

August Friday Email Blast

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Friday, August 4, 2017

Directors,

I would like to welcome **Monica Henderson** to the Division for Special Education. She joins the Results Driven Accountability Unit as a local special education administrator from Carrollton City Schools.

The first **Directors' Webinar** will be **Tuesday, August 8th** at 1:00 pm. (Registration Link: [Directors' Webinar](#))

On **Wednesday, August 9th** (10:00 am), we will host a **FY18 Professional Qualifications and In-Field under ESSA for GNETS Webinar**. This webinar will provide Georgia GNETS stakeholders with an overview of Professional Qualification and in-field requirements under ESSA. The webinar will highlight the updated and expanded in-field reporting system and monitoring processes. The registration link is below.

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7833364323720052226>

Have a great weekend.

Refueling for the Work Ahead, Zephine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Items

[Guide to help Educators and Parents talk about Learning Disabilities](#)

[eipa](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff](#)

Guide to help Educators and Parents talk about Learning Disabilities:

The [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#), along with 11 other organizations, is working to eliminate the confusion and misunderstanding that can occur when parents and educators talk about students' learning challenges. To help in that mission, the groups together have released a brief [guide](#) about using the IDEA disability category term "specific learning disability" when identifying a student as eligible for special education. Additionally, the organizations advised in the guide to use the specific terms "dyslexia," "dysgraphia," or "dyscalculia" during the evaluation, eligibility determination, and IEP stages or when describing a child's particular area of need.

It is not a legal document or even official guidance. OSERS addressed SLD terminology in 2015 when it issued a *Dear Colleague* letter, reported at [115 LRP 50994](#). In that letter, then-OSERS Assistant Secretary Michael Yudin wrote: "In implementing the IDEA requirements discussed above, OSERS encourages SEAs and LEAs to consider situations where it would be appropriate to use the terms dyslexia, dyscalculia, or dysgraphia to describe and address the child's unique, identified needs through evaluation, eligibility, and IEP documents."

The new guide explains how the different terms can work together to get at the heart of a student's struggles and help to identify appropriate supports and instructional strategies both in general and special education, the groups said. The guide also gives examples of how a combination of terms may be most helpful: "Hannah has dyslexia, a specific learning disability in reading, with primary challenges in decoding and auditory discrimination," or "Thomas has dyscalculia, a specific learning disability in the area of math. More specifically, he struggles with basic math facts and visual spatial representations of numbers."

Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA):

June 30, 2018, will be the expiration date for those who obtained their **Educational Interpreter License** when it was first required in 2013. If any of your Educational Interpreters need to take the EIPA to renew their license, they need to **PLAN AHEAD**. The EIPA Diagnostic Center is adding raters, but the wait from taking the EIPA to receiving the report/score report is currently taking more than 5 months. (e.g., A candidate who tested on January 25 received her report on July 3, 2017.)

Georgia's EIPA Administrators:

Atlanta metro and Macon ([Schedule/Registration form link](#)):

Frank Nesbit
Georgia Department of Education
404-844-8741
fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us

Valdosta: Kelly Spell
Valdosta State University
229-245-2498
kmspell@valdosta.edu

Ringgold: Jodi Upton
Heritage High School
jodieipa@gmail.com

Ga Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff Conference:

As part of the participation agreement with the GaDOE, parent mentors and their special education director (or an appointee) will attend the 2017 Kickoff conference. The registration for the conference has not yet opened, but we have attached a draft agenda and the list of accommodations so you can begin to make your plans. We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer the conference with no fee for parent mentors and their special education director (or an appointee.)

Hats Off to Family Engagement

Coastal Georgia Center
305 Fahm St.
Savannah, Ga 31404
September 27-29, 2017
Registration 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm; Opening @ 2:00 pm

Pre-Conference Session Limited Space

Dropout Prevention Strategies
Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center
Oatland Island Wildlife Center
711 Sandtown Road
Savannah, GA 31410
September 27, 2017
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

 Hats off to FE draft agenda8.3.docx (2 MB)

 FINAL.Accommodations Listings.2017 kickoff (003).docx (45 KB)

 FY18 Directors' Webinar Schedule.pdf (329 KB)

 Friday, August 7th Email Blast.pdf (485 KB)

Friday, August 11, 2017

Directors:

Thank you for tuning in for the Directors' Webinar, as well as, the FY18 Professional Qualifications/Infield Webinar for GNETS. The recording links can be accessed below. We are excited 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](#).

We love to hear and share exciting news about the work. Please don't hesitate sending us those updates for the blast. Have a great weekend.

[Directors' Webinar](#)

[FY18 Professional Qualifications/In-Field Webinar for GNETS](#)

"Refueling for the Work Ahead"

Zelphine Smith-Dixon

Email Blast

New Item(s)

[Resource Board for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#)

[The 2018 General and Special Education Conference](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

[Student Success Webinars](#)

[GVEST](#)

Old/Updated Item(s)

[Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff Conference](#)

[Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#)

[The Resource Board for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities:](#)

Much of the Resource Board for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities has been moved to the Teacher Resource Link that is accessible through the SLDS – NO PASSWORD REQUIRED! Here is the link to an informational video prepared by SLDS/TRL staff: <http://bit.ly/AccessOneNote>.

Language Arts and Mathematics activities are available through the TRL; Science and Social Studies activities vetted this spring are now posted. More Science/Social Studies materials will be available soon. Please share this information with teachers and therapists who work with students with significant cognitive disabilities.

[The 2018 General and Special Education Conference \(see attached brochure\):](#)

When: March 7-9 2018

Location: Seattle, Washington

[GIMC Updates:](#)

New resource for vision teachers - The Atlanta Braille Volunteers (ABVs) are offering support to Georgia teachers by transcribing classroom materials. The volunteers would like to pilot this effort to see if it is a viable support for TVIs across the state. To find more information, visit this [ABV page link](#).

Tips for online textbooks- Teachers are searching for alternative text for students to access the curriculum when it is not accessible online. Be sure to search the GIMC repository for a book that is already in production instead of requesting a new transcription. This saves time and money, as well as, get books in the hands of students in an efficient manner.

As a proactive measure, be sure to have input on any newly adopted online curriculum. A link to CAST's information [Purchase Accessible Learning Materials \(PALM initiative\)](#) is provided on the Educator Page of the [GIMC website](#).

Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar:

The ***Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar*** will be ***Tuesday, August 15, 2017 @ 1:00 pm for Districts and 3:00 pm for Schools***. The purpose of the webinar is to share important updates and provide support for your district and school implementation of the Student Success process. Below you will find the registration links for the August Leadership Launch Webinars.

Registration Links for August 15th

SSIP Leadership Launch for Districts

Join us for a webinar on Aug 15, 2017 at 1:00 PM EDT.

Register now!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7170274149970032643>

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

SSIP Leadership Launch for Schools

Join us for a webinar on Aug 15, 2017 at 3:00 PM EDT.

Register now!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2781851664144039171>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Please contact Wina Low wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or Vickie Cleveland vcleveland@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training (GVEST):

Teachers of the Visually Impaired in Georgia will have an exceptional and rare opportunity for professional learning during GVEST. GVEST is planned through a cooperative effort among the Georgia Academy for the Blind, the Georgia Sensory Assistance Project, Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind, and the GaDOE. Please encourage all of your vision education professionals to attend. Specific information appears below and in the attached flyer.

When: October 18 -20, 2017

Where: Middle Georgia State University Conference Center in Macon

What: World-class presenters in the field for 2 ½ days for only \$130.00

Register: www.GVEST.org

Ga Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff Conference:

As part of the participation agreement with the GaDOE, parent mentors and their special education director (or an appointee) will attend the 2017 Kickoff conference. The registration for the conference has not yet opened, but we have attached a draft agenda and the list of accommodations so you can begin to make your plans. We are pleased to announce that we

are able to offer the conference with no fee for parent mentors and their special education director (or an appointee.)

Hats Off to Family Engagement

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Pre-Conference Session Limited Space

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September 27, 2017
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute – Register Now:



Welcome back to school! The [2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#) is just six weeks away. Make plans to attend and register now! This conference is hosted by the Georgia Department of Education at the beautiful Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta on September 17-19, 2017.

The \$125 conference rate includes the Pre-Institute Sessions! [Register now](#) and reserve your hotel room.

GELI 2017 is designed to provide timely and highly informative sessions to support your efforts in districts across Georgia. You will also notice ample time in the schedule to network and speak with presenters. Review the [GELI 2017](#) schedule online.

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

 2018 Seattle brochure draft.pdf (1 MB)

 Hats off to FE draft agenda8.3.docx (2 MB)

 NAEYC_georgiateachers.pdf (164 KB)

 FINAL.Accommodations Listings.2017 kickoff (003).docx (45 KB)

 Register for GVEST 2017.docx (39 KB)

 Friday, August 11th Email Blast.pdf (362 KB)

Friday, August 18, 2017

Directors,

The Special Education State Advisory Panel will meet at the Macon Marriott on August 24-25, 2017. Meetings are open to the public, and the meeting agenda can be accessed on the [SAP Webpage](#). Also, public comments for the SAP meeting can be submitted until 4 p.m. (at least three business days before the meeting). You may access the [public comment online survey](#) or use the form on the [SAP webpage](#).

On Monday, the Department submitted Georgia's State ESSA Plan to Governor Deal for his 30-day review, per ESSA requirements. As a reminder, the plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on September 18th. The submitted information has been added to [GaDOE.org/ESSA](#) for public review.

Thank you for tuning in for the FY18 Budget Planning Webinar on August 11th. The recording can be accessed using the following link: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>.

Remember to follow us on twitter (@GaDOESped) and like us on Facebook ([Georgia Department of Education Special Education](#)).



[GaDOESped Calendar](#)

Refueling for the Work Ahead,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

NEW ITEMS

[Georgia Alternate Assessment \(GAA\) Fall 2017 Training](#)

[Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program Sessions \(GATTAP\)](#)

[SSTAGE 2017 Fall Conference](#)

[Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar Recordings, Powerpoints and Guide](#)

OLD/UPDATED ITEMS

[Data Collections](#)

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff](#)

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Fall 2017 Training (See Attachment):

In preparation for the 2017-2018 administration of the GAA, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will conduct pre-assessment training online in August 2017. The purpose of these webinars is to provide information to guide the appropriate system-level and school-level staff in the development of portfolios that showcase the achievement and progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program Sessions (GATTAP) (See Attachment):

Sessions are **FREE** for your teachers and therapists who work with students with Autism. Districts are only responsible for travel expenses!

Topics include 1.) Working Effectively with Paraprofessionals, 2.) Recognizing Cognitive Differences in Students with Autism, 3.) Working with High Functioning Students with Autism, and 4.) Partnering with Parents of Students with Autism.

Locations this year include Albany, Ellijay, Hinesville, Jonesboro, Perry, and Waycross. Session facilitators are outstanding, as are the corresponding autism internet modules that serve as the framework for each session. Participants thoroughly enjoy time spent creating materials they can use the very next day in their classrooms, as well as, the opportunity to network with job-alike peers.

SSTAGE 2017 Fall Conference (See Attachment):

SSTAGE, in Partnership with the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Council of Administrators for Special Education, presents the SSTAGE Fall Conference September 14-15, 2017.

DuBose Porter Center
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Dublin, GA

Student Success Leadership Launch Webinar Recordings, PowerPoints and Guide (See Attachments):

The *Student Success Leadership Launch Webinars* were held on be *Tuesday, August 15, 2017* at *1:00 pm* for *Districts* and *3:00 pm* for *Schools*. The webinars provided important updates and support for district and school implementation of the Student Success process. Below you will find the links to the recordings. Please contact Wina Low wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or Vickie Cleveland vcleveland@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

[SSIP Leadership Launch for Schools](#)

[SSIP Leadership Launch for Districts](#)

Data Collections:

Continuation of Services: Twenty districts have yet to submit Continuation of Services (COS) data in the Special Education Dashboard. If applicable to your district, please view your COS application and submit your data by August 31, 2017. Respond by reporting if and how compensatory services were provided to students with disabilities who were suspended out of school for greater than 10 days in the 2016-2017 school year. Your application will say "Available for Data Collection" or "In Process" if you need to respond to this data request. If you have questions please contact Monica Henderson at mhenderson@doe.k12.ga.us or Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us

Data Collection Conference: The Data Collections Conference will be held August 29 – September 1, 2017 at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. If you are attending, please see the updated Agenda at a Glance available on the Data Collections website <http://dcconference.gadoe.org/Pages/Sessions.aspx>. Click on 'SESSIONS-AT-A-GLANCE.

Timelines Reminder: For the districts who were not at 100% in compliance for initial timeline data submission, remember that Timelines Prong 1 Data are due August 25, 2017. Also, for districts who were selected for Timeline verification, the verification data are due on August 25, 2017.

An additional reminder about referrals from Babies Can't Wait (BCW), please request a GTID for every student referred from BCW. A GTID may be requested for any student who is at least 2 ½ years old regardless of enrollment status. If you have questions please contact Ron Washington at rWASHINGTON@doe.k12.ga.us or Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us

Ga Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff Conference:

As part of the participation agreement with the GaDOE, parent mentors and their special education director (or an appointee) will attend the 2017 Kickoff conference. The registration for the conference is *now open*. We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer the conference with no fee for parent mentors and special education directors (or appointees). While there is no fee for attendees, there is still a cost associated with the conference.

[Parent Mentor Conference Registration](#)

Hats Off to Family Engagement!

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

-  GAA Fall Training Memo 2017_FINAL.PDF (796 KB)
-  GATTAP 2017-2018.docx (31 KB)
-  District Webinar August 2017 Final.pptx (4 MB)
-  School Webinar August 2017 Final.pptx (3 MB)
-  Student Success Implementation Guide (Full Document) Final August 10 2017 (2).pdf (2 MB)
-  SSTAGE 2017 Fall Conference Flyer (3) (1).pdf (945 KB)
-  Friday, August 18th Email Blast.pdf (287 KB)

Friday, August 25, 2017

Directors,

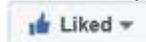
The Special Education State Advisory Panel met this week and supported great work on behalf of our children with disabilities. Carol Seay shared the new disproportionality regulations with the Panel and requested stakeholder feedback on the following areas: minimum cell size, minimum N-size, Risk Ratio Threshold, Number of Years for Risk Ratio and Flexibility to reward progress. We look forward to sharing this feedback and developing Georgia's plan.

The Department submitted Georgia's State ESSA Plan to Governor Deal for his 30-day review, per ESSA requirements. As a reminder, the plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on September 18th. The submitted information has been added to GaDOE.org/ESSA for public review.

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) regarding the 1.0 percent participation cap put in place under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). With the implementation of ESSA, states are limited to a 1.0 percent cap on *participation* of students in alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards. Such assessments are designed specifically for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities; in our state, this is the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA).

Earlier this year, USDOE released a Dear Colleague Letter relevant to eligibility determinations for children suspected of having a visual impairment including blindness under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). We will discuss the DCL in an upcoming Directors' Webinar. Remember to follow us on twitter (@GaDOESped) and like us on Facebook ([Georgia](#)

[Department of Education Special Education](#)).



[GaDOESped Calendar](#)

Refueling for the Work Ahead,

Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

[TASH Atlanta Conference Highlights](#)

[GVEST](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[GATTAP \(2017-18\)](#)

TASH Atlanta Conference Highlights:

Wednesday workshops and other events will focus on employment! Thursday morning will start first thing with the opening Plenary Session featuring Rud and Ann Turnbull sharing their story of building an inclusive life for their son! Thursday's mini-lunch topics include: Families and Siblings; Self-Advocates; Employment; Inclusive Education; Communication Access; and Human Rights! TASH's Self-Advocacy Committee will be selling TASH Socks to wear at Thursday night's Reception and SOCK HOP. Wednesday's Membership and Awards Lunch is free for anyone who is a member of TASH!

Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training (GVEST):

Teachers of the Visually Impaired in Georgia will have an exceptional and rare opportunity for professional learning during GVEST. GVEST will offer sessions covering much needed topics: Cortical Visual Impairment, Orientation & Mobility, Low Vision Instruction, and Assistive Technology for VI. Please encourage all of your vision education professionals to attend. Specific information appears below and in the attached flyer.

When: October 18-20, 2017

Where: Middle Georgia State University Conference Center in Macon

What: World-class presenters in the field for 2 ½ days for only \$130.00

Register: www.GVEST.org

Data Collections:

CEIS: Districts with Significant Disproportionality and resulting implementation of Coordinated Early Intervening Services must submit their CEIS plans in the CEIS application by Thursday August 31, 2017. **Please note:** The requirement to submit object codes in the budget portion of your plan has been removed. Moving forward, report the Funding Category from the drop-down box and provide a brief explanation of each expenditure in that category. If you have already submitted your plan, you do not have to amend the CEIS Budget Plan portion. Please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

Continuation of Services (COS) Data: August 31, 2017 is the deadline to submit Continuation of Services (COS) data in the Special Education Dashboard. Seventeen (17) districts have yet to submit COS data. If you have questions regarding this submission, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us or Monica Henderson at mhenderson@doe.k12.ga.us

GATTAP 2017-2018:

Do you have either new or returning teachers of students with autism who would benefit from targeted professional learning and peer support? The attached flyer describes session topics, but participants will learn so much more. Please invite your staff to attend.

Attachment titles that were included with the August 25 Email Blast.

 Flyer - Request for Proposals.docx (33 KB)

 GATTAP 2017-2018.docx (31 KB)

 OSEP_Letter_VI_Eligibility_05-22-17.pdf (236 KB)

 Alternate Assessment Cap Waiver Public Notice - 2017.08.22.pdf (286 KB)

 Friday, August 25th Email Blast.pdf (338 KB)