

November Friday Email Blast

Table of Contents

Friday, November 4, 2016	2
Friday, November 11, 2016	5
Friday, November 18, 2016	7

Friday, November 4, 2016

Directors,

It was great seeing you at the G-CASE Conference in Savannah. I believe that we are “making it happen,” and Georgia’s children will be the recipients of our greatest partnering ever. We would like to salute **Debbie Gay** (Distinguished Service to G-CASE) and **Carol Geiken** (Lillie Moncus Award – Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year) who were honored during the G-CASE Conference. In addition to these outstanding leaders, **Vickie Cleveland**, **Traci White** and **Jennifer Mellor** were recognized for their years of service on the G-CASE Executive Board. We are so proud of you and encourage you to continue the hard work.

As shared during G-CASE, we proudly announce that Georgia’s graduation rate continues to improve, which shows hard work is paying off. During FY16, 56.4% of students with disabilities graduated with a general education diploma, and 79.2% of all students graduated with a general education diploma. We encourage each of you to access the FY16 graduation rate data for SWD. You must log into the GaDOE Portal and click on Documents (select view documents). Next, select Special Education in the “Browse by Category” section. You will see a list of documents on the right side of your screen.

Click on the small pdf icon to the right of “FY16 Annual Event Rate and 4 year cohort.” If you have questions please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us

On Wednesday, local districts received their District Determinations via the GaDOE Portal notification. If there are questions, you may contact your district liaison. Also, a recent article has been published that shares important information about the state’s law suit. You may access this article by using the following link <http://investigations.blog.ajc.com/author/alanjudd/>. Have a great weekend and see you on the Directors’ Webinar ([Tuesday, November 8, 2016](#)).

Partnering for Student Success, Zolphine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Items

[New State Board Rule](#)

[Leadership in Special and Inclusive Education](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Transition Planning Survey](#)

[Assessment Webinar Updates](#)

New State Board Rule:

The State Board of Education today approved the State School Superintendent’s recommendation to [eliminate End of Course tests](#) for students in many dual enrollment courses, provided those students pass the course and receive college credit.

With the exception of 9th Grade Literature and Composition, Algebra I, Coordinate Algebra, and Biology, students are now exempt from taking the Georgia Milestones End-of-Course assessment for a core subject course if they earn a post-secondary credit in that course through dual enrollment pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-149.2 or 20-2-161.3.

Students must take the EOC in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition, Algebra I or Coordinate Algebra, and Biology due to federal laws that require assessments in math, ELA/reading, and science at least once in high school. All other high school EOCs can now be exempted for students in corresponding dual enrollment courses.

Leadership in Special and Inclusive Education: (See Attachment)

Sharing some exciting things that are happening in the special education department of the University of Kansas. The University launched an online certification program for Leadership in Special and Inclusive Education (LSIE), designed to support school leaders in creating and sustaining inclusive school environments where ALL kids can be successful. This is an excellent program that will undoubtedly position school leaders to create and sustain real school change! Contact information below for any questions or further requests:

Cynthia Mruzek, PhD

Lecturer/Academic Program Associate

[Leadership in Special & Inclusive Education Graduate Certificate](#)

University of Kansas

785-864-6986

Transition Planning Survey Guidance Now Available: (See Attached Guidance Document)

Transition Planning Survey opens on November 14, 2016.

Collection 1: November 14, 2016 - December 9, 2016

An initial review by the district to ensure compliance of randomly selected individual student transition plans - 5 to 50 students contingent on the district size. **Collection 1 is a factor in Timely Submission –Indicator 20.**

Collection 2: January 9, 2017 – January 23, 2017

State review of individual student transition plans to verify compliance. A minimum of 1 to 5 students contingent on the district size and all district reported non-compliant plans. **Compliance is determined after Collection 2 – Indicator 13.**

Collection 3: February 15, 2017 – March 3, 2017

Correction of non-compliance

Please contact Carol Seay: cseay@doe.k12.ga.us or Wina Low: wlow@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

ASSESSMENT WEBINAR UPDATES:

We encourage you to invite educators who assess students through the GAA, along with your special education district-level colleagues, to our annual GAA Mid-Fall trainings. Likewise, you are welcome to invite your Title III/ESOL colleagues to the ACCESS for ELLs sessions scheduled for mid-November 2016.

- It is important to note that the ACCESS for ELLs sessions listed below are designed to **supplement – but not replace** – the training webinars deployed by WIDA.
 - Attendance at the live or recorded GaDOE pre-administration training webinars is critically important to successful ACCESS for ELLs or Alternate ACCESS test administrations in your district – **and is a requirement** for System Test Coordinators.

Below are the links for use in pre-registering for these sessions:

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA):

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs and ACCESS for ELLs (ACCESS 2.0) Webinars:

ACCESS for ELLs Technology Q & A

Thursday, November 10, 2016; 10:00AM – 11:00AM ET

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5415773543558489090>

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Pre-Administration/Question & Answer Session

Tuesday, November 15, 2016; 10:00AM – 11:00AM ET

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5530285480547712257>

ACCESS for ELLs Pre-Administration/Question & Answer Session

Thursday, November 17, 2016; 10:00AM – 12:00PM ET

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8967575432785982721>

Important Note regarding ACCESS for ELLs sessions:

- Prior to attending the GaDOE ACCESS for ELLs webinars, it is strongly recommended to have already attended the related WIDA training sessions that you can find listed at: <https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS20.aspx#prep>

If you have other questions about ACCESS for ELLs, Alternate ACCESS for ELLs or the GAA program, you may contact Deborah Houston at dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us or by phone at (404) 657-0251/ (800) 634-4106.

Attachment titles that were included with the November 4 Email Blast.

-  FY17 Transition Planning Survey Reporting and Document Upload Guidance.pdf (1 MB)
-  LSIE-OnePager_FINAL.PDF (1 MB)
-  November 4th Email Blast.pdf (373 KB)

Friday, November 11, 2016

Directors,

As a reminder, the state offices are closed in observance of Veterans Day. As shared during the [Directors' Webinar](#), GaDOE developed a [Vision 2020 Plan](#), which includes the Student Success work. We encourage you to review this information and share with others. Attached to the blast, you will find a Dear Colleague Letter (Guidance on Dyslexia) that was published October 2015. While the guidance letter is not new, it is very timely in light of GaDOE's strategic efforts on literacy and the new [Literacy Think Tank](#). We look forward to discussing this letter with you during the next webinar.

The Department developed a new Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Portal Application, which is not currently available. The application pulls information from FTE and could not be tested until FTE was completed. The portal application will be available before Thanksgiving. Significantly Disproportionate districts must submit this student-level information by July 31, 2017.

This week, I had the opportunity to meet Casey Bethel (2017 Georgia Teacher of Year) and what an inspiring moment. He represents the hard work and relentless efforts of many Georgia teachers, and his passion is the "why" behind the work. I encourage each of you to continue to make it happen but take a moment to encourage a teacher who is on the frontline of instruction for our students. Thank you for what you do for Georgia's teachers and students.

Partnering in Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Items

[Meeting the Needs of Families with Young Children Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness](#)

[Low Cost Course for CEUs](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

[What School Counselors need to know about Special Education](#)

[Meeting the Needs of Families with Young Children Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness:](#)

A joint interagency policy statement was released October 31st from U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Education on "Meeting the Needs of Families with Young Children Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness." The policy statement can be found [here](#) for recommendations to meet the needs of this vulnerable population through stronger partnerships.

[Low Cost Course for CEUs:](#)

Access the link to learn more about a [low cost course for CEUs](#) with your Early Childhood Staff. This course is designed to demonstrate how to use embedded interventions to help children participate in a variety of early learning opportunities that promote high-quality inclusion. The course is available until December 31, 2016.

[GIMC Updates:](#)

Students who require accessible text (grade level in braille, large print, audio, and digital) and are registered with the GIMC are also registered with Bookshare and APH when appropriate to acquire print and other materials. In order for the GIMC to acquire materials from third parties, all students must have parental consent to release information on file in the local district. If you do not have a parent consent form, you can use the attached copy. This form provides districts

and the state consent to register students with outside agencies to acquire materials. The forms can also be found on the GIMC.org webpage (Educator Tab).

Districts will be required to affirm parent consent has been acquired before annual APH registration. Any student who does not have a parent consent form on file will be removed from the GIMC roster at the close of APH annual registration. It is extremely important that this process is complete **BEFORE** APH registration begins in January. Please pass this information along to any staff registering students for accessible materials with the GIMC.

What School Counselors Need to Know about Special Education:

There will be a webinar for school counselors to highlight critical information that every counselor should know about supporting students with disabilities. The webinar will be Thursday, December 1st at 1:00 pm. You may want to participate or share with other staff members for awareness.

What School Counselors Need to Know About Special Education and Students with Disabilities

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/553936533524583683>

Attachment titles that were included with the November 11 Email Blast.

 Parent Consent to Release Information GIMC.DOCX (43 KB)

 Parent Consent to Release Information GIMC.pdf (246 KB)

 Directors Webinar 11-8-16.ppt (3 MB)

 guidance-on-dyslexia-10-2015.pdf (232 KB)

 November 11th Email Blast.pdf (169 KB)

Friday, November 18, 2016

Directors,

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays! As a reminder, there will not be an email blast during the Thanksgiving break. On yesterday, special education directors received a special correspondence providing information about the Transition Survey, which is included in today's email blast, as well. Please review the information and govern yourselves accordingly.

Considering the season to give thanks, we would like to take the time to say how thankful we are for you and your hard work for Georgia's children. We recognize that there are barriers and challenges to success, but partnering proves to be a tried and true strategy. Have a safe holiday break.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelpine Smith-Dixon



Email Blast

New Items

[Transition Survey](#)

[Refreshed Experience with Online Testing Georgia Launched](#)

[Budget Update](#)

[Expansion of GaDOE's Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Program](#)

[Early Learner and Preschool Webinars](#)

Old and/or Updated Items

[GIMC Update](#)

Transition Survey:

The transition survey (Indicator 13) opened for district compliance verification submission (Collection 1) on November 14th. Although in previous years Collection 1 included only those students who were aged 16 and above, the 2016 Collection 1 student lists include ALL students who are required by Georgia Board Rule to have a transition plan as part of their IEP.

As we continue to partner to improve graduation rate and support increased student success, it is important that all IEPs for all students be compliant at all times. For that reason, districts are asked to complete their local verification for the students that are listed in the portal for compliance verification submission, regardless of age. During Collection 2, ONLY students aged 16 and above will be selected for review by DOE and reported as part of Indicator 13.

Please keep in mind that students of any age that the district reports in Collection 1 as not being in compliance (a "NO" in any area) must be reviewed by GADOE. Collection 1 closes on December 9; timely submission of this information is critical and will factor into the District Determination for Indicator 20 as well.

Refreshed Experience Online Testing Georgia Launched:

We are pleased to announce that a refreshed Experience Online Testing Georgia website is now available with a demonstration test for each of three grade bands – grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and high school – with sample items from each content area. While the 3-5 and 6-8 grade

bands will contain Science and Social Studies items, please be reminded that these two content areas will be assessed in grades 5 and 8 only. The primary purpose of this website is to provide exposure to the online platform that students will utilize when taking the Georgia Milestones tests.

The highlight of this year's refresh of the site are examples of multiple-part, multiple-select, and evidence-based selected-response items. As communicated, these item types will be operational beginning with the Winter 2016 End of Course (EOC) administration in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics and with the Spring 2017 End of Grade (EOG) and EOC. These item types will be field tested, for the first time, in Science and Social Studies in Spring 2017 for both the EOC and EOG. Items that are field tested do not impact the scores of students. In addition, questions 1-5 will illustrate the Reading & Evidence-Based Writing section of ELA.

It is important to understand that the items that comprise the demonstration tests are general in nature and reflect multiple grade levels. Given the purpose of this site is to acquaint students with the navigation of the online testing process, the items are generic and are not necessarily reflective of the range of content or challenge that students will experience when taking the actual Georgia Milestones tests.

For this public-facing site, please be aware that **Google Chrome** is the only supported browser. Using Google Chrome, these public demonstration tests can be taken on any supported device, including Windows, Mac, and Linux desktops and laptops, Chromebooks, iPads and Android devices.

Using a Chrome browser only, enter the following link to access the site: <http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>

Budget Update:

Grants Accounting has begun to input carryover funds for IDEA grants. Grants Accounting has projected the end of November to have all carryover entered. LEAs will not be notified via email but must check GAORS and the Consolidated Application to verify that carryover funds have been entered. Once LEAs receive carryover funds, budget amendments should be sent to the Division for Special Education for approval in the same manner that original budgets are submitted. Carryover funds cannot be expended until the funds are budgeted and approved. Please contact your budget liaison for additional questions.

Expansion of the GaDOE's Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Program:

Based on the success of the GaDOE's Facilitated IEP (FIEP) Team Meeting pilot project, the FIEP Team Meeting program is now expanding to other Georgia districts. Starting in January 2017, trained IEP facilitators will be available to facilitate IEP Team meetings in participating school districts free of charge. In order to become an FIEP district, the district's special education director and his/her superintendent or direct supervisor must sign a GaDOE FIEP Team meeting assurance document and return the signed assurance document to Jamila Pollard at jpollard@doe.k12.ga.us by **December 23, 2016**. A sample assurance document is attached. For more information about IEP Team Meeting Facilitation, go to <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IEP-Facilitation.aspx> or contact Jamila Pollard at (404) 657-7329.

Early Learners and Preschool Webinars (see attached Georgia SEEDS Flyer):

A series of webinars has been created that focuses on strategies for promoting social emotional development and minimizing challenging behavior in young children. While the focus of the

webinars is for early learners and preschool, many of the strategies are applicable to older students. See the attached Georgia SEEDS flyer for more information about the webinars.

GIMC Update:

In last week's email blast, the State shared an announcement of the required Parent Consent for APH registration. Attached is a FAQ document showing answers to several questions asked during this week.

Attachment titles that were included with the November 18 Email Blast.

 FIEP Pilot District Assurances Template.docx (147 KB)

 17nov2016 FAQs Parent Consent.docx (19 KB)

 FY17 Facilitated IEP Policies Manual GA updated 9-9-16 (3).pdf (203 KB)

 November 18th Email Blast.pdf (249 KB)

 SEEDS Webinar Flyer.pdf (400 KB)