

March Friday Email Blast

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Friday, March 3, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the weekly webinars that support [Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). The [March 3rd webinar](#) will focus on Leadership; you should register and attend. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is currently prepopulating the data tables in the FY18 Systems of Continuous Improvement Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), which *should* be released to all districts by the end of this week. Your district's master copy of this pre-populated CNA template will be sent to the superintendent as soon as the template is finalized.

Effective November 25, 2015, the State Board Rule for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program was amended as follows: Acceptance of scholarship shall have the same effect as a parental refusal to consent to services in a public school pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq. Acceptance of a scholarship waives a parent's rights under IDEA; therefore, a private school is not required to follow a student's IEP developed by the public school. Nonetheless, refusal of services does not meet the standard of revocation under IDEA (34 C.F.R. § 300.9). Therefore, the regulations regarding proportionate share for students parentally placed in private schools shall apply to students who receive a scholarship under this Rule. As referenced during the [December 14th Directors' Webinar](#), the guidance documents have been updated to reflect this change and can be located on [Georgia Special Needs Webpage](#).

We convened a group of diverse stakeholders who shared the benefits and challenges of telepractice. During the [next webinar](#) (March 14th), we will share a summary of the feedback and provide additional opportunities for other stakeholders to engage with us on this topic-such as through an online survey. Considering engagement, access the [Georgia Project AWARE Digest](#) and learn more about how Georgia is increasing awareness of mental health issues among school-age youth. We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

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[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership](#)

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Important Budget Information:

See the attached submission logs for the High Cost Grants and Residential and Reintegration Grants and verify that we have captured accurately your submissions-to include the correct number of submissions. If it is **inaccurate**, it is important to email Amber McCollum at amccollum@doe.k12.ga.us by **Tuesday, March 7th**. If it is accurate, there is **no need** for any further confirmation.

As you are entering expenditures in the Excess Cost Calculation portal, please be aware that the “Calculations Tab” is not relevant at this time. It does not currently show the proper “met” status. We will only view expenditures reported for this submission and not the status on the “Calculations Tab”.

Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar for the Fifty Districts:

The ***Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar*** will be ***Tuesday, March 7, 2017 @ 1:00 pm***. The purpose of this webinar is to share important updates, peer to peer best practice and support your district’s implementation of the Student Success Process. Below, you will find the registration link for the March Leadership Launch Webinar.

Registration Link for March 7th: [Student Success Leadership Launch](#)

State Advisory Panel Applications:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that all states have special education advisory panels to include representation from constituents who are concerned about providing improved educational opportunities to children with disabilities. The goal in Georgia is to have an active State Advisory Panel with broad representation from across the state to advise the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) regarding the State Performance Plan, State Personnel Development Grant, Georgia Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process, IDEA Regulations and other initiatives designed to improve outcomes for all children with disabilities in Georgia’s schools.

Majority of the panel must be made up of individuals with disabilities or families of children with disabilities. Please read the qualifications for membership on the Panel and share the information. Applications are due no later than April 1, 2017.

Assistive Technology Tech Tip:

Are you searching for Google Extensions, Apps and Add-ons to support students? If so, check out the two attached documents for some popular supports for reading and writing:

- Google Chrome Supports for Writing
- Google Chrome Supports for Reading

Information compiled by Matthew Baud and Sumer Porter from [Niles Township District Special Education \(NTDSE\)](#).

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Drive-In University:

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership held two (Middle and North) of the three biennial drive-in Universities for parent mentors. Stephanie Irvin, from [Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services \(GLASS\)](#), presented great information. Stephanie shared three handouts (see attached) and encouraged attendees to check out both the [GLASS webpage](#) for information and [our YouTube page](#) for videos and playlists covering different aspects of the service. Other presentations included Accessible Educational Material (AEMs) and the Georgia Instructional Materials Center (GIMC) by Carson Cochran, GaDOE.

Anne Ladd (GaDOE) and April Lee (Wayne County) shared the GaPMP Planning to Implementation reporting guide and Evidence to Practice framework review. Parent mentor leaders discussed Leading by Convening and other engagement strategies. As always, the parent mentors brought their enthusiasm and excitement to learn and share!

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 **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.

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;
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
Email: fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us

Attachment titles that were included with the March 3 Email Blast.

-  SB10 School District Responsibilities.pdf (282 KB)
-  PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES FTP.PDF (325 KB)
-  SB10 FAQ for Parents.pdf (491 KB)
-  Awards of Excellence Application 2017.docx.docx (56 KB)
-  GLASS childrens flyer.pdf (301 KB)
-  GLASS flyer.pdf (708 KB)
-  Bookshare Flyer.pdf (667 KB)
-  PMP FY18Application for PMP Participation.doc (288 KB)
-  Google Chrome Supports for Reading NTDSE 3.docx (120 KB)
-  Google Chrome Supports for Writing - NTDSE.DOCX (102 KB)
-  High Cost Grant Submission Log FY17.pdf (220 KB)
-  FY17 Residential and Reintegration Grant Submissions.pdf (215 KB)
-  Georgia Systems of Continuous Improvement Webinars.docx (17 KB)
-  Project AWARE Winter Final.pdf (2 MB)
-  Friday, March 3rd Email Blast.pdf (289 KB)

Friday, March 10, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the weekly webinars that support [Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). The [March 10th Webinar](#) will focus on Professional Capacity; you should register and attend. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) emailed district superintendents the prepopulated data tables in the FY18 Systems of Continuous Improvement Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA).

On Tuesday, we hosted the [Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar](#) for the fifty districts that receive intensive technical assistance. We have accomplished so much hard work together. Each district identified at least one high school to support the student success process and provided interventions and supports for a minimum of fifty students. All districts identified a district-level coach, and 58% of the districts utilized pre-established leadership team structures to guide the student success work. To date, Regional Student Success Coaches made approximately 759 coaching visits to support districts in implementing the Student Success Process.

Considering this work at the school level, all targeted schools established leadership teams—except two schools. Currently, more than half the schools created separate leadership teams to foster this work, which is a barrier that directly impacts systemic alignment. Targeted schools are primarily discussing the usage of Co-Teaching, PBIS, ASPIRE, Check and Connect, Student Mentoring, Read 180 and System 44.

Crisp County (Kristen Stokes), Gainesville City (Mike Enright), and Houston County (Jenny McClintic) shared helpful tips during the webinar. Let's celebrate their hard work and remember to ask them about their progress.

During the January 9th Directors' Webinar, we discussed the development of FBA/BIP Online Learning Modules, which are currently available in the Professional Development Tab of the SLDS. You may be interested in the training that will be offered this fall, as well. On Tuesday, March 14th, we will host the [next webinar](#). We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[GIMC Update](#)

[2017 G-CASE Spring Conference](#)

[Budget Update](#)

[Data Collections](#)

Old/Updated Items



GIMC Update:

Please be sure that all braille and large print book orders are turned in for the 2017-18 school year by March 31, 2017.

2017 G-CASE Spring Conference (See Attachment):

A Special Education Legal Forum

Monday – Wednesday March 27, 28 and 29, 2017
Classic Center
300 N. Thomas Street
Athens, GA 30601

Register NOW by clicking on this link:

[Register for the G-CASE 2017 Spring Conference](#)

Budget Update:

Our Financial Review division sent the following notification to Finance Directors in your district regarding the Excess Cost Calculation:

The Excess Cost portal location has been modified to hide the calculation tab until it is functioning properly in the portal. As discussed in the webinar, districts are only required to submit the FY 2016 actual expenditure data, calculating the Minimum Expenditures Per Pupil, for FY 2016. When the calculations tab is functional, all districts will be able to view the minimum target amount, but we will not review met or failed calculations until FY 2017.

Data Collections:

Each district's FY16 Annual Performance Report (APR) will be posted in the UAT by Monday March 13th for you to review prior to public posting. Please carefully review the data for each indicator in the Summary Report. The APR Summary will be posted for the public view in approximately 3 weeks. If you have any questions about your data, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-1713 as soon as possible.

Please access your district's APR by clicking on the following link:

<http://archivesuat.doe.k12.ga.us/ReportingFW.aspx?PageReq=211&PID=61&PTID=67&CTID=216&StateId=ALL&T=0&FY=2016>

Attachment files that were included with the March 10 Email Blast.

 2017 Spring Conference plain.docx (20 KB)

 Accessing GaDOE FBA-BIP Online Modules.pdf (607 KB)

 Friday, March 10th Email Blast.pdf (435 KB)

Friday, March 17, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the weekly webinars that support [Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). The [March 17th Webinar](#) will focus on Family and Community Engagement; you should register and attend.

On Friday, March 31st @ 11 am, we will host a special webinar to [Showcase the Alignment of the SSIP and Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). We recognize that there are questions and would like to provide clear guidance at this time. During [Tuesday's Webinar](#) (Directors' Webinar), we discussed the importance of fostering a positive school climate as prioritized through the Student Success work. What does climate have to do with student success? Last year, 261,696 students (14.36% of total enrollment) were disciplined, which calculated 677,599 disciplinary incidents. Assuming each incident took a minimum of 30 minutes, then that would jeopardize time on task (approx. 203,279 mins, approx. 3,387 hours, or approx. 483, 7-hour school days). We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families. Have a great weekend.

SCHOOL_YEAR	SYSTEM_NAME	Total Count of Students Enrolled at Any Time During School Year	Total Count of Discipline Incidents	Count of Students Disciplined	Discipline Incidents per 1000 Students	Percent of Student Body Involved in Discipline Incidents
2016	State of Georgia	1,821,933	677,599	261,696	371.9	14.36%



Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[A Summer Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

[2017 IDEAS Conference Registration](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[Budget Due Date Reminders](#)

Old/Updated Items



[A Summer Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(See Attachments\):](#)

Camp Talalah will be held at the Georgia School for the Deaf campus from June 5th-9th, 2017. The camp will have many different activities such as a trip to Six Flags, activities at the University of West Georgia including a mini-baseball camp and wall climbing, a trip to the community pool, and a trip to Berry College for some zipline fun! There will be also educational activities such as teamwork exercises, leadership exercises, and character education. We will also have a large camp staff who are fluent in American Sign Language and all methods of communicating with D/HH students. Most importantly, there will be excellent deaf role models who will be part of the Camp Staff. It is really important to us that all D/HH students feel comfortable in learning and having fun. In other words, a good balance between learning and recreation! We are excited about this opportunity to serve D/HH students in the state of Georgia.

GIMC Updates:

Please share with any staff who uses the GIMC to acquire materials for your district's students.

Current Spending

Limited funds earned in the Jan 2016 APH census are available to states. The amount of the reduction is 40%. At this time no spending changes are implemented for the teachers requesting books, supplies, or equipment. However, this situation is being closely monitored and may change. APH is "hopeful" that ALL of the allocated funds for the FFY2017 will be released by the new administration.

Parent Consent Forms

Please encourage any teacher or staff member who has students registered with GIMC to acquire parent consents by April 30, 2017. Your staff has done an excellent job to acquire parent consents for 53% of last year's census number. Any additional students that can be added to this year's count is extremely important.

Things to do:

- Ensure documents and Notary are available at annual IEP meetings
- Encourage parents to use local school Notaries free of charge.
- Enlist PTAs and/or parent mentors to assist with the process.

2017 IDEAS Conference (Registration Information Attached):

June 6-9, 2017
Epworth by the Sea
St. Simons Island, GA

Data Collections:

Each district's FY16 Annual Performance Report (APR) is posted in the UAT for you to review prior to public posting. Please carefully review the data for each indicator in the Summary Report. The APR Summary will be posted for the public view the week of March 27, 2017. If you have any questions about your data please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-1713 as soon as possible. Please access your district's APR by clicking on the following link:

<http://archivesuat.doe.k12.ga.us/ReportingFW.aspx?PageReq=211&PID=61&PTID=67&CTID=216&StateId=ALL&T=0&FY=2016>

Important Budget Due Date Reminders:

Waiver Request for 100% Carryover – March 31st

MOE Adjustment for 50% Reduction – March 31st

If you have any questions, please contact your budget specialist.

Attachment titles that were included with the March 17 Email Blast.

 Registration.docx (136 KB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Brochure.pdf (1 MB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Bus Waiver Form.doc (40 KB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Registration Form.docx (54 KB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Registration Form (Spanish).docx (54 KB)

 Friday, March 17th Email Blast.pdf (337 KB)

Friday, March 24, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the weekly webinars that support [Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). The [March 24th Webinar](#) will focus on Supportive Learning Environment; you should register and attend. Tony Feldmann (PBIS Program Specialist) will participate on today's webinar and share helpful information. For ease of access, you will see an updated icon on the [Special Education webpage](#) that will link to this information.

On Friday, March 31st @ 11 am, we will host a special webinar to [Showcase the Alignment of the SSIP and Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#).

The U.S. Supreme Court issued an unanimous [opinion](#) in the case, *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District*, ruling in favor of the parents of a Colorado student with autism who indicated that the district did not meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) thereby, denying him a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr who wrote the opinion said, "when all is said and done, a student offered an educational program providing 'merely more than de minimis' progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all." We will host the next [Directors' Webinar](#) on April 11th @ 1:00 pm and provide technical assistance for this content during the webinar.



Due to numerous spring breaks, we will not have an email blast on April 7th. We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Federal Programs Conference Registration](#)

[Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement – CNA School Tool Templates](#)

[Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement – Regional Workshops on May 10th](#)

[Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement – Friday Webinars](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQs](#)

[Teacher Resource Links on SLDS](#)

[Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services \(PINES\)](#)

Old/Updated Items

[2017 IDEAS Conference Registration](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[Budget Due Dates Reminders](#)

Federal Programs Conference Registration (Coming Soon):

Official conference registration information to LEAs will be sent on next week. As soon as this information is available, I will forward on to the K-12 Special Education Directors List.

June 20; 8:30-5:00 New Directors Workshop

June 21; 8:00-4:00 Main Conference

June 22; 8:00-3:00 Main Conference

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement - CNA School Tool Templates:

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is in the process of preparing to prepopulate the data tables in the FY18 Georgia Systems of Continuous Improvement Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) - School Tool for release to all districts by the end of March. The prepopulated CNA tool templates for the schools will be sent to district superintendents via the MyGaDOE Portal as soon as the data are loaded.

As a reminder, prepopulated school level CNA tool templates will be provided by the GaDOE for all Priority and Focus schools, as well as, the targeted schools engaged in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) work via the fifty districts. A blank template for use by all other schools needing to conduct a CNA will be posted to the Federal Programs homepage by the end of March. District and school level improvement plan templates will be forthcoming.

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement – Regional Workshops on May 10:

WHO: District Level Federal Program Staff (3 per district, please coordinate with your other local program staff prior to registration)

WHAT: Regional Workshops to Support the Implementation of Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement – Specifically the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and Plans for Improvement

WHEN: May 10, 2017; 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

WHERE: 7 locations statewide (see below)

WHY: Districts are implementing a single comprehensive needs assessment and single district and school improvement plan(s) that includes all Federal programs. This workshop will focus on the questions or areas of need identified by attendees engaged in this important work. The format of this workshop will allow for multiple interactions with colleagues and Department staff to share information and ideas.

1. Colquitt County District Offices; 1800 Park Ave S.E, Moultrie, GA 31768
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/70693887051162>
2. Glynn County Golden Isles Career Academy; 4404 Glynco Parkway, Brunswick, GA 31525
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/70694523228156>
3. Houston County BOE Annex; 1600 Macon Rd, Perry, GA 31069
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/70694552379165>
4. NW RESA; 3167 Cedartown Hwy, Rome, GA 30161
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/70694246787168>
5. Pioneer RESA; 1342 Highway 254, Cleveland, GA 30528-0033
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/70693975201157>
6. Henry County Schools Education Center; 109 South Lee Street, Stockbridge, GA 30281
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/70694045420149>
7. DeKalb County Schools Board Offices; 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
 - o Register here: <https://form.jotform.us/70764420912150>

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement – The Friday Webinar Series:

- An additional webinar has been added to the Friday Webinar Series. On March 31, 2017 at 11:00 am, the GaDOE will lead a webinar showcasing the alignment between the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement framework. Please register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4842424412436534785>
- The Federal Programs webpage has several resources available for LEAs: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

Should you have any questions, please contact us at federalprograms@doe.k12.ga.us.

Assistive Technology Frequently Asked Question (FAQ):

- Q. Can a student take an assistive technology (AT) device home after school, for the weekend, over holidays, and over summer breaks?
- A. Yes, if students need the AT device/equipment at home to make progress towards their goals in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states (Section 300.105 in the Federal Register), ... "on a case-by-case basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the child's IEP Team determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE."

The IEP Team should consider if the student needs the device to complete his/her homework or to practice skills outside of school, and if he/she does, it should be included in the IEP. A school or district cannot limit access to AT because of anticipated or real fears of damage.

Teacher Resource Links on SLDS:

Teacher Resources now available through Teacher Resource Links on SLDS. Instructional tasks that have historically been available on the Resource Board for teachers of students with significant disabilities are now being moved to the Teacher Resource Links on SLDS. Teachers will be able to access these through TRL, which are in Notebooks, an Office365 Windows application. Teachers can access these Notebooks as a "guest" and will not be required to have an Office 365 login. No separate password is required in addition to requirements they may have to access TRL/SLDS in your district.

At this time, Math ELA, and Adapted Integrated Units are included in TRL. Science and Social Studies tasks are available on the Resource Board, which still requires a password. Science and Social Studies tasks will soon be moved to TRL. The attached PowerPoint gives step by step instructions to access the items on TRL once a teacher has logged in to the district SLDS. Teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities should be given access to TRL/SLDS through your district. Please share this information and the attached PowerPoint with these teachers.

Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services (PINES):

Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services (PINES) is seeking qualified professionals to participate in the Early Home Intervention Program for families of children with multiple disabilities birth to five years of age. PINES will offer trainings for interested individuals June 20-23 and July 18-21. INSITE training is for professionals interested in working with families of children with multiple disabilities, which includes visual impairment and/ or hearing loss. The SKI- HI training is for professionals interested in working with families of children with

hearing loss. Professionals welcomed to be trained are: teachers of the deaf/ hard of hearing, special education teachers-preferably preschool, speech language pathologists, teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists. See the attached flyer for more information. PINES has needs for professionals in the following areas of Georgia:

INSITE	SKI-HI
Cherokee	Health Districts 2, 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7, 8-1 & 8-2
Cobb/Marietta City	or the following Counties
Coweta	Bibb
Dawson	Cherokee
DeKalb/Decatur City	Clayton
Forsyth	Cobb/Marietta City
Fulton/Atlanta City (particular need in city of Atlanta, Roswell, Alpharetta)	Columbia
Gilmer	Dawson
Hall/Gainesville City	Forsyth
Morgan	Fulton/Atlanta City (especially South Atlanta)
Murray	Gilmer
Thomaston-Upson	Gwinnett
Fannin/Union/Towns/Rabun	Hall/Gainesville City
Stephens/Franklin/Hart/Elbert	Habersham
Oconee/Oglethorpe/Greene	Houston
Columbia/McDuffie/Richmond	Morgan
Burke	Murray
Bibb and surrounding counties	Muscogee
Washington/Jefferson/Johson/Laurens	Newton
Quitman/Clay/Stewart/Randolph	Thomaston-Upson
	Walton

2017 IDEAS Conference (Registration Information Attached):

June 6-9, 2017
 Epworth by the Sea
 St. Simons Island, GA

Data Collections:

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<http://archivesuat.doe.k12.ga.us/ReportingFW.aspx?PageReq=211&PID=61&PTID=67&CTID=216&StatelId=ALL&T=0&FY=2016>

Important Budget Due Date Reminders:

Waiver Request for 100% Carryover – March 31st

MOE Adjustment for 50% Reduction – March 31st

If you have any questions, please contact your budget specialist.

Attachment titles that were included with the March 24 Email Blast.

 2017 Training flyer.pub (195 KB)

 Moving from the Resource Board for Teachers of.pptx (487 KB)

 EndrewF_SCOTUS_Opinion (2).pdf (128 KB)

 Registration.docx (144 KB)

 Friday, March 24th Email Blast.pdf (631 KB)

Friday, March 31, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the weekly webinars that support [Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). The [March 31st Webinar](#) will focus on Identifying Needs; you should register and attend. For ease of access, you will see an updated icon on the [Special Education webpage](#) that will link to this information. Today @ 11 am, we will host a special webinar to [Showcase the Alignment of the SSIP and Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#). The next [Directors' Webinar](#) is April 11th @ 1:00 pm, and the Directors' Forum is April 27th.

How are Youth in Special Education faring? <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20174016/> [Read more about the study.](#)

["Volume 1: Comparisons with Other Youth"](#)

["Volume 2: Comparisons across Disability Groups"](#)

Due to numerous spring breaks, we **will not** have an email blast on April 7th. We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families. Have a great spring break!

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Federal Programs Conference Registration](#)

[FY17 Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

[Webinar - WIOA Section 511 and Referrals to Roosevelt Warm Springs](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

[Budget News](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQs](#)

Old/Updated Items

[A Summer Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(See Attachments\)](#)

[Teacher Resource Links on SLDS](#)

Federal Programs Conference Registration:

MAIN CONFERENCE

While the conference facilities are spacious, we need to ensure all districts can register their staff. Therefore, we will limit the size of district teams as follows:

- Small Districts (3,999 students and below) = 5 registrants
- Medium Districts (4,000 – 19,999 students) = 8 registrants
- Large Districts (20,000-75,000 students) = 12 registrants
- Extra Large Districts (Above 75,000 students) = 16 registrants

[Each district should identify its team and register by May 15, 2017.](#) Registration will close on this date and reopen for additional attendees if space is available.

Main Conference registration link: <https://form.jotform.us/70552944463157>

Additional conference logistics will be provided with your registration confirmation. The following information will help with initial planning:

- No conference registration fee
- Continental breakfast and lunch provided on both days
- Hotel accommodations must be reserved through these links:
 - Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway:
[Book your group rate for Statewide Title Conf - Dept of Education](#)
 - Spring Hill Suites Atlanta Airport Gateway:
[Book your group rate for Statewide Title 2017 Conference-Department of Education Room Block](#)
- Parking for Marriott hotel guests will be \$5.00 per night. All other attendees will park at the Georgia International Conventions Center (GICC) for \$10.00 a day.

NEW DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

There will be a pre-conference workshop offered for all new program directors on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 from 9 AM – 5 PM. The pre-conference workshop is open to all **new** directors from Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; IDEA, or the Homeless program who are in their first or second year of service.

New Director's Workshop Conference registration link: <https://form.jotform.us/70846452749164>

General information and updates will be posted on the 2017 conference website:

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/FederalProgramsConference.aspx>

FY17 Parent Satisfaction Survey:

Special Education Directors with Dashboard Access can now view preliminary results of the FY17 Parent Satisfaction Survey. Log into the Dashboard, and you will see "SE Parent Survey". Next, click on "Available for Data Viewing". You may see your Survey Count to date. Click on "Download District Parent Survey" to download an Excel that will show the schools at which parents have completed surveys. Demographic data have been redacted to maintain the anonymity of responders. Please use this data to determine where survey numbers are low and encourage families to respond. The survey closes on April 15, 2017. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k21.ga.us.

Webinar - WIOA Section 511 and Referrals to Roosevelt Warm Springs - April 12, 2017 - 1:00 pm:

Please join us for a webinar on April 12, 2017 at 1:00 pm to discuss changes through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) impacting requirements for school districts in considering a referral to sheltered workshops and other subminimum wage settings. An update on Roosevelt Warm Springs will be provided regarding the referral process and estimated timeline from referral to admission for appropriate candidates. Facilitator: Wina Low, Program Specialist, Georgia Department of Education, Presenters: Crystal Perry, Senior Attorney, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Dr. Lee Brinkley-Bryan, Director of Residential Services, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and Jeff Allen, Career Pathways Specialist, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Please register for WIOA Section 511 and Roosevelt Warm Springs on Apr 12, 2017 1:00 PM EDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2707767667261575170>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

WIOA Section 511 – Limitations on the Use of Subminimum Wage for Youth – Change in federal law through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act emphasizes the need for integrated, complete employment for individuals with disabilities. There are new requirements for school districts when considering a referral to sheltered workshops and other sub-minimum wage settings. This webinar will provide an explanation of the changes and the required documentation that each LEA must have in place for the 2017-2018 school year. Presenter: Crystal Perry, Senior Attorney, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Roosevelt Warm Springs – Founded by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1927, Roosevelt Warm Springs continues a tradition of compassion and quality care that spans over 80 years. In its ninth decade as a comprehensive rehabilitation center providing dedicated service, technological advancement, program diversity and continuing education on behalf of persons with disabilities. Roosevelt Warm Springs remains a national treasure and Georgia "point-of-pride." Simply stated, Roosevelt Warm Springs is a residential campus where students learn life skills and work towards professional certifications with the final goal being employment. Students are referred through their VR counselor. During the webinar, GVRA personnel will provide an update of the referral process and the need for increased partnership with school districts for the efficient and effective transition of students to post-secondary training and ultimately employment. Presenters: Dr. Lee Brinkley–Bryan, Director of Residential Services, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and Jeff Allen, Career Pathways Specialist, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

GIMC Update:

Accessible book orders are due today, 3/31/2017. This deadline is to ensure that there is enough time for the GIMC to purchase or produce textbooks so that students who need them get those books at the same time as their non-disabled peers. The GIMC takes orders for books throughout the year as the need for new books becomes known. If the books are available, it could take up to 4 weeks to obtain them. If books (especially braille) need to be produced, then the time could be much longer to get them into the students' hands.

Budget News:

Our State Board of Education approved FY16 reallocation of 611 and 619 funds for all districts. The grant period for these funds ends on September 30th. The funds should be added in GAORS within the next two weeks. Please complete budget amendments to include these funds.

The High Cost Grant and Residential and Reintegration Grants were approved by the State Board. The High Cost Grants and Residential and Reintegration Grants are reimbursement funds for expenditures already incurred and should be drawn down as soon as possible. The grant period for these funds ends on June 30th.

Please see attached allocations for the reallocations and grant reimbursements. If you have any questions, you may contact your budget specialist.

The FY18 GLRS DRAFT Allocations are attached. There will be more detailed information about these draft allocations in an upcoming training in April.

Assistive Technology Tech Tip:

VoiceOver is a gesture-based (such as “tap”, “swipe”, “pinch” etc.) screen reader that lets the user operate any iDevice even if the screen can’t be seen. Once VoiceOver is enabled, you can triple-click the Home button to access it. By using specific gestures, a description of everything happening on the screen can be spoken, such as the battery level, who’s calling, which app your finger is on, etc. You can also adjust the speaking rate and pitch. As VoiceOver is integrated into the iOS operating system, it will work with all the built-in or core apps that come with iDevices. Many third-party apps support VoiceOver as well.

Tap Settings > General > Accessibility > VoiceOver

A Summer Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (See Attachments):

Camp Talalah will be held at the Georgia School for the Deaf campus from June 5th-9th, 2017. The camp will have many different activities such as a trip to Six Flags, activities at the University of West Georgia including a mini-baseball camp and wall climbing, a trip to the community pool, and a trip to Berry College for some zipline fun! There will be also educational activities such as teamwork exercises, leadership exercises, and character education. We will also have a large camp staff who are fluent in American Sign Language and all methods of communicating with D/HH students. Most importantly, there will be excellent deaf role models who will be part of the Camp Staff. It is really important to us that all D/HH students feel comfortable in learning and having fun. In other words, a good balance between learning and recreation! We are excited about this opportunity to serve D/HH students in the state of Georgia.

Teacher Resource Links on SLDS:

Teacher Resources now available through Teacher Resource Links on SLDS. Instructional tasks that have historically been available on the Resource Board for teachers of students with significant disabilities are now being moved to the Teacher Resource Links on SLDS. Teachers will be able to access these through TRL, which are in Notebooks, an Office365 Windows application. Teachers can access these Notebooks as a “guest” and will not be required to have an Office 365 login. No separate password is required in addition to requirements they may have to access TRL/SLDS in your district.

At this time, Math ELA, and Adapted Integrated Units are included in TRL. Science and Social Studies tasks are available on the Resource Board, which still requires a password. Science and Social Studies tasks will soon be moved to TRL. The attached PowerPoint gives step by step instructions to access the items on TRL once a teacher has logged in to the district SLDS. Teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities should be given access to TRL/SLDS through your district. Please share this information and the attached PowerPoint with these teachers.

Attachment titles that were included with the March 31 Email Blast.

 FY17 - IDEA Reallocation Summary.pdf (420 KB)

 FY17 High Cost Grant Allocations.pdf (205 KB)

 FY17 Residential and Reintegration Allocations.pdf (194 KB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Brochure.pdf (1 MB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Bus Waiver Form.doc (39 KB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Registration Form (Spanish).docx (53 KB)

 Camp Talalah 2017 Registration Form.docx (52 KB)

 Moving from the Resource Board for Teachers of.pptx (487 KB)

 Draft GLRS FY18 Allocations.pdf (202 KB)

 Friday, March 31st Email Blast.pdf (472 KB)