

# March Friday Email Blast

## Table of Contents

Friday, March 2, 2018.....	2
Friday, March 9, 2018.....	5
Friday, March 16, 2018.....	7
Friday, March 23, 2018.....	10

Friday, March 2, 2018

Directors,

It was great seeing you at GCEL this past week, and I look forward to our collaboration on next week at Spring GCASE. The representatives for the Directors' Forum will meet from 9:30 am – 11:30 am in Olympia 1 on Monday morning during Spring GCASE.

Thank you for completing the Professional Learning Prioritization Survey; the survey information will provide helpful feedback and suggestions as we establish priorities for next year. We would like to share a Georgia Alternate Assessment FAQ with you; we will follow up during the next Directors' Webinar.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to Mr. Chris Horton at the Georgia Department of Education. As some of you may already know, today is Chris' last day as he will prioritize the needs of his family. Chris has been such a valuable player for the Department and often provides words of encouragement for the work. He has been a trailblazer in establishing a special education helpdesk to support families and local school districts. Chris has never met a stranger because he values the conversations and interactions and makes each person feel like an MVP. We will certainly miss Chris and wish him even better days moving forward.

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***

[\*Facilitated IEP \(FIEP\) Team Meeting Application for Participation\*](#)

[\*Parent to Parent of Georgia Trainings\*](#)

[\*Georgia PMP Applications\*](#)

[\*Data Collections\*](#)

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

[\*Disproportionality Forum\*](#)

[\*Transition Webinar\*](#)

[\*Awards of Excellence\*](#)

[\*IDEAS 2018\*](#)

### **Facilitated IEP (FIEP) Team Meeting Application for Participation:**

The application for participation in the FIEP Team meeting program is available (attached) and due back to the GaDOE by **May 1, 2018**. Both districts who currently participate in the FIEP program and those who will be new to the FIEP program are required to complete a signed application for participation (signed by the special education director and superintendent.) The application and the link for submitting will be posted on the GaDOE website.

- Download application (attached)
- Have application signed
- Scan the signed application and reference your district name in the file name

- LINK for uploading application for submission:

[FIEP Team Meeting Application Submission](#)

### **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 of the training. Informational flyers for sharing are attached.

**March 5, 2018** - What a Great IDEA!

*Coweta, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, and Talbot*

**March 8, 2018** - Keys to the First Job

*Walton, Newton, Jasper, and Butts*

**March 13, 2018** - Peace, Love, Harmony

*Dallas, Hiram, and Braswell*

**March 13, 2018** - Peace, Love, Harmony

*Bryan, Liberty, Chatham, Appling and Glynn*

**March 14, 2018** - Ga Medicaid Basics Home & Community Based Services

*Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Henry and Newton*

**March 15, 2018** - Transition to Adult Healthcare

*Cobb, Cherokee, Dawson, Haralson and Paulding*

### **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Application for Participation:**

The application for participation in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) for FY19 was due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have not done so, please submit your application. We asked 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](http://www.gadoe.org) on the [Special Education Services and Supports webpage](#).

### **Data Collections:**

A new Student Record Safety Level File Report is now available. SR Report DIS097 will display discipline events that resulted in ISS, OSS or expulsion for students with disabilities. These data are available at the school and student level. Directors may use this report to verify discipline events being reported prior to sign-off in June. These data inform significant disproportionality determinations for discipline. You must have access to Student Record in your district to view the report. Navigate to the SR Reports Menu from the main SR menu. Click on Student Safety Reports. Select DIS097 SWD System Totals by Discipline Action. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **Disproportionality Forum Registration:**

There are still a few spaces available for the 2018 GaDOE Disproportionality Forum, which is scheduled for March 16th at the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta. Please see the attachment for the forum details and the registration link. Please register your team no later than March 12<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### **Transition Webinar Series (see attachments):**

The Georgia Department of Education's Division for Special Education Services and Supports will host a webinar series for transition during the 2017-2018 school year. All webinars will be scheduled from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. Please register prior to the webinar so that you will receive a link to the recording. The archived link will be posted in the Email Blast and posted at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Updates-and-Emails.aspx>

### **Awards of Excellence (invitation attached):**

You and your staff have dedicated your lives to supporting students with disabilities, and the time is **NOW** to celebrate! We at the GaDOE are honored to recognize one outstanding senior from every school district in Georgia. Keep those online nominations coming! The application process will take 10 minutes to complete; the pride and joy will last a lifetime! **Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)**

### **IDEAS 2018:**

The due date for proposals for the IDEAS 2018 (June 5 – 8, 2018) conference is March 16, 2018. Encourage ANY of your district's staff to take less than 30 minutes to submit a proposal and share the effective practices happening in your classrooms.

### **Attachment titles that were included with the March 2 Email Blast.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  P2P Trainings March.pdf (288 KB)                                      |  FIEP Team meeting Application for Participation.pdf (147 KB)   |
|  GaDOE Disproportionality and TA Announcement.docx (21 KB)             |  Facilitated IEP Policies Manual GA updated 3-1-18.pdf (172 KB) |
|  3_1_18 Email Blast Submission Transition Webinars.docx (20 KB)        |  5-7-18 Invitation.pub (172 KB)                                 |
|  GAIPSEC DOE Transition Webinar 2.27.18 (003).pptx (5 MB)              |  Friday, March 2nd Email Blast.pdf (381 KB)                     |
|  Georgia Alternate Assessment For Review 2282018 (FAQ) 4_.pdf (265 KB) |  |

Friday, March 9, 2018

Directors

It was great seeing you at Spring G-CASE in Athens and collaborating with you at the Directors' Forum. The next [Directors' Webinar](#) will be Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm. While we were unable to rerecord the February Directors' Webinar, the presentation is attached to the blast.

Thank you for completing the Professional Learning Prioritization Survey; a summary of this information is attached to the email blast and was discussed during the Directors' Forum.

It is the position of the Georgia Department of Education that teachers must hold special education certification in alignment with the teacher's current assignment. LEAs may use the GaPSC special education certification rules and in-field statements to determine the proper special education credentials required. In addition, teachers issuing grades must hold content certification (or equivalent credentials) at the grade level in which the teacher is issuing grades.

If a teacher is teaching students identified as having a "cognitive" level lower than grade level, the teacher may hold content certification (or equivalent credentials) at a lower grade level band to match the cognitive level. The teacher must hold the highest level credentials warranted by the students in the class in which the teacher is issuing grades. It is important to note that a cognitive level lower than grade level is different than student performance/achievement level below grade level expectations.

Teachers issuing grades will be considered out-of-field for ESSA and IDEA reporting requirements if they do not hold content certification (or equivalent credentials) at the grade level in which the teacher is issuing grades. Attached to the blast, you will find the FY18 Spring Regional PQ In-Field Optional Training schedule.

Creating Equitable Pathways for Student Success,  
**Zelphine Smith-Dixon**

**EMAIL BLAST**

***New Items***

[GIMC Updates](#)

[GVEST 2018](#)

[Georgia PMP Phil Pickens Leadership Award](#)

***Old/Updated Items***

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[Parent to Parent of Georgia Trainings](#)

**GIMC Updates:**

The Visio book is no longer offered by American Printing House (APH). Only those in current circulation throughout the state will be available for student loan. The MATT Connect (Prodigy) will be offered only on short term loan (6 weeks) for evaluation purposes.

**GVEST – 2018 Focus on Success (See Attachment):**

The Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training will happen October 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Make plans to attend. The conference will again be held at Middle Georgia State University Conference Center in Macon.

### **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Phil Pickens Leadership Award:**

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is accepting nominations for the Phil Pickens Leadership Award. The Phil Pickens Leadership Award is a statewide honor to recognize outstanding leadership in the collaborative work to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, outstanding contributions to the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership, and consistent leadership accomplishments in special education. The award is named after the founder of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership, Mr. Phil Pickens, and is given annually at our statewide Kickoff Conference in Savannah.

The nomination form is attached. Please consider nominating a parent mentor or special education administrator for this special recognition. For more information check out the website [www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org).

2017 Winners

Mary Kay Berry, Director (White County School District)  
Jackie McNair, Parent mentor (Gwinnett County School District)

### **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:**

Please submit nominations for Awards of Excellence, which can spotlight academic accomplishments and/or accomplishments in the areas of career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, military/community service, and/or athletics. Don't miss out on this opportunity for a senior in your school district to shine!

Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 30, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Reagin at [dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us). **Registration Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)**

### **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 of the training. Informational flyers for sharing are attached.

**March 15, 2018-** Keys to Help Your Teen Get A First Job  
*Stephens, Banks, Franklin, Hart and Habersham*

**March 19, 2018 –** Transition to Adult Healthcare  
*Hall, Forsyth, Dawson, Gwinnett*

**March 20, 2018 -** Georgia Medicaid Basics and HCBS  
*Marietta, GA/Cobb County*

\*Please note this training will be in English and Spanish.

**March 22, 2018 –** Sifting Through Parental Rights  
*Richmond, Burke and Columbia*

**March 23, 2018 -** Where Do We Go From Here  
*Gainesville/Hall County*

### **Attachment titles that were included with the March 9 Email Blast.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  GVEST SAVE THE DATE Flyer 2018.pdf (52 KB)   |  February Directors' Webinar_Final.pptx (6 MB) |
|  March 12-23, 2018.pdf (333 KB)   |  PPA Nomination Packet 2018.2pg.doc (2 MB)     |
|  Professional Learning Priorities Survey Results.pdf (445 KB)                             |  Friday, March 9th Email Blast.pdf (494 KB)    |
|  FY18 Spring Regional PQ In-Field Optional Training Session Schedule 03.0....pdf (220 KB) |   |

Friday, March 16, 2018

Directors,

Thank you for tuning in for the Special Education Directors' Webinar on Tuesday. You may access the archived recording by using the following link.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2417892423218156546>

We are excited to share the Georgia Project AWARE Digest, which includes resources and tips to foster mental health and supports. Attached to the email blast, you will find information about the upcoming Spring LEA Collaborative on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We have an exciting agenda planned for the day and look forward to the collaboration.

Georgia received a new State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) to implement a Multi-tiered System of Supports. We have been working diligently to execute critical tasks during the initial year. We would like to poll you using a brief survey about your local usage of an electronic platform to collect Response to Intervention/Student Support Team data. **Survey Link:**

<https://form.jotform.com/80707033829155>

Did you know that 97% of participating IEP teams (Facilitated IEP meetings) reached consensus on some to all issues? Wouldn't you like to have access to the Facilitated IEP process in your local district, then you should submit the FY19 Application for the Facilitated IEP project? The National Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE) recognized the outstanding work happening in Georgia; the newsletter is attached to the email blast.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to Dr. Amy Haynes with Dalton City Schools. Dr. Haynes has heightened the knowledge of our elementary special education teachers by leading a series of professional learning activities in both literacy and math. In addition, she maintains focused contact with special education teachers and student needs by leading a collaborative progress monitoring process. Amy's extraordinary leadership has led to a greater emphasis on specially designing learning activities to meet the needs of our exceptional thinkers!

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***

[Spring LEA Collaborative](#)

[State Fiscal Application](#)

[GELI 2018](#)

***Old/Updated Items***

[Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Application](#)

**Spring LEA Collaborative Meeting (See Attachment):**

This meeting will focus on providing guidance on the relocation of GNETS facilities, systems level reintegration, student level reintegration, and LEA in-kind services. The collaborative will be held March 29, 2018 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Marriott Macon City Center –Exhibit Hall A (240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217).

If you have any questions related to the logistics of this meeting, please contact Vickie Cleveland by email at [vcleveland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:vcleveland@doe.k12.ga.us) or by phone at (404) 232-7991.

### **State Fiscal Application for Public Review and Comment:**

In order to meet the requirements as set forth by IDEA 2004 for the annual state application of Georgia's grant award under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for federal fiscal year 2019 (2018-2019), the Georgia Department of Education is publishing the following documents for at least 60 days beginning March 13, 2018 with an opportunity for public comments on such plan to be accepted for at least 30 days.

Your comments should be forwarded to Zephine Smith-Dixon (email: [zsmith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:zsmith@doe.k12.ga.us))

**Public Link:** <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=595>

### **GELI 2018:**

Mark your calendars and start making plans for **GELI 2018**! We have some great plans for the upcoming **2018 Georgia Education Leadership Institute** at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta from September 16-18, 2018. In cooperation with the Georgia Department of Education, GELI 2018 will feature timely information on the topics that matter most to Georgia education leaders! Mark your calendars and book your hotel room now! Online registration is open.

### **Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Application for Participation:**

IEP Team Meeting Facilitation is a collaborative dispute prevention and resolution process that is now available to all districts. The Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Application for Participation is available on our webpage, and should be submitted by newly interested districts as well as our current districts already participating in the process using the below instructions.

To participate in the FIEP Team meeting program, the application must be received by the GaDOE by May 1, 2018, with the proper signatures:

1. Download the FIEP Team Meeting Application for Participation.  
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/Dispute%20Resolution/IEP%20Facilitation/FIEP%20Team%20mtg%20App%20for%20Participation.pdf>
2. Download the GaDOE Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Procedures Manual.  
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/Dispute%20Resolution/IEP%20Facilitation/Facilitated%20IEP%20Policies%20Manual%20GA%203-1-18.pdf>
3. Obtain signatures from Superintendent and Special Education Director.
4. Upload signed application document using the link posted on the GaDOE Special Education Services and Supports webpage, found under IEP Team Meeting Facilitation by May 1, 2018. [FIEP Team Meeting Application Submission](#)

If you have questions, contact Paula Gibson, Program Specialist, Family Engagement and Dispute Resolution Unit, Division for Special Education Services and Supports at [pgibson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pgibson@doe.k12.ga.us).

## 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. DHS-DFCS Peace, Love, Harmony 11.2014 Deana 2-22-18.pdf (171 KB)
-  2 Spanish- DHS-DFCS Peace Love & Harmony Paz, Amor y Armonia 09.08.2014 ....pdf (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)

Friday, March 23, 2018

Directors,



It is beginning to look a lot like spring. Pollen is in the air, and spring break is near! There will not be an email blast next Friday-oh dear. ☺

Thank you for the survey responses regarding your local usage of an electronic platform to collect Response to Intervention/Student Support Team data. You may continue to submit surveys through next Friday. **Survey Link:** <https://form.jotform.com/80707033829155>

Information about the 2018 Federal Programs Conference has been shared with LEAs. Please visit our conference website here:

[http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/2018\\_Federal\\_Programs\\_Conference.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/2018_Federal_Programs_Conference.aspx).

The next [Directors' Webinar](#) will be **Tuesday, April 10, 2018 @ 1:00 pm**.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Diane Norwood (Teacher in Catoosa County)**. Diane makes sure that all of her teachers are aware of critical deadlines; she is willing to help any teacher implement the work with fidelity. She accommodates other teachers by developing schedules and attending IEP meetings, as needed. Diane goes the "extra" mile for any teacher who works with her. 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***

[Spring LEA Collaborative](#)

[Data Collections](#)

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

[State Fiscal Application](#)

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Phil Pickens Leadership Award](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

### **Spring LEA Collaborative Meeting:**

The **Spring LEA Collaborative Meeting** scheduled for March 29, 2018 (9:30 am – 1:00 pm) at the Marriott Macon City Center – Exhibit Hall A (240 Coliseum Drive, Macon Georgia) **has been canceled**. We appreciate your willingness to collaborate with us and look forward to rescheduling this event in the future.

### **Data Collections:**

The FY19 Data Collections Conference will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, GA, August 22 -24, 2018. Please watch for registration to open in mid-April. You will be notified through a Portal Message that registration is open. Please remember that this conference fills up quickly;

do not delay if you plan to attend. You may go to the Data Conference website to make your hotel reservation now. Please inform the hotel that you are attending the GaDOE Data Conference to obtain the Conference rate. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **State Fiscal Application for Public Review and Comment:**

In order to meet the requirements as set forth by IDEA 2004 for the annual state application of Georgia's grant award under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for federal fiscal year 2019 (2018-2019), the Georgia Department of Education is publishing the following documents for at least 60 days beginning March 13, 2018 with an opportunity for public comments on such plan to be accepted for at least 30 days. Your comments should be forwarded to Zephine Smith-Dixon (email: [zsmith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:zsmith@doe.k12.ga.us))

**Public Link:** <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=595>

### **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Phil Pickens Leadership Award:**

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is accepting nominations for the Phil Pickens Leadership Award. The Phil Pickens Leadership Award is a statewide honor to recognize outstanding leadership in the collaborative work to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, outstanding contributions to the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership, and consistent leadership accomplishments in special education. The award is named after the founder of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership, Mr. Phil Pickens, and is given annually at our statewide Kickoff Conference in Savannah.

The nomination form is attached. Please consider nominating a parent mentor or special education administrator for this special recognition. For more information check out the website [www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org).

**Nomination forms are due by Friday, March 30, 2018.**

### **Awards of Excellence:**

Please submit nominations for Awards of Excellence, which can spotlight academic accomplishments and/or accomplishments in the areas of career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, military/community service, and/or athletics. Don't miss out on this opportunity for a senior in your school district to shine!

Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 30, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Reagin at [dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us). **Registration Link:** [Awards of Excellence](#)

**Attachment titles that were included with the March 23 Email Blast.**

 PPA Nomination Packet 2018.2pg.doc (2 MB)

 GVEST SAVE THE DATE Flyer 2018.pdf (52 KB)

 Friday, March 23rd Email Blast.docx.pdf (526 KB)