers**
- Call for Presentations have been sent out
 - Cost: \$50 (*includes continental breakfast & lunch*)
 - Map, Directions, & Hotel Info is on our website

Target Audience: Educators who want to take their practice & intervention strategies to the next level!

Special Note: The nominal registration fee of \$50 covers continental breakfast and lunch. Online registration is available at www.griffinresa.net.

Note: A map, directions, and hotel information (*negotiated rate of \$75 a night*) is available on our website at www.griffinresa.net.

Statewide VI Consortia Meeting January 27th:

All professionals working with students with vision impairment are invited and encouraged to attend their statewide VI consortia meeting on January 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Our presenters and topics for this meeting will be:

1. New Requirements for GIMC Registration – Carson Cochran, GIMC Manager (This is extremely important information for all who use the GIMC.)
2. Improving Collaboration: Our Most Critical Skill as a TVI - Suzan Pattillo, Ed. S.
3. Creating a VI Eligibility: A Review of State Rules for Eligibility and Construction of an Eligibility Based on the Components in GO IEP – Elaine Thagard and Julie Spires, GO IEP Program Specialist.

Meetings are located at 14 different sites statewide on this day in order to make it easier for TVIs to travel to a meeting place. The locations for these meetings is attached. Thank you for sharing this information with your TVIs as there are limited prospects for their access to in-field learning or collegial learning opportunities.

GIMC Update:

APH Registration is now open. You should have received a post with a braille calendar memo as well as an email with instructions for registering blind students with APH. Multiple notarized parent consent forms can be submitted securely online at: [Registration Consents](#). Links to the site are also available from the GIMC.org website by using the Educator and Patron Login pages. Please share this information with your teachers who order materials from GIMC.

GO-IEP:

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>

Transition Planning Survey – Collection 2 Opens January 9, 2017:

Transition Planning Survey Collection 2 opens on January 9, 2017 and closes on January 23, 2017. Collection 2 is the State review of individual student transition plans to verify compliance. A minimum of 1 to 5 students contingent on the district size will be selected and all district reported non-compliant plans. Your district compliance determination will be based on this collection for Indicator 13.

Selected plans should be uploaded to the portal by January 23, 2017. Be sure to include the transition plan and other documentation such as the invitation or meeting sign-in page to provide necessary evidence of compliance.

GO-IEP systems will not have to upload plans to the portal. If you have a mix of paper and online plans, please upload all selected plans through the portal to eliminate confusion.

Contact Wina Low at wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 463-0411 with questions.

Attachment titles that were included with the January 6 Email Blast.

 VI Consortia Meeting Location Contacts 2014-15.xlsx (19 KB)

 15-017791-il-andel-iepteam-acc.pdf (142 KB)

 GCEL Session Grid 2017.pdf (593 KB)

 Intervention Drive-in Conference - Feb 2017.pdf (180 KB)

 January 6th Email Blast.pdf (803 KB)

Friday, January 13, 2017

Directors,

Thank you for logging on to the [Directors' Webinar](#); the presentation and Dear Colleague Letter are attached to this blast. As shared during the webinar, you may access the 2016 course completion data for Grades 9-12 in the GaDOE Portal in the special education documents. I am looking forward to the upcoming **Directors' Forum** on Thursday, **January 19th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** at the **Monroe County Schools Board of Education** (25 Brooklyn Ave Forsyth, Georgia 31029). Come let's lunch and learn.

We will be **rescheduling our Winter GNETS Collaborative Meeting** (January 31st) due to conflicts with Winter GAEL. We will send out new details and registration information.

NASDSE is pleased to offer seven guiding principles for the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the federal law that guarantees a free appropriate public education to infants, toddlers, children and youth from birth through age 21. The principles lay out a vision of a unified education system that is able to meet the specific needs of all children and youth with disabilities. NASDSE's document is attached to the email blast and will be helpful as you continue to engage in local improvement planning.

As a reminder, the [Parent Survey](#) will open January 15th, and the GaDOE will be closed on Monday, January 16th. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Winter GATTAP](#)

[2017 IDEAS Conference](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[Young Children Reminders](#)

[Professional Learning Opportunity](#)

[Assistive Technology](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

[Transition Planning Survey](#)

Winter GATTAP:

New Year's Resolution: **Provide PL on evidence-based behavior strategies to teachers of students with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities.**

Solution: **Send teachers to Winter GATTAP January 26 – 27. Your teachers will thank you!**

Winter GATTAP topics include *Using Antecedent-based Interventions* and *Appropriate Use of Reinforcement to Change Behavior*. Strategies will be provided for teachers working in elementary or secondary schools, serving students with classic or high functioning autism and/or intellectual disabilities. Participants are welcome to attend one or both days, as needed. Much will be learned from the new AFIRM internet modules, even more from discussions with job-alike peers! See the attached flyer for details.

2017 IDEAS Conference:

Seeking Presentation Proposals 2017 IDEAS Conference

June 6-9, 2017

Epworth by the Sea

St. Simons Island, GA

The IDEAS Committee is seeking proposals that reflect best practices in education in a wide variety of topic areas. This conference is designed for special and general education teachers who work with students with disabilities. We encourage GREAT teachers to share their knowledge and expertise for best practices by submitting a proposal and attending the event. If you have practices that would benefit our teachers, please consider submitting a proposal to the IDEAS committee. The proposal submission deadline is March 17, 2017. To submit your proposal, fill out the [presentation proposal application](#). Please refer to the [2017 IDEAS Conference website](#) for up to date information.

Awards of Excellence:

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;
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 will soon be available on our website at www.gadoe.org on the Special Education home page, and is also attached to this update. 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

Young Children Reminders:

On April 29, 2016, the U. S. Department of Education released a Dear Colleague letter regarding Response to intervention (RTI) practices and preschool aged children. Specifically, the letter states:

The IDEA child find requirements permit referrals from any source, including private and public preschools (e.g., Head Start) and community-based child care programs (hereinafter "preschool programs"), that suspects a child may be eligible for special education and related services. It is critical that this identification occurs in a timely manner and that no procedures or practices result in delaying or denying this identification. States and LEAs have an obligation to

ensure that evaluations of all children suspected of having a disability, including evaluation of 3-, 4-, or 5 year-old children enrolled in preschool programs, are not delayed or denied because of implementation of an RTI strategy.

The Dear Colleague letter can be found [here](#) for more information about this topic. Additionally, information regarding RTI practices and young children can be found in the Georgia RTI Guidance Document, which can be accessed [here](#).

Similarly, please be aware that evaluations for young children transitioning from Babies Can't Wait can NOT be delayed due to lack of documents such as social security card, birth certificate, etc. While these documents are useful and necessary to enroll a student in computerized IEP platforms, such as GO-IEP, they should not delay an evaluation. As a reminder, young children transitioning from Babies Can't Wait to the public school system must have an IEP developed and in place on, or before their 3rd birthday. Delaying an evaluation due to lack of paperwork is not allowed and could contribute to a finding of noncompliance.

Professional Development Opportunity:

Registration is now open for the 2017 Striving Readers Early Learning Institute. There will be two opportunities to explore issues related to instruction of Georgia's youngest learners. Topics will include: writing, oral language development, interactive read alouds, developmentally appropriate use of technology and much more. The Early Learning Institute-North dates are February 25-25, 2017 in Cartersville, GA. <https://gastrivingreader.wufoo.com/forms/moxkl0o01hflq7/> The Early Learning Institute- South dates are February 10-11, 2017 in Cordele, GA. <https://gastrivingreader.wufoo.com/forms/m1xgo3ay1i984b3/> The cost is \$175.00 per participant which includes materials, breakfast and lunch each day.

Assistive Technology:

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Resource - Three books have been designed to help families and professionals get started with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). These books have been edited by the [ACE Centre](#) and are free resources. They are available for download through the [iTunes Store](#) or available to read on the web at <http://aacbooks.net/>.

The three AAC books are:

1. **Book 1 – Getting Started with AAC: Designing and Using Alphabet Charts** - discusses how to develop an alphabet chart. Electronic book contains videos and examples of how to use alphabet charts.
2. **Book 2 – Getting Started with AAC: Using Low Tech Symbol Based Systems with Children** – introduces low tech symbol based AAC to support individuals who can't rely on speech to communicate to the best of their ability. Communication partner skills are emphasized in this resource because communication does not happen in isolation.
3. **Book 3 – Getting Started with AAC: Access to Low Tech Symbol Based Resources When Pointing is Difficult** - explores alternate ways of accessing low tech symbol based AAC where a child/young person/adult has physical or visual difficulties that make standard resources hard to use.

These resources were developed through grant funding from the Department for Education National Prospectus Grants Programme 2013-2015. Thank you to the consortium of [ACE Centre](#), [Communication Matters](#) and [1Voice](#).

Please note that books with interactive features may work best on an iOS device. Please share this information with anyone you feel may benefit.

Parent Satisfaction Survey:

The Parent Satisfaction Survey helps the state to determine parents' perception of the success of parent engagement with the local schools. The information is gathered as a component of the State Performance Plan (**Indicator 8:** Percent of parents with a student receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving results for children with disabilities). The data collected are reported in the Annual Performance Report and on the system profile about each system. Each state is required to conduct a parent survey collection process to measure parent/family needs and perceptions.

We are excited to announce the changes with the Parent Satisfaction Survey. Based on input from stakeholders statewide and the State Advisory Panel, the 2017 parent survey has been shortened to 10 questions and will be open to *all* families of students with disabilities-not limited to a sample group. Previously, schools were selected through a sampling process, and districts received boxes with paper surveys for distribution. The 2017 Parent Satisfaction Survey will be administered through an online link available beginning January 15, 2017. The link will remain open until April 15, 2017 and can be accessed in the following locations:

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- A limited number of paper surveys will be available. To request a paper survey, districts can email Lisa Ward, lisaward@uga.edu at the Georgia Center for Assessment.
- Both the online survey and the paper survey forms are available in Spanish. For paper surveys in Spanish, contact the Georgia Center for Assessment, lisaward@uga.edu

The survey will close on April 15, 2017. Paper copies will be due to the Georgia Center for Assessment on or before April 15, 2017.

Transition Planning Survey – Collection 2:

Transition Planning Survey Collection 2 is now open. Selected student names have been populated in the dashboard for your review. **Your district compliance determination will be based on this collection for Indicator 13.** Selected plans should be uploaded to the portal by **January 23, 2017**. Be sure to include the transition plan and other documentation such as the invitation or meeting sign-in page to provide necessary evidence of compliance.

If a selected student has withdrawn from the district or is no longer eligible for special education services, please contact Wina Low so a replacement student can be identified. Contact Wina Low at wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 463-0411 with questions.

Attachment titles that were included with the January 13 Email Blast.

-  WINTER FLIER GATTAP 2016-2017 c.docx (21 KB)
-  FY17 Transition Planning Survey Reporting and Document Upload Guidance.pdf (1 MB)
-  Awards of Excellence Application 2017.docx (56 KB)
-  NASDSE IDEA Principles final.docx (76 KB)
-  Survey QA-2017.1.10.doc (102 KB)
-  2017 parent survey flyer.doc (472 KB)
-  colleague-201612-504-charter-school.pdf (195 KB)
-  dcl-factsheet-201612-504-charter-school.pdf (97 KB)
-  Directors' Webinar_January 9, 2017.ppt (4 MB)
-  Friday, January 13th Email Blast.pdf (485 KB)

Friday, January 20, 2017

Directors,

It was great seeing **Jessica McEntyre** (Pike), **Ann Cross** (Gordon), **Jenny Rooks** (Monroe), **David Allen** (Early), **Mike Adams** (Dublin City), **Jimmy Pitzer** (Walton), **Beth Grindle** (Lumpkin), **Chris Roppe** (Jeff Davis), **Mandy Harper** (Bacon), and **Sarah Hoskins** (Whitfield) at the Directors' Forum on yesterday in Forsyth. Thank you to Jenny Rooks for hosting; it was a great partnership. We discussed several important topics that you will want to follow up with your region's contact to obtain the information.

Also, we are looking forward to the upcoming Georgia Compensatory Educational Leaders' Conference on February 6-8, 2017. The Department has collaborated across federal programs to develop a new comprehensive needs assessment that will prove useful for FY18 continuous improvement planning. The needs assessment will be previewed during the GCEL Conference. More information will be provided for all directors of federal programs during a webinar on March 2nd; we will send the registration link in an upcoming email blast.

On January 9, 2017, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) concerning Preschool Least Restrictive Environments (LRE). The letter reaffirms the position of the United States Department of Education that all children should have access to high quality inclusive preschool programs and reiterates that the LRE requirements of IDEA are fully applicable to preschool children. LEAs must make the full continuum of placements available to preschool children. This means that districts must ensure that FAPE is provided in the LRE where the child's unique needs can be met. Settings may include: a regular kindergarten class, public or private preschool program, community-based child care facility or in the child's home. In the event that a public preschool setting is not available, such as for 3 year olds, LEAs are instructed to consider: 1) providing opportunities for participation in other public agencies such as Head Start or child care; 2) enrolling preschool children in private preschools with nondisabled peers; 3) locating classes in public elementary schools; or 4) providing services in the home. Finally, according to the letter, if "a public agency determines that placement in a private preschool program is necessary for a child to receive FAPE, the public agency must make that program available at no cost to the parent." The Division will provide technical assistance during the February webinar.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfhine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Budget Updates and Reminders](#)

[Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs' Needs Assessment](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQ](#)

[APH Registration](#)

Old Items

[Transition Planning Survey](#)

[OSERS Transition Guide Released \(see attachment\)](#)

[GATTAP Winter Sessions](#)

[GO-IEP Team](#)

Budget Updates and Reminders:

The “Equitable Services for Private and Home School Students” webinar has been uploaded under Resources for Guidance on our Special Education budget website [here](#). This webinar addresses frequently asked questions about the implementation of proportionate share services, preschool, and proportionate share funds.

The grant submission period for High Cost Grants and Residential and Reintegration Grants opened January 1st. The deadline for grant submission is March 1st. Please send all grant applications to your respective budget specialist via the Georgia Department of Education portal email.

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) or Lynn Holland (lholland@doe.k12.ga.us) to obtain further information to access the survey.**

Here is the essential information regarding the QI-2

The Georgia Department of Education is working with the Transition Coalition at the University of Kansas to better understand existing secondary transition programs and services in Georgia.

Please share this message with as many people as possible knowledgeable of your district’s transition program to complete the Transition Coalition’s online ***Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs Needs Assessment (QI-2)***.

When: January 30, 2017 – February 10, 2017

Who: High school special education teachers, middle school special educator teachers, transition coordinators, vocational coordinators, school psychologists, social workers, special education administrators, parent mentors, etc.

How: Identify **at least 10 people from your district** to take the survey. This will help ensure valid and reliable information, and you will receive a QI-2 district report.

Next, Contact Wina Low or Lynn Holland as listed above. All information must be completed between January 30th and February 7th. Individual names and responses will not be shared.

Assistive Technology Frequently Asked Question (FAQ):

- Q. Who decides what assistive technology (AT) the student needs?
- A. The **Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team** decides what AT the student needs. AT needs may be determined through a consideration process that occurs at the development of the IEP. If the consideration process leads to the decision that a more in-depth evaluation is needed, then an AT evaluation may be requested.

An AT evaluation can be done at the time of the initial evaluation for special education services or can be done later if the student’s needs change. If the IEP Team determines

that an AT evaluation is needed, the district should determine what personnel will provide the evaluation and obtain parental consent for evaluation. If a school district does not have qualified staff to conduct an AT evaluation, the district must contract with an experienced person from another public or private organization to conduct the Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE). The evaluation must be completed at no cost to the parent.

American Printing House (APH) Registration:

APH registration closes on February 15, 2017. Please note the attachment for additional information.

Transition Planning Survey:

Selected plans should be uploaded to the portal by **January 23, 2017**. Be sure to include the transition plan and other documentation such as the invitation or meeting sign-in page to provide necessary evidence of compliance. Your district compliance determination will be based on this collection for Indicator 13. Contact Wina Low at wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 463-0411 with questions.

OSERS Transition Guide Released (see attachment):

Please see announcement about a [new transition guide](#) developed by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. The new guide places high emphasis on collaborative partnerships to support effective transition for students.

GATTAP Winter Sessions:

Be sure to invite your teachers and service providers for students with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities to attend! Information learned and relationships formed will be invaluable! See attached registration information. For questions contact Debbie Reagin at Dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us (678) 697-2163

GO-IEP Team:

The GO-IEP Team invites you to learn more about the project by watching our demonstration video. Please use the link 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. The [application deadline](#) is January 31st.

Attachment files that were included with the January 20 Email Blast.

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

 WINTER FLIER GATTAP 2016-2017 c.docx (21 KB)

 APH registration update.pdf (195 KB)

 postsecondary-transition-guide-2017.pdf (1 MB)

 January 20th Email Blast.pdf (589 KB)

Friday, January 27, 2017

Directors,

Our colleagues and students in several school districts were impacted by recent storms and have experienced school closures. Let's continue to partner together and support each other during this difficult time.

On today, I had an awesome opportunity to meet with teams from **Baker County, Wayne County, Decatur County, Evans County, Grady County, Mitchell County, and Terrell County** at the **GaDOE Summit on C.A.F.E. Stakeholder Teams**. These districts are using the **Circles of Adults Focusing on Education (C.A.F.E.)** framework to improve family/community relations that will ultimately increase student outcomes. Six districts are addressing literacy, and one district is addressing math. As I reflected on the powerful stories, there were several instances of partnering with Title One Family Engagement Specialists, as well as, Family Connections. The State is embracing the opportunity to create a continuum of supports for families and community engagement.

The last **Directors' Forum** will be **April 27th** (11:00 am – 1:00 pm) at Monroe County Schools Board Conference Room (25 Brooklyn Ave. Forsyth, Georgia 31029). The next **Directors' Webinar** will be **Tuesday, February 14th** @ 1:00 pm. Continue the good work and thank you for everything you do for Georgia's students and families.

On another note, follow me on twitter (@gaspeddiretor) and tag me in tweets about the great work happening in your districts.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Winter LEA GNETS Collaborative Meeting](#)

[GaDOE's Star Ratings for School Climate and Financial Efficiency](#)

[GaDOE Career Pipeline](#)

[Students with Disabilities in Public Charters](#)

Old Items

[QI-2 Needs Assessment](#)

[APH Registration](#)

[Go-IEP Update](#)

Winter LEA GNETS Collaborative Meeting:

The second LEA Collaborative meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 23rd from 9:30am-12:30pm in Macon, Georgia. This is not a mandated meeting but an opportunity for you to join us as we discuss how LEAs, RESAs, GLRS, GNETS and DLs can collaborate on resource sharing and reintegration practices. If you have any questions related to the logistics of this meeting, please contact Julie James, by email at jjames@doe.k12.ga.us or by phone at 404-463-0325.

Georgia Department of Education releases star ratings for School Climate and Financial Efficiency:

The Georgia Department of Education today released the [2016 School Climate Star Ratings](#) for local schools, as well as, the [2016 Financial Efficiency Star Ratings](#) for local districts. These ratings are provided as informational tools for schools, administrators, parents, and communities; they do not affect a school or district's [College & Career Ready Performance Index \(CCRPI\)](#) score.

“We’re committed to providing – in a responsible fashion – information on school performance for the use of educators, parents, and communities,” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “The Financial Efficiency Star Rating helps stakeholders see how districts are using the funds they’re allotted, providing a baseline for future conversations, while the School Climate Star Rating gives a clear overview of the climate and culture within a school, which is a crucial factor for student success. The School Climate rating, in particular, has clear ties to student achievement – and to third grade reading, which is a major predictor of students’ later success.”

Georgia Department of Education Career Pipeline:

Georgia businesses need a skilled workforce, and Georgia high schools are graduating talented students in need of meaningful career opportunities. In an effort to better connect those two groups, to the benefit of Georgia students and the overall economic health of the state, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and state partners are launching the Georgia Career Pipeline Tool, accessible at gacareerpipeline.gadoe.org.

The Career Pipeline Tool, developed by the GaDOE in partnership with business, industry, education and state-agency partners, is a web application that allows students and business/industry leaders to compare the CTAE programs offered in each Georgia high school with the workforce needs of specific regions within the state. This will provide students with helpful information on areas of growth within their region (or a region where they’d like to live after high school), allowing them to match the career education they pursue with available opportunities. The tool will also allow businesses to see the availability of students with a specific skillset in any Georgia county, zip code, or Economic Development Region – helping them make important decisions concerning growth, development, and workforce needs.

Students with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools:

The Office of Innovation and Improvement hosted a webinar with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) on the Rights of Students with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools. The webinar, pre-recorded, is available at this link and can be downloaded:

<https://educateevents.webex.com/educateevents/lsr.php?RCID=da97d1c606dc936a8fee8c45b9aea72f>

In addition, transcripts for the webinar and the presentation itself are also available. The webinar is a presentation and brief Q & A of the guidance package released on December 28, 2016 developed by the OCR and SERS. The U.S. Department of Education released guidance to assist the public in understanding how the Department interprets and enforces federal civil rights laws protecting the rights of students with disabilities. These guidance documents clarify the rights of students with disabilities and the responsibilities of educational institutions in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn.

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) or Lynn Holland (lholland@doe.k12.ga.us) to obtain further information to access the survey.**

Here is the essential information regarding the QI-2

The Georgia Department of Education is working with the Transition Coalition at the University of Kansas to better understand existing secondary transition programs and services in Georgia.

Please share this message with as many people as possible knowledgeable of your district’s transition program to complete the Transition Coalition’s online ***Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs Needs Assessment (QI-2)***.

When: January 30, 2017 – February 10, 2017

Who: High school special education teachers, middle school special educator teachers, transition coordinators, vocational coordinators, school psychologists, social workers, special education administrators, parent mentors, etc.

How: Identify **at least 10 people from your district** to take the survey. This will help ensure valid and reliable information, and you will receive a QI-2 district report.

Next, Contact Wina Low or Lynn Holland as listed above. All information must be completed between January 30th and February 7th. Individual names and responses will not be shared.

American Printing House (APH) Registration:

GIMC Update

Five percent (5%) of parent consents have been received for APH Registration.

Without APH quota funding, district support for students will be reduced drastically. Encourage teachers to obtain notarized parent consent forms on or before February 15, 2017.

APH registration closes on February 15, 2017. Please note the attachment for additional information.

GO-IEP Team:

The GO-IEP Team invites you to learn more about the project by watching our demonstration video. Please use the link 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. The [application deadline](#) is January 31st.

No attachment titles were included with the January 27 Email Blast.