Directors,

We are exciting to share a new communication strategy for next school year. We have created a GaDOESped Calendar that can be accessed online and will be available on the GaDOE Special Education Webpage. As a priority for next year, we want to improve transparency and consolidate communication with local districts, which directly impacts quality technical assistance opportunities. The calendar will include the webinars, forums, and weekly email blasts items as a just a few examples. We will continue to update the calendar with additional items.

On yesterday, you received two very important emails from John Wight. Those attachments have been included with the email blast, as well. As we are busy planning for this summer, you should make sure that you are registered for the FY17 Federal Programs Conference. Yes, ESSA All About Improving Schools.

We can’t wait to see you all at the IDEAS Conference; it’s going to be a great week!

Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items
The Spring 2017 Edition of the Project AWARE Digest
Student Records FAQ
Data Collections

Old/Updated Items
SELD
GaPMP Kickoff Conference

The Spring 2017 edition of the Project AWARE Digest (see attachment):

Please note the link to the Project AWARE Digest.

Student Records FAQ:

Question: I am getting an E5941 error for a student who was re-referred this year. My information is being reported appropriately. How can I resolve this problem?

Response: In Student Records, a student who has been through the initial referral process multiple times will be correctly reported with events 02, 03, 04, 11, then a second set of 02, 03, 04, 05, and 06. However, that student may still receive the error message (E5941). Those errors are relievable by clarifying that the student completed the initial referral and was found ineligible. In addition, the student went through the referral process again. The Data Collections Division will work to revise the conditions which generate this audit for next year.
Data Collections:

Timelines Data Reporting: The Timelines Application is now open in the Special Education Dashboard. Clicking on ‘Available for TL Data Collection’ will open the application. Please note that you must then click on the ‘Data Submission’ tab to enter and save data. The ‘Submit’ button will be available beginning June 26, 2017. The deadline for submitting these data is July 31, 2017. If you have questions about your timeline data, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

SELDARThe Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDAR) website link used in the previous email blast was an older version. The current SELDA website link is below.

We would like to invite NEW Special Education Directors to attend the 2017-2018 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDAR). This academy is a collaboration between the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). The purpose of SELDA is to prepare new special education directors through a series of meetings and forums. We are committed to offering the support you need to understand and provide general supervision that monitors the implementation of the IDEA.

If there is space permitting after the New Special Education Directors have registered we will open registration to district support staff.

Click on the link to register for 2017-2018 SELDA

2017-2018 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDAR)
The 2017-2018 SELDA schedule is posted on the SELDA webpage.

2017 GaPMP Kickoff Conference Call for Proposal:
The 2017 GaPMP Kickoff Conference will be held at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah from September 27-29. This year’s theme is HATS off to Family Engagement. A link to the Call for Proposals is available below. This is a fabulous time to share your good work and learn from other districts from across the State.

GaPMP Kickoff Call for Proposal

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

- GDAP-Spg17-final (2).pdf (1 MB)
- GaDOE Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Review Team Rubric and CLIP Submission Dates.docx (143 KB)
- GaDOE Office of Federal Programs Updates.docx (19 KB)
- Friday, June 2nd Email Blast.pdf (288 KB)
Directors,

The State Board of Education approved to repeal the current GNETS rule and begin initiation procedures. If you would like to share the GNETS Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, please use the following link. [http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/Pages/Proposed-Rulemakings.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/Pages/Proposed-Rulemakings.aspx) The final public hearing will be June 15, 2017 at 9:30 am [State Board Meeting in Atlanta Georgia](http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/Pages/Proposed-Rulemakings.aspx).

This past week, we hosted the **2017 IDEAS Conference at Epworth by the Sea** and **offered high quality sessions** to almost 1000 registered participants. The Georgia Department of Education partnered with Georgia Tools for Life, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. Both Wina Low (Education Program Manager, Results Driven Accountability Unit) and Anne Ladd (Family Engagement Specialist) were honored with awards. Georgia Tools for Life honored Wina with the Naomi Walker Award and Anne Ladd with the “Squeaky Wheel” Award!

We must salute the DOE team of individuals who worked diligently to offer a first class experience for Georgia’s teachers and leaders. Special “thanks” to the following IDEAS Planning Committee Members: Anne Ladd, Anthony Feldmann, Camilla Moss, Cheryl Benefield, Christopher Horton, Crystal Callaway, Debbie Currere, Deborah Reagin, Donna Ann Flaherty, Elaine Thagard, Frank Nesbit, Jasolyn Henderson, Jeff Allen, K. Elise James, Lakshmi Sankar, Liz Persaud, Lynn Holland, Mark Fynnewever, Michael Silverman, Paula Gumpman, Carolyn P. Phillips, Ron Washington, Martha E. Rust, Sam Peters, Sandra DeMuth, Susan Brozovic, Vickie Cleveland, Wina Low, and Emily Winnicki. Last but certainly not least, we appreciate Carson Cochran’s leadership and perseverance in coordinating these huge efforts and making the IDEAS Conference a success.

We are excited to share a new communication strategy for next school year. We have created a [GaDOESped Calendar](http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/Pages/Proposed-Rulemakings.aspx) that can be accessed online and will be available on the [GaDOE Special Education Webpage](http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/Pages/Proposed-Rulemakings.aspx). As a priority for next year, we want to improve transparency and consolidate communication with local districts, which directly impacts quality technical assistance opportunities. We can’t wait to see you all at the Federal Programs Conference; it’s going to be a great week!

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

**EMAIL BLAST**

**New Items**

**Budget Update**

**Updates (ESSA Professional Qualification)**

**U. S. Department of Education Launches Revamped IDEA Website**

**2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute**

**Old/Updated Items**

**Budget Update:**

The Excess Cost Calculation tab for FY16 has been reopened in the portal. It is not required for this year; however, LEAs may enter final FY16 calculations to determine their status. All LEAs should have already input and saved FY16 expenditure data due on March 15th of this year.
Updates (ESSA Professional Qualifications) (see attachments):

Upon further review of USDE documents, program input, and stakeholder feedback, as of Tuesday, 05.30.17 there have been **substantial updates** made to ESSA Professional Qualification guidance in Georgia.

**Update 1 – Georgia LEAs may waive certification/ endorsement requirements for ESOL teachers.**

When making ESOL staff hiring and placement decisions, please take available guidance and research into consideration. There are several documented Office of Civil Rights findings in other states around ESOL teacher qualifications. You may use the following link to access guidance around the provision of English Language Programs: [2015 Dear Colleague Letter, Supporting Documents on Schools’ Civil Rights Obligations to English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents](#). Ms. Cori Alston and her Title III team are available to discuss requirements and recommendations as they relate to providing educational services to English Learners. Please contact Mr. Patrick Wallace with questions around Dual Language Immersion.

**Update 2 – Georgia LEAs may waive endorsement/certification requirements for Gifted teachers.**

Ms. Gail Humble is available to discuss requirements and recommendations as they relate to providing educational services to gifted learners.

**Update 3 – All previous Georgia professional qualification guidance documents have been withdrawn and rereleased with edits.**

As of 06.01.17 the attached documents have been posted on the [Title II, Part A Webpage](#). The Instructional Service Model and Dual Language Immersion documents have been retracted and are no longer applicable.

Trainings will continue throughout the state over the next couple of months. We plan to publish further guidance in June. As is normal during times of change, we anticipate that guidance and clarifications will continue to develop as we transition into ESSA in FY18 and review various scenarios. We will make every effort to communicate updates in a timely manner. Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time with questions. Please share this email freely with LEA colleagues who may require this information.

U.S. Department of Education Launches Revamped IDEA Website:

The [U.S. Department of Education’s Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website](#) has revamped the IDEA website. Please review for additional resources and information.

2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute:

Register now and reserve your hotel room for the [2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#)! This conference is hosted by the Georgia Department of Education at the beautiful Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta from September 17-19, 2017.

There are five easy ways to register:
- Online Registration
- Fax in the [Registration Form](#) to 423-899-4547
- Scan/Email the [Registration Form](#) to registrations@ncyi.org
- Phone - (866) 318-6294
- Mail - see [conference website](#) for address
Thank you to The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) for their support as a GELI 2017 sponsor. NSHSS is a membership organization with a mission of recognizing academic excellence among high-achieving students. Through unique learning experiences, exclusive scholarships, valuable internships, international study opportunities and meaningful peer networks, we connect our members with resources to develop their strengths and pursue their passions. Serving a diverse member base on a path from high school to college to career, NSHSS helps scholars identify and use the gifts they have been given and equips them for future success. Click on the NSHSS logo from the conference website to learn more.

The Institute begins on Sunday afternoon, September 17 with three highly informative Pre-Institute Sessions featuring Alison Timberlake, Melissa Fincher, Shaun Owen and Arianne Weldon. The Pre-Institute Sessions are included in the Registration Rate! The sessions will address important issues/topics facing Georgia leaders – Assessment & Accountability, Consolidating Funding and How CCRPI is impacted by Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

Mr. Ken Williams will be the Keynote Luncheon Speaker on Monday. He brings a dynamic and motivational message for all Georgia education leaders. Finally, as in the past, Governor Nathan Deal has been invited to deliver his State of Education speech on Tuesday morning.

Also, the room block is open at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. The room block tends to fill quickly, so please reserve a room if you’re planning to attend the institute and will need one! You can click here or follow the link in the “Accommodations” section on the institute webpage (GELI 2017) to the hotel’s reservation system for the institute room block…and the special low rate of just $140 per night! This is a great opportunity to network with your colleagues from across the state!

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

- FY18 PQ Special Education Guide 05.31.17.v5.pdf (566 KB)
- FY18 Professional Qualifications Decision Guide 05.30.17.pdf (957 KB)
- FY18 Professional Qualifications Quick Guide 06.01.17.pdf (534 KB)
- Friday, June 9th Email Blast.pdf (672 KB)
Directors,

On yesterday, Georgia released the draft of its state plan responsive to the Every Student Succeeds Act, the replacement for the federal law commonly known as No Child Left Behind. The draft is being posted publicly to give all interested stakeholders time to review the plan and provide their feedback. The public-comment period will run for 30 days, closing on July 14, 2017.

We can’t wait to see you at the Federal Programs Conference on next week. As a gentle reminder, Tuesday, June 20th is for New Special Education Directors who are participating in the 2017-18 SELDA; please note the SELDA announcement below. We have included the conference agenda; however, you may access this information by using the direct conference website link: https://eventmobi.com/federalprograms2017/.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items
IDEAS 2017 Conference
Data Collections
Student Records Tip
Budget Reminders
Assistive Technology FAQ
Coaching for Student Success Technical Assistance

Old/Updated Items

SELDA

IDEAS 2017 Conference:

The IDEAS 2017 Conference at St. Simons Island had over 795 individuals in attendance. The conference started with an opening from Dr. Zelphine Smith-Dixon and Dr. Garry McGiboney (Georgia Department of Education). Deena Lambert, an individual with a visual impairment who serves as a program manager for NASA, closed the conference on a high note. Over 150 concurrent sessions were well attended by general education teachers, special education teachers, administrators, RESA and GLRS staff.

There were three special interest sessions which included: Reading (Erasing the Misery of Reading and Spelling Multi-Syllable Words), Math (Using IKAN and GloSS Assessments to Develop Students’ Number Sense), and Specially Designed Instruction (Specialized Instruction Grades K-5 and 6-12). Additionally, there were a variety of concurrent sessions: Tower Garden Party; Christian and his iPad: Accessing the Curriculum, and Relax and Recharge; Stress Management for Students and Teachers; The 2 Most Powerful Strategies; and Make and Take Sessions. The focus was for educators to be able to take back and put into place an activity, strategy, or plan that would impact student outcomes. Session documents can be accessed for the next 6 months by going to the IDEAS 2017 webpage. These resources are available per each session.
**Data Collections:**

July 31st is the deadline for submitting your district’s data for Timelines, Post-secondary Outcomes, and Preschool Outcomes in the Special Education Applications Dashboard.

For significantly disproportionate districts, student data for CEIS are due July 31st. Please note that the “submit button” for CEIS will be active beginning July 1st. If you have questions about any of these data collections please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

**Student Records (SR) Tip:**

1. After your district has signed off on Student Records this year, develop a list of all students who were reported with an event 09 (dismissed in a Reeligibility meeting) or an event 10 (Revocation of Consent to Place).

2. Next, delete from that list any student who was subsequently re-referred, made eligible, and placed back in special education.

3. REMOVE the primary area of exceptionality in your student information system for the students who are no longer in special education.

At the beginning of next year, they will not show as being a student with a disability, which will avoid FTE and SR errors.

If your district uses GO-IEP, you can easily find the list of students who had an event 09 or 10 by exporting your SR information into an excel spreadsheet, then filter the column for the event number so that you have all events 09 and 10.

All districts may determine those students who had an event 04 (Initial Eligibility) and an event 05 (Initial IEP) in FY17 but will have the event 06 (first placement in special education) at the beginning of the school year (August, 2017). For those students, you will ADD the primary area of exceptionality in your student information system. At the beginning of the school year, they will show as being a student with a disability.

**Budget Reminders:**

Please ensure that all state funds have been drawn down. The grant period for state funds ends on June 30, 2017, and state funds may not be carried over. The High Cost Grant period ends on June 30, 2017, and this grant may not be carried over. If you have any questions, please contact your budget liaison.

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

**Question:** How is “timely manner” defined in regards to obtaining an assistive technology device?

**Answer:** While timely manner is not specifically defined in the IDEA, once an assistive technology device is determined necessary for the student, the district must implement procedures necessary for obtaining the device without unnecessary delay. When a delay is anticipated such as company backorder, the school should inform the parent and implement procedures to ensure that the student has access to his/her instructional program. It may be possible for the district to rent, borrow, or lease an appropriate device during the interim.
Coaching for Success Technical Assistance:

As part of the State Personnel Development Grant, the GaDOE is offering a “Coaching for Success” academy on July 25th and 26th. Primarily designed to build district-level coaching capacity, these two days will include identifying evidence based practices, building a clear understanding of coaching, asking critical questions and creating a solid plan for intervention. Both days will emphasize active engagement of participants to build the skills needed to support the student success process in your district. Intensive districts and GraduateFIRST schools were offered priority registration several weeks ago, but a few extra spaces are available.

The presenter will be Ainsley Rose from Corwin Press. Mr. Rose is a former director of curriculum and instruction for the Western Quebec School Board in Gatineau, Quebec. With 35 years in public education, he is a published author, keynote presenter and facilitator. The sessions will be held at the Macon Marriott City Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon GA. Registration on July 25th will begin at 8 am. The session will begin promptly at 9 am. Lunch will be provided both days.

For those individuals who need lodging, the Marriott City Center has reserved a block of rooms available at the group rate of $91.00 per night plus tax. Reservations can be made by calling 800-228-9290 or 478-621-5300, or by using the lodging link below. Payment for lodging will be responsibility of the individual. GLRS directors, area student success coaches, regional success coaches and district liaisons have been invited as well. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Holland at lholland@doe.k12.ga.us.

Here is the registration link: COACHING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS - JULY 25 -26, 2017
Here is the link to reserve lodging: Book your group rate for Georgia Department of Education

SELDA:

The Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELD) website link used in the previous email blast was an older version. The current SELDA website link is below.

We would like to invite NEW Special Education Directors to attend the 2017-2018 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELD). This academy is a collaboration between the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). The purpose of SELD is to prepare new special education directors through a series of meetings and forums. We are committed to offering the support you need to understand and provide general supervision that monitors the implementation of the IDEA. If there is space permitting after the New Special Education Directors have registered we will open registration to district support staff.

Click on the link to register for 2017-2018 SELDA
2017-2018 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELD)
The 2017-2018 SELDA schedule is posted on the SELDA website.

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

ESSAConsolidatedStatePlan -- 6-14A.pdf (2 MB)
New Directors Conference Agenda FINAL.PDF (80 KB)
Federal Programs Conference Agenda FINAL Jun 14.pdf (203 KB)
Friday, June 16th Email Blast.pdf (409 KB)
Directors,

Thank you for participating in the Federal Programs Conference, and we look forward to the critical next steps. Dr. Garry McGiboney ended the conference with an inspirational keynote on “Collaboration,” which is the critical part of this work. GaDOE recognized six districts with the “Leader in Special Education” award based on Highest Annual Event Graduation Rate, Highest Annual Event Graduation Rate Increase, and Lowest Dropout Rate. We congratulate the following districts: Fulton County, Forsyth County, Fayette County, Thomas County, Dade County and Quitman County. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items
New Parent Mentors
FY17 CEIS Data
Budget Information

Old/Updated Items
Coaching for Student Success Technical Assistance

New Parent Mentors:

Three Things to Do Now

• 1st tell Anne Ladd (aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) about the new parent mentor
• 2nd ask Anne Ladd to add new mentor to the listserv and contact Jane Grillo (jgrillo343@yahoo.com) to be added to the website
• 3rd Register for New Parent Mentor Orientation

Click Here for New Parent Mentor Orientation

The annual orientation for new parent mentors will be August 16-17, 2017 at the Macon Marriott City Center. To register, simply use the link above. The hotel reservations will be made by the GaDOE. Accommodations and meals will be provided. We ask that mileage be covered by the district.

August 16-17, 2017
Macon Marriott City Center
240 Coliseum Drive
Macon, Ga 31217

Wednesday, August 16
11:30 am - 12:00 pm Meeting Check-in
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm New Mentor Orientation
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Team Building and Dinner

Thursday, August 17
9:00 am - 2:45 pm New Mentor Orientation
3:00 pm Adjourn
**FY17 Coordinate Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Data:**

Districts with significant disproportionality must report student level data in the CEIS Portal Application about students who received services during FY17. This data represents annual reporting; therefore, all students must have entrance and exit dates. In many instances, students are exited and continue to receive services the next school year, which is appropriate.

To exit the remaining students, use the “Other” option and enter “end of the year.” Each year stands alone since the state department must monitor CEIS student data for an additional 2 years to identify students who previously received CEIS and are currently coded as “S Type” students.

**Budget Information:**

The FY18 Draft Allocations are posted [here](#); however, the allocations will require State Board of Education approval. As a reminder, LEA charter schools that open in July 2017 will not receive IDEA funding until January 2018. If you have any questions, please contact your budget liaison.

**Coaching for Success Technical Assistance:**

As part of the State Personnel Development Grant, the GaDOE is offering a “Coaching for Success” academy on July 25th and 26th. Primarily designed to build district-level coaching capacity, these two days will include identifying evidence based practices, building a clear understanding of coaching, asking critical questions and creating a solid plan for intervention. Both days will emphasize active engagement of participants to build the skills needed to support the student success process in your district. Intensive districts and GraduateFIRST schools were offered priority registration several weeks ago, but a few extra spaces are available.

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Here is the registration link: [COACHING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS - JULY 25 -26, 2017](#)

Here is the link to reserve lodging: [Book your group rate for Georgia Department of Education](#)

**Attachment titles that were included with the June 23 Email Blast.**
Directors,

The G-CASE Conference is happening this fall, and the deadline for submitting proposals is today! We all know that the work we do each day takes a herculean effort by “Everyday Heroes,” and we salute these Highly Effective Resources and Opportunities for Exceptional Students. Join us in Savannah for the G-CASE Conference during November 15th – 17th at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront. We want you to share how you are partnering to provide Highly Effective Resources and Opportunities for Exceptional Students. The goal of this conference will be to showcase ways school districts are partnering with community resources, agencies and other stakeholders to meet the needs of the whole child and improve graduation rates of students with disabilities.

G-CASE is seeking strong proposals for breakout sessions that focus on effective partnerships and resources. Preference will be given to proposals submitted by a team, including a Georgia school district and community resources, agencies and/or other stakeholders. Breakout sessions are 75 minutes long and are scheduled on Thursday, November 16th and Friday, November 17th. Please Note: Vendors seeking to present must submit a joint proposal with a school district that uses their product.

On this week, the United States Department of Education (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services) has determined that Georgia needs assistance in implementing the requirements of Part B of the IDEA, based on the 2017 State Determination. As you may recall, the State Determination includes both compliance indicators and results indicators. We will post the information on the public webpage and share technical assistance about the data. More importantly, I will share priorities for the FY18 school year that will definitely help to shape this work.

We have completed a school year together, and I couldn’t ask for better group of caring people. I have attached the slides used at the Federal Programs Conference and received requests for the slide below. In my aquarium-sized voice, “We can no longer continue to fix the fish without addressing the school the fish swims in…Sometimes, the issue isn’t the school of fish but the tank!” Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

Data Collections:

Data for the Postsecondary Outcomes Survey must be submitted in the Special Education Dashboard Application by July 31, 2017. Approximately 25% of districts have not yet opened the survey to view the list of students. Please prioritize this important data collection and reporting.
Preschool Outcomes and Timeline Data (Initials and Early Childhood Transition) are also due on July 31, 2017.

CEIS Student Level data is to be entered in the GADOE Portal CEIS Application by July 31, 2017. The submit button will be activated and available on July 1st. If your district is required to submit a CEIS plan for FY18, the plan is also due on July 31st. You will upload your CEIS plan in the FY18 CEIS application. District Liaisons have offered to review your plan prior to submission, if needed. Contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership:

Three Things to Do Now
- 1st tell Anne Ladd (aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) about the new parent mentor
- 2nd ask Anne Ladd to add new mentor to the listserv and contact Jane Grillo (jigrillo343@yahoo.com) to be added to the website
- 3rd Register for New Parent Mentor Orientation

Click Here for New Parent Mentor Orientation

The annual orientation for new parent mentors will be August 16-17, 2017 at the Macon Marriott City Center. To register, simply use the link above. The hotel reservations will be made by the GaDOE. Accommodations and meals will be provided. We ask that mileage be covered by the district.

August 16-17, 2017
Macon Marriott City Center
240 Coliseum Drive
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Wednesday, August 16
11:30 am - 12:00 pm Meeting Check-in
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm New Mentor Orientation
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Team Building and Dinner

Thursday, August 17
9:00 am - 2:45 pm New Mentor Orientation
3:00 pm Adjourn

Attachment titles that were included with the June 30 Email Blast.

- Accommodations Listings.2017 kickoff 6.30.docx (45 KB)
- GCASE Call for Proposals.docx (19 KB)
- Federal Programs Conference_June 21, 2017.pptx (2 MB)