

# May Friday Email Blast

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Friday, May 5, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the [May 5, 2017](#) Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement webinar, which will focus on Submitting the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).

We will host the final [Directors Webinar](#) on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and plan to share some professional qualifications updates. We are happy to share with you **\*New\*** FY18 guidance documents on the Georgia Implementation of ESSA professional qualification and 'out-of-field' reporting requirements. Please share with all applicable staff in your LEA. As stated in the GaDOE Strategic Plan, 'the Georgia Department of Education works to balance flexibility for school districts with accountability.' Georgia's continued commitment to this balance is evidenced through the establishment of professional qualifications under ESSA that hold true to our GaDOE Strategic Plan, State charter laws, and State Board of Education rules. A number of key stakeholders were involved in formulating the decisions and guidance supporting 'PQ' in Georgia including the State School Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council, the ESSA Professional Capacity Working Group, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC), and critical program staff from the GaDOE's Offices of Teaching and Learning, Federal Programs, School Improvement, and Policy/Charters. With the support of ESSA, the GaDOE is further empowering LEAs to make the best personnel choices for the students the LEA serves.

Guidance documents are available on the [Title II, Part A page](#) of the GaDOE Website in the "Professional Qualifications and In-Field FY18 section. We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families.



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

**EMAIL BLAST**

***New Items***

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



### **Budget Information:**

Please see the attached FY18 IDEA Preliminary Budget Estimates and State Preschool Disability Draft Allocations. As you are using this information to plan, keep in mind that we have not yet received funding estimates from OSEP. Therefore, we do anticipate changes before we submit final LEA allocations to the board for approval. If you have any questions about allocations, please contact Amber McCollum.

### **Data Collections:**

Registration for the FY18 Data Conference is now open. The Data Conference is at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia, Wednesday, August 30 – Friday, September 1, 2017. Please register as soon as possible as this is a very popular event and registration closes quickly. Use this link to access the conference website, complete your registration and reserve your hotel room: <http://dcconference.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>. The Special Education sessions this year will cover the following topics: Student Record reporting, FTE and Federal Child Count reporting, Dashboard Applications, Disproportionality (new regulation), Timeline reporting, and Transition Planning. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us) or 470-218-3244.

### **IDEAS Conference Update:**

The IDEAS Conference program can be viewed online at <https://eventmobi.com/ideas2017/>

The Mobile Apps are now available. Download the mobile IDEAS2017 app for your device and build your agenda, communicate with presenters and attendees, and receive conference updates.

[Google Play](#)

[App Store](#)

[BlackBerry World](#)

[Windows Phone Store](#)

Remember to have the IDEAS2017 app downloaded on your mobile device before leaving for the conference. Once it's on your phone, you will not have to have cell or wireless service to build, change or view your agenda. Thank you for your support.

### **Georgia Department of Community Health Telemedicine Guidance:**

Speech-language pathologists and services are now included in the updated Telemedicine Guidance document for Medicaid. You can find it here: <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/Portals/0/StaticContent/Public/ALL/HANDBOOKS/Telemedicine%20Guidance%2020170421135708.pdf>

### **2017 Phil Pickens Leadership Award:**

***A Leadership Recognition Award Sponsored by the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Leadership Council***

***2016 Award Winners: Edith Abakare, Atlanta Public Schools - Lisa Vaughn, Liberty County - Sandy Malone, Seminole County***

This is your chance to express your appreciation for the work of someone in the Ga Parent Mentor Partnership. Please take a moment to recommend YOUR choice for this year's Phil Pickens Leadership Award? This award is given annually to both Parent Mentors and Special Education Administrators who show leadership in promoting family-school-community partnerships and student success! The deadline for nominations is almost here, so don't miss your chance to recognize a colleague by May 8.

The nomination process has been simplified, and all you need to do is provide name(s) and contact information to [cynthia.white@barrow.k12.ga.us](mailto:cynthia.white@barrow.k12.ga.us) using the Phil Pickens Nomination Packet available on the Learning Curve (**also attached here for your convenience**).

### **Assistive Technology Tech Tip:**

**Guided Access** is a built-in accessibility feature on iDevices with iOS operating system 6 or later. It helps individuals with attention and sensory challenges stay focused on the app at hand. With Guided Access, a parent, teacher, or therapist can limit a student's access to one app and/or limit the amount of time spent in an app by disabling the Home button. Access to the keyboard or touch input on certain areas of the screen can also be restricted, so taps and gestures won't distract from learning.

Tap Settings> General> Accessibility> Guided Access

For more detailed information:

[How to Restrict Things Your Kids Can Do Within Apps with Guided Access](#) and/or

Watch the YouTube video ***Guided Access on iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch-2017 (Complete Guide!)*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgW8WdmCEyY>

### **IEP FAQ:**

What is a consult service? A consultative service is a service provided by a special education teacher or speech/language pathologist directly to a student with a disability in the general education setting. The amount of time a student is served consultatively is an IEP committee decision. However, this service can only be reported for FTE if the student is served for at least half of a FTE segment on Count Day. These students should have IEP goals for which the special education teacher is collecting data during the service times.

If the special education teacher is consulting with other teachers but not providing a service directly to the student, this should be written in the IEP on the Student Supports page as a support for school personnel. It should not be written in the IEP as an IEP service.

If the service is provided in a special education separate class, it should be written in the IEP as a service in a Separate Class regardless of the amount of time. For example, an OT or PT service, provided directly to a student for 30 minutes per month or per quarter, would be a related service provided in a separate class for that amount of time.

### **Learning Disabilities Association of America 55th Annual Conference Atlanta, Georgia:**

[Learning Disabilities Association of America](#) is seeking submissions for the 2018 Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 21-24, 2018. Anyone wishing to present a poster, facilitate a table talk or present a formal lecture style presentation is invited to submit a proposal. Deadline for submissions has been extended until **May 15, 2017**. Individuals interested in having a proposal considered for the Atlanta Conference should [click here](#) and follow the steps for completing and submitting online.

**Attachment titles that were included with the May 5 Email Blast.**

 FY18 Draft 619 and 611 Federal Allocations.pdf (456 KB)

 FY18 Draft State Preschool Disability Allocations.pdf (182 KB)

 PPA Nomination Packet 2017.2pg. (1).doc (2 MB)

 Friday, May 5th Email Blast.pdf (434 KB)

Friday, May 12, 2017

Directors,

We hosted the final Directors' Webinar; you can access all recorded links and presentations on the [special education webpage](#). We are appreciative to **Jan Stevenson** (Program Manager, State Schools) and **Carly Ambler** (Title II, Part A) who shared helpful information during the webinar. Please note the **\*New\*** FY18 guidance documents on the Georgia Implementation of ESSA professional qualification and 'out-of-field' reporting requirements and access the documents on the [Title II, Part A page](#) of the GaDOE Website in the "Professional Qualifications and In-Field FY18 section.

On yesterday, I had the opportunity to engage with various stakeholders at the Third Statewide Summit for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Stakeholders discussed strategies to expand the work to improve climate in Georgia's schools and community settings.

On Wednesday, twelve students received the **2017 Student Success Award** during Superintendent Woods' Recognition Program. Join us in saluting the following students.

*Jackie Swaringim, Toombs County High School*

*Nathaniel Baker, Etowah High School*

*Somerset Vail Rabb, Union County High School*

*Samantha Pope, Carrollton High School*

*Mackenzie Kandetzki, Decatur High School*

*Brock Snyder II, Northside High School*

*Ravi Hudson, Putnam County High School*

*Ali Monga, Greenbrier High School*

*John Howard, Bleckley County High School*

*Darien Bacon Jr., South Effingham High School*

*Amber Mae Jackson, Thomas County Central High School*

*Xzadrian Moffett, Coffee High School*

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

### **Data Collections:**

The Postsecondary Outcomes Survey application will open for data entry on May 17, 2017. The list of student names has been available since mid-February. You may now enter your data in the dashboard application. The due date for submitting this data is July 31, 2017. A guidance document for completing this data collection is available on the Special Education webpage under the heading Budgets, Grants, Data Collection and Reporting titled **Postsecondary Outcomes Survey for 2015-2016 Exiters Guidance**. If you have questions about this data collection, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us).

## **Parent Mentor Partnership Conference:**



Save the Date!

2017 Annual GaPMP Kickoff Conference

September 27-29, 2017

Coastal Georgia Center

Savannah, Ga



## **Orthopedic Impaired (OI) Consortia Summer Programs:**

Please see the attached list of summer activities that are available for students and share this list with your students' parents/family or anyone that might benefit from the information. Two flyers offer more specific information about the adaptive sports programs and inclusive events that are being offered by Roswell Parks and Recreation. An additional flyer details the need for volunteers.

## **Student Records FAQ:**

What should I do if a parent declines to provide initial consent to place?

These guidelines are likely to be different from your previous practices. If you get student record errors due to previous practices being different, please submit an explanation to Data Collections prior to student record signoff to explain what has happened and request relief of the error.

- A. If a parent declines consent to place after the initial IEP is developed:
  - 1. report the initial IEP date (event 5)
  - 2. do not report an initial placement date (event 6) since the student will not be placed in special education
  - 3. do not enter a primary disability in your Student Information System
  - 4. report the date the parent declined the services (event 12), which should be on or after the initial IEP meeting
- B. If the parent later changes his/her mind and requests services:
  - 1. If the Eligibility is still current - Do a new INITIAL IEP
    - a. Report BOTH the original and the new initial IEP date (two event 5s). The second event 5 will be later than the event 12.
    - b. Report the initial placement date (event 6) which will be on or after the second initial IEP.
  - 2. If the Elig is no longer current – start over with a new consent to evaluate (event 2)

## **Attachment titles that were included with the May 12 Email Blast.**

Summer Programs List for Students with Physical and Health Disabilities.pdf (202 KB)

TR program list (3).docx (19 KB)

RAVE 2017.pdf (88 KB)

Friday, May 12th Email Blast.pdf (417 KB)

Friday, May 19, 2017

Directors,

It is hard to believe that the school year will end soon. We have accomplished so much together and are excited about the opportunities for next year. Georgia Department of Community Health Telemedicine Guidance for

Speech-language pathologists and services are now included in the updated [Telemedicine Guidance document for Medicaid](#). You may contact Tamara Wilson ([twilson@dch.ga.gov](mailto:twilson@dch.ga.gov)) with additional questions.

As we are busy planning for this summer, you should make sure that you are registered for the [Institute Designed for Educating All Students \(IDEAS\) Conference](#) and the [FY17 Federal Programs Conference](#). Yes, ESSA All About Improving Schools. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

**EMAIL BLAST**

***New Items***

[Data Collections](#)

[Call for New Special Education Directors 2017-2018 SELDA](#)

[Eligibility FAQ](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQ](#)

[Call for Proposals G-CASE](#)

***Old/Updated Items***



**Data Collections (See Attachments):**

***Timeline Reporting:*** The timelines application in the Special Education Dashboard will open next week. Please enter your cumulative Child Find and Early Childhood Transition data for the 2016-17 school year. You must be provisioned for portal and dashboard access to enter and submit data. As a reminder, this is your SPP/APR Indicator 11 and Indicator 12 data. A document with detailed instructions for submitting these data is located on the Special Education Webpage under the heading Budgets, Grants, Data Collection and Reporting. The document is titled *Child Find and Early Childhood Transition Timeline Summary Reporting Guidance*. The deadline for submitting these data is July 31, 2017. If you have questions regarding the submission of these reports, contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us).

***CEIS Reporting:*** June 30, 2017 is the deadline for districts required to conduct Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) to upload their CEIS student data. Instructions for submitting these data in the new CEIS portal are located on the Special Education Webpage under the heading Budgets, Grants, Data Collections and Reporting. The document is titled *Coordinated Early Intervening Services, Reporting Guidance*. If you have questions about CEIS reporting please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us)

***Data Conference:*** The FY18 Data Conference will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, GA August 30 – September 1, 2017. Please register as soon as possible if you plan to attend as this conference fills up quickly. Click on this link to the conference website and to register: <http://dcconference.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Student Record Reporting:** Sign-off for Student Record Reporting is June 15, 2017. Please review your Student Record Error Reports early. Attached to this Friday Email Blast are 2 Power Points designed to be tools to assist with Student Record errors. One is for GOIEP districts, and the other is for non-GOIEP districts. Instructions for using these PowerPoints as tools are included on the 2<sup>nd</sup> slide. Contact Carol Seay for assistance with student record errors at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us). Please reach out early with questions; do not wait until the sign-off deadline is imminent.

### **Call for New Special Education Directors for 2017-2018 SELDA:**

We would like to invite **NEW Special Education Directors** to attend the 2017-2018 **Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA)**. 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. Pending availability, we will open registration to district support staff. The 2017-2018 SELDA schedule will be posted soon on the [SELDA website](#).

**Click on the link to register for 2017-2018 SELDA**

[2017-2018 Special Education Leadership Development Academy \(SELDA\)](#)

### **Eligibility FAQ:**

**Question.** Is it permissible to update an eligibility report with new information?

**Answer.** It is never permissible to update an existing eligibility report with information obtained after or not discussed at the original eligibility meeting. If additional information is obtained which might impact an eligibility decision, the committee should convene and complete a redetermination to request an evaluation. Any areas which might need further evaluation should be assessed. Then a new eligibility meeting should be scheduled.

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

Q. Can the Individualized Education Program (IEP) **Team refuse** to consider assistive technology devices and services on the IEP?

A. No, all IEP teams have the responsibility to consider a student's need for assistive technology devices and services every time they meet and for specifying those devices and services if they are necessary. Therefore, it is important that IEP teams are informed of the requirements to determine if a student needs an assistive technology device and/or services.

Consideration of assistive technology should never be ignored, skipped or arbitrarily checked yes or no on the IEP. IEP Teams should understand that assistive technology devices and services are considered for all students with disabilities regardless of the type and severity of disability. There clearly needs to be a thoughtful consideration process about whether assistive technology may be needed by the student.

For detailed information on Considering Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities click [here](#).

**Call for Proposals 2017 G-CASE Fall Conference (See Attachment):**

**Everyday HEROES:  
Highly Effective Resources and Opportunities for Exceptional Students**

November 15-17, 2017

Marriott Savannah Riverfront

100 General McIntosh Blvd, Savannah, GA 31401

***Call for Proposals - Breakout Sessions***

Calling all Heroes for the G-CASE Fall Conference! We want you to share how you are partnering to provide **H**ighly **E**ffective **R**esources and **O**pportunities for **E**xceptional **S**tudents. 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 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Vendors seeking to present must submit a joint proposal with a school district that uses their product. The deadline for submitting a proposal is June 30, 2017.

**Attachment titles that were included with the May 19 Email Blast.**

 Tool for Special Ed SR Errors FY17.pptx (579 KB)

 Tool for GOEIP Districts SR errors FY17.pptx (614 KB)

 Call for Proposals Fall 2017.docx (24 KB)

 Friday, May 19th Email Blast.pdf (419 KB)

Friday, May 26, 2017

Directors,

As shared during the Directors' Webinar on May 9<sup>th</sup>, the State Schools video is now available at the link below. We encourage you to watch and share this information with others as we rediscover Georgia's State Schools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrTyGaPJ84&feature=youtu.be>

Per last Friday's email blast, we would like to update you that the CEIS Student level data will be due in the portal **by July 31<sup>st</sup>**. We have adjusted this deadline per the required edit checks associated with the new CEIS Portal Application. We appreciate your patience and look forward to your submission.

At the close of the school year, I couldn't think of a more inspirational story to share than the news release of the "[student surprised with cap and gown by a caring Griffin County special needs teacher](#)." Kimberly Wimbish supported Jamais Howard in beating the odds and earning his high school diploma, which embodies the sentiments of the Student Success work. We salute all of Georgia's teachers and students who are replicating these success stories throughout the state. Be safe and have a great holiday weekend.

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



#### EMAIL BLAST

##### ***New Items***

[Data Collections](#)

[GaPMP New Parent Mentor Orientation](#)

[Georgia's Project AWARE Newsletter](#)

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

[Call for New Special Education Directors](#)

#### **Data Collections:**

***Student Record Reporting Reminder:*** To ensure accuracy of your graduation data reporting, please check your Student Record Report SR057B *prior to superintendent sign-off (June 15)*. Every year, many districts misreport students with disabilities as graduates or graduates with the wrong diploma types. This report will display student level data (SR057C), by school, and the diploma type students are receiving. If a student is not graduating this year, he or she should not be listed in this report. Access this report by clicking on Reports Menu in the FY2017 Student Record. Select Student Reports, then select SR057A. You may then drill down to SR057B and SR057C to see student level data with diploma type. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us)

**GaPMP New Parent Mentor Orientation:**

**HATS off to the Rookies!**

The FY18 GaPMP New Parent Mentor Orientation will held August 16-17, 2017 at the Macon Marriott City Center. Special education directors or a designee are encouraged to attend along with the new parent mentors. There will be no cost to the district, but we ask that you reimburse mileage. The registration will be from 11:30 am -12:00 pm on August 16<sup>th</sup>, and the meeting will close on August 17<sup>th</sup> by 2:00 pm. Use the link below to register. If you have questions, please contact Anne Ladd, Family Engagement Specialist at [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) .

[New Parent Mentor Orientation 2017](#)

**Georgia's Project AWARE Newsletter (attachment):**

We are proud to share the latest edition of the Project AWARE Newsletter. Please note the helpful articles and promote mental health and awareness.

**Call for New Special Education Directors for 2017-2018 SELDA:**

We would like to invite **NEW Special Education Directors** to attend the 2017-2018 **Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA)**. 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. Pending availability, we will open registration to district support staff. The 2017-2018 SELDA schedule will be posted soon on the [SELDA website](#)

Click on the link below to register for 2017-2018 SELDA

[2017-2018 Special Education Leadership Development Academy \(SELDA\)](#)

**Attachment files that were included with the May 26 Email Blast.**

 GDAP-Spg17-final.pdf (1 MB)

 Friday, May 26th Email Blast.pdf (386 KB)