

February Friday Email Blast

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Friday, February 2, 2018

Directors,

I would like to extend an invitation for two local directors from each GLRS region to participate in a rescheduled Directors' Forum during the 2018 G-CASE Spring Conference in Athens. The Directors' Forum will take place on Monday, March 5th from 9:30 am – 11:30 am in Olympia 1. This opportunity will minimize travel and allow us to obtain feedback concerning several topics. I look forward to engaging with all directors at some point during the conference.

Join me in welcoming Melissa Cochran (Career Specialist Coordinator) and Sherese Dennard (CTAE Career Specialist Coordinator) to the GaDOE family per the GVRA/GaDOE partnership and commitment to students with disabilities. Both Melissa and Sherese are GVRA employees who will support Transition and Career Pathways via a joint partnership between the Division for Special Education and CTAE.

The upcoming Directors' Webinar will be February 13th; don't forget to register using the following link <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1994736577175534082>.

We invite you to save the date for the following activities:

June 12-14, 2018: Federal Programs Conference (Georgia International Convention Center)

October 10-12, 2018: Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training (GVEST)

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Dr. Sara Lazari (Lowndes County Schools)** who works with students, parents and teacher. She does an excellent job providing supports for students with severe emotional and/or behavioral disorders by researching strategies that will improve discipline and academics. She meets regularly with teachers reviewing data to close achievement gaps. She has a special touch with parents and provides continuity between school and home.

Dr. Lazari is a teacher leader who allows others to engage as stakeholders. She has invested countless hours working directly with students to ensure access to positive behavioral interventions and supports. There has been a drastic decrease in discipline and office referrals. Dr. Lazari is an "Extraordinary" Person. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

Creating Equitable Pathways for Student Success,

Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Data Collections](#)

[Student Success Videos](#)

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application](#)

[Curriculum and Instruction Update](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Special Education State Advisory Panel Application](#)

Data Collections:

The following applications are now open in the Special Education Dashboard: Timelines, Preschool Outcomes, Postsecondary Outcomes and Parent Survey. Directors may view the number Parent Surveys that have been completed online and the responses submitted. We strongly suggest that you encourage the completion of the survey online. This will provide you and your district valuable data and information you can use to improve parental involvement in your district. The parent survey is open until May 15, 2018.

Data for the other 3 applications that opened are due July 31, 2018. You are encouraged to open the Postsecondary Outcomes application and view the students that you are required to contact and begin planning the best way to achieve a high rate of response. If you have questions about any of these Special Education applications or any other data question, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us

Student Success Videos on Parent to Parent of Georgia Website:

As part of the State Personnel Development Grant, Parent to Parent has developed five videos to assist parents in accessing resources to assist in the transition process and to increase graduation rate. Links to the videos are listed below.

Move On When Ready (*Transition Planning page under Transitions*)

<http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php/transitions-in-childhood>

How Can GVRA Help My Child? (*Under Employment on Job Training Page*)

<http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php/job-training>

Accessing accommodations for Post-secondary settings. (*On Continuing with School in Transitions on Roadmap*)

<http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php/continuing-with-school>

What is Self-determination? (*Youth Self Advocacy in Youth Launch pad*)

<http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php/youth-self-advocacy>

What are Soft Skills and Why are they Important? (*Youth Resources in Youth Launch pad*)

<http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php/youth-resources>

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application for Participation:

The application for participation in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) for FY19 is available ([see attachment](#)) and is due back to the GaDOE by March 1, 2018. Once again, we will ask that both districts who currently have a parent mentor and those who will be new to the partnership return a signed application for participation.

Scan the signed FY19 GaPMP Application and reference your district name in the file name.

LINK for uploading application for submission: [FY19 GaPMP Application Submission](#).

This link will be posted at www.gadoe.org on the Special Education Services and Supports webpage. Application and instructions for submitting are attached.

Curriculum and Instruction Update (C&I Newsletter attached):

Georgia's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was approved! Georgia was [highlighted by the U.S. Department of Education](#) for rewarding schools that make significant progress with traditionally underserved subgroups. Georgia was also praised for creating an accountability system that expands opportunities for students and supports the whole child.

- [Read the U.S. Department of Education's Press Release](#)
- [Read Georgia's Final Approved Plan](#)
- [Learn More About Georgia's ESSA Process](#)

Special Education State Advisory Panel (SAP):

We are excited to announce that the Special Education State Advisory Panel FY19 membership application is currently available on the [SAP public webpage](#). Interested applicants must submit applications by March 19th.

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

 FY19 GaPMP Application upload instructions.pptx (145 KB)

 FY19GaPMPApplication.1.31.doc (297 KB)

 Curriculum-and-Instruction-January-2018-Newsletter.pdf (511 KB)

 Friday, February 2nd Email Blast.pdf (283 KB)

Friday, February 9, 2018

Directors,

In an attempt to foster family and community engagement, Anne Ladd (Family Engagement Specialist) and I will collaborate with local districts in several areas to attend “Hats off for Student Success” engagement sessions. My first stop was New Hampstead High School (Chatham County and surrounding districts). I thoroughly enjoyed chatting with students, teachers, leaders, families and advocacy groups. We are all in the relay for student success TOGETHER! My next stop will be Muscogee County this Thursday. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter to find out more information.



Join us in celebrating **Vickie Cleveland** who will shift roles and serve as the GNETS Program Manager. We are excited to have her leadership in this area. The upcoming Directors’ Webinar will be February 13th; don’t forget to register using the following link

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1994736577175534082>.



This week’s “Extra” recognition goes to Georgia’s Parade of Stars represented by numerous school districts with participating GraduateFIRST and Student Success schools. Chatham County, Dougherty County, Troup County, Gainesville City, DeKalb County, and Hall County shared personal journeys of student success during breakout sessions. However, all districts were featured as a culminating activity for Georgia’s Parade of Stars. Embrace the concept that “small steps matter” and know that your hard work to improve results for students with disabilities is appreciated.

Let’s share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The “Extra” Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

Creating Equitable Pathways for Student Success,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

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New Items

[Updates and Enhancements to the CLIP](#)

[IDEAS 2018](#)

[Disproportionality Forum Registration](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application](#)

[Special Education State Advisory Panel Application](#)

Updates and Enhancements to the CLIP:

Following the approval of Georgia's ESSA state plan on January 18, we're able to move fully into implementation.

As you know, the CLIP is Georgia's consolidated district application for federal funds. During the initial CLIP rollout in FY18, we had the opportunity to gather feedback from many of your districts and make refinements to the process to better serve you.

Updates to the CLIP for FY19 include:

- A new online CLIP application that is fully integrated within the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) – this option will give you seamless access to your district's data as you move through the CLIP's Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and District Improvement Plan process
- A streamlined CLIP, available for districts which already have a locally developed school improvement process in place, and wish to utilize that process as the basis for their CLIP application
- An amendment option for districts to revise their FY18 CLIP.

Please see the attachment to this email for more detailed information about the new CLIP options. Over the next several weeks, we will offer additional opportunities for districts to learn more about the CLIP and related requirements for submission to GaDOE.

IDEAS 2018:

Registration for the IDEAS 2018 conference is now open. Interested attendees can register by going to the [IDEAS webpage link](#). The conference will be from June 5-June 8, 2018 at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's Island, GA. All teachers are encouraged to attend this information packed conference. There is no cost for registration. Lodging information can also be found on the [IDEAS webpage link](#). Proposals for presentations and nominations for teacher awards are being accepted. Additional information is also available on the [IDEAS webpage link](#).

Disproportionality Forum Registration:

In order to assist your district in addressing disproportionality, we are inviting you to register your team for the 2018 GaDOE Disproportionality Forum on March 16th at the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta. Please see the attached information, which contains all details and the registration link.

The forum will feature districts who have made a difference in their disproportionality data along with additional technical assistance from the IDEA Data Center and GaDOE staff.

Awards of Excellence:

It's time for Special Educators in each school district to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of a graduating senior. Accomplishments can be in the areas of academics, athletics, career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, and/or community service. All nominees will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. One student from each GLRS district and his/her family will be invited to Superintendent Richard Woods' Recognition Ceremony on Monday, May 7th at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta. The ceremony is heartwarming and means a great deal to honorees and their families. Don't miss this opportunity to spotlight a deserving senior from your district! Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 30, 2018. Questions? Contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us.

Registration: [Awards of Excellence](#)

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application for Participation:

The application for participation in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) for FY19 is available (see attachment) and is due back to the GaDOE by March 1, 2018. Once again, we will ask that both districts who currently have a parent mentor and those who will be new to the partnership return a signed application for participation.

Scan the signed FY19 GaPMP Application and reference your district name in the file name.

LINK for uploading application for submission: [FY19 GaPMP Application Submission](#).

This link will be posted at www.gadoe.org on the Special Education Services and Supports webpage.

Application and instructions for submitting are attached.

Special Education State Advisory Panel (SAP):

We are excited to announce that the Special Education State Advisory Panel FY19 membership application is currently available on the [SAP public webpage](#). Interested applicants must submit applications by March 19th.

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

 DU4JokqUQAAsnuQ.JPG (163 KB)

 parade of stars.jpg (2 MB)

 GaDOE Disproportionality and TA Announcement.docx (23 KB)

 GaDOE FY19 CLIP Guidance 1.30.2018.pdf (794 KB)

 Friday, February 9th Email Blast.pdf (403 KB)

Friday, February 16, 2018

Directors,

Thank you for tuning in for the Directors' Webinar. Unfortunately, we were unable to record on Tuesday. We will rerecord the content and make the archived recording link available as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for completing the Professional Learning Prioritization Survey by **February 23, 2018**. Results of the survey will be utilized to determine regional and statewide professional learning needs for FY19. Please review the attached PowerPoint with statewide data prior to completing the survey. The survey will take approximately five (5) minutes to complete.

Survey Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/Z3Kht7nTR1G0M56s2>



This week's "Extra" recognition goes to Mr. Vinson Davis, Principal @ Monroe Comprehensive High School (Dougherty County School District). Mr. Davis presented at the GaDOE's Parade of Stars professional learning and shared powerful words of wisdom. Mr. Davis discussed how to leverage voice, vision and leadership. When these components for student success are consistent, turnover rates and attrition will not change the culture of expectations. One strategy that resonated with me was the implementation of Monday Mindset Meetings. Of course, who needs one more meeting-right? However, the mindset meeting created a collaborative opportunity to standardized expectations and

keep the main thing...the main thing. Mr. Davis, you are a "walking, talking vision statement," and we appreciate you.

Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things.](#)

Creating Equitable Pathways for Student Success,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

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New Items

[GaDOE State Vision and Hearing Coordinators](#)

[Parent to Parent of Georgia Trainings](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Disproportionality Forum Registration](#)

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application](#)

[IDEAS Updates](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

GaDOE STATE VISION AND HEARING COORDINATORS:

We would like to remind you of the ongoing collaboration between the Division for Special Education and Division for State Schools. The new contacts for Visual Impairment and Deaf/Hard of Hearing are listed below and will be updated per the webpage.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH)

Vanessa Robisch
Georgia Department of Education
Suite 1566B Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-558-3864 Cell
vrobisch@doe.k12.ga.us

Vision Impairment (VI)

Zel Murray
Georgia Department of Education
Suite 1566B Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
478.751.6083 Ext. 3634
FAX: 866.237.5968
zmurray@doe.k12.ga.us

Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) Trainings:

The following trainings will be provided by Georgia's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI)-Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P). Below are the dates and districts who are in close proximity to the location. Informational flyers for sharing are attached. This training will be done in Spanish and English. Attached are both the Spanish and English flyers.

February 19, 2017

Georgia Medicaid Basics & HCBS
Dougherty, Lee, Baker, Mitchell, and Terrell

February 20, 2018:

Transition to Adult Healthcare
Dougherty, Lee, Baker, Mitchell, and Terrell

February 22, 2018:

Peace, Love and Harmony
Bartow, Cherokee, Floyd, Gilmer and Pickens

Disproportionality Forum Registration Now Open:

In order to assist your district in addressing the issues of disproportionality, we are inviting you to register your team for the 2018 GaDOE Disproportionality Forum, scheduled for March 16th at the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta. Please see the attached information, which contains all details and the registration link.

The forum will feature districts who have made a difference in their disproportionality data along with additional technical assistance from the IDEA Data Center and GaDOE staff. To encourage participation in the forum, the DOE will reimburse mileage at the state rate of .545 for up to two vehicles per district. Appropriate forms will be available on site on March 16th.

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application for Participation:

The application for participation in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) for FY19 is available and is due back to the GaDOE by March 1, 2018. Once again we will ask that both

districts who currently have a parent mentor and those who will be new to the partnership return a signed application for participation.

- Download application
- Have application signed
- Scan the signed FY19 GaPMP Application and reference your district name in the file name

LINK to the Application
[FY19 GaPMP Application for Participation](#)

LINK for uploading application for submission:
[FY19 GaPMP Application Submission](#)

These links are posted at www.gadoe.org on the Special Education Services and Supports webpage.

IDEAS Updates:

Please consider nominating someone in your district for an award presented at the IDEAS conference. This is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate the great work being done at a local level. Additional information can be found on the [IDEAS Webpage](#). Please see attached document for brief award descriptions.

Awards of Excellence:

The Department of Special Student Services and Supports is asking Special Education Directors in **each** school district to nominate one deserving senior to receive a Student Success award. Accomplishments can be in academics, athletics, career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, and/or community service. One student from each GLRS district and his/her family will be invited to attend Superintendent Richard Woods' Awards of Excellence ceremony in Atlanta on **Monday, May 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 30, 2018. Contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us. **Don't miss out on this opportunity for a senior in your school district to shine!**

Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)

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

-  GaDOE Disproportionality and TA Announcement.docx (21 KB)
-  IDEAS award information.pdf (128 KB)
-  4 DHS-DFCS GA Medicaid Basics Home & Comm Based Services 09.2014 updated....pdf (172 KB)
-  10. DHS-DFCS Transition to Adult Healthcare 09.2014 sue 2-20-18 updated.pdf (171 KB)
-  2 Spanish- DHS-DFCS Peace Love & Harmony Paz, Amor y Armonia 09.08.2014pdf (171 KB)
-  2 Spanish- DHS-DFCS Peace Love & Harmony Paz, Amor y Armonia 09.08.2014pdf (171 KB)
-  2 Spanish- DHS-DFCS Peace Love & Harmony Paz, Amor y Armonia 09.08.2014pdf (171 KB)
-  APR Data February 2018 -Review before PL Survey.pptx (2 MB)
-  IMG_E5561.jpg (957 KB)
-  Friday, February 16th Email Blast.docx (73 KB)