

# May Friday Email Blast

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Directors,

Are you willing to go green for Mental Health Awareness Month? Georgia has responded to the statewide need to support mental health awareness and supplemental resources. I encourage you to celebrate on May 14<sup>th</sup> and tag us on Facebook and Twitter. We appreciate the Georgia Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports Unit, regional school climate specialists, and every school district for your diligent efforts in this area. The Office of Civil Rights released [climate data](#) that may be helpful and support local planning.



We look forward to the [Directors' Webinar](#) on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm. Don't forget to register!

This evening, I will celebrate success at the Special Education Pinning Ceremony with Spring 2018 graduates of Georgia Southern University (Statesboro Campus) for the BSEd Special Education degree program. We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing these new teachers in Georgia classrooms.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to Ms. Carmen Willings, a teacher of the visually impaired in Forsyth County, who won the 2018 American Printing House Scholar Award. The award was created by the American Printing House for the Blind with the intention of establishing closer relationships of vision service providers and APH trustees who receive the benefit of their counsel. Nominees may either provide direct service to students or may work in a supportive capacity. Ms. Willings will be presented the award at the APH 147th Annual Meeting on October 6-8, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Please take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Willings on her great accomplishment. 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***

[Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program](#)

[Transition Webinar Series](#)

[Self-Advocacy in Transition Planning](#)

[Celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month](#)

#### **Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program (GATTAP):**

The Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program (GATTAP) provided outstanding professional learning and support to 51 school districts and over 200 teachers, therapists and support personnel during the 2017-2018 school year. On May 18<sup>th</sup> GATTAP facilitators will meet to plan sessions for the 2018-2019 school year. Please contact Debbie Reagin at [dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us) to share ideas on topics that would benefit teachers in your district.

**Transition Webinar Series (see attached):**

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.

**Self-Advocacy in Transition Planning (PowerPoint attached):**

Please note the attached PowerPoint to support self-advocacy.

**Celebrate Better Hearing & Speech Month 2018:**

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in providing services. ASHA's 2018 theme is "**Communication for All**". In addition, ASHA provides highlights for each week in May.

**Highlights for Week 1: Communication Milestones and Early Identification of Disorders**

**Video:** Getting to Know Your School's Speech-Language Pathologist

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

**Graphic:** Signs of Language Disorders in Children

<https://www.asha.org/uploadedImages/Identify-Signs-Language-Disorders.jpg>

**Graphic:** Signs of Speech Sound Disorders in Children

<https://www.asha.org/uploadedImages/Identify-Signs-Speech-Sound-Disorders.jpg>

**Graphic:** Signs of Hearing Loss in Children

<https://www.asha.org/uploadedImages/Identify-Signs-Hearing-Loss.jpg>

**Attachment titles that were included with the May 4 Email Blast.**

 5\_3\_18 Transition Webinars.docx (20 KB)

 Self Advocacy Webinar.pptx (390 KB)

 Friday, May 4th Email Blast.docx (122 KB)

Friday, May 11, 2018

Directors,

Thank you for tuning in for the Director's Webinar this past Tuesday. The recording is divided into two sections: Part I: [Directors' Webinar \(Significant Disproportionality\)](#) and Part II: [Directors' Webinar](#).

The Georgia Department of Education celebrated the 2018 [Student Success Awards](#) with outstanding youth throughout this state: Jailah Armstrong (Thomas County Central High School), Travion Bass-Black (Windsor Forest High School), Makayla Brown (White County High School), Jacalyn Elrod (Dawson County High School), Caroline Gowan (Veterans High School), Marcus Honeycutt (Bowdon High School), Thomar Smith (Wayne County High School), Michael Thompson (Whitewater High School), Lainie Barnes (Pierce County High School), Mikayla Broome (Washington Wilkes Comprehensive High School), Destiny Cooper (Putnam County High School) Gerson Gomez (Dalton Public Schools), Sterling Hasek (Lambert High School), Alicia Reynolds (Georgia School for the Deaf), Layla Stafford (Social Circle High School), Elias Velasquez (Gilmer High School), and Cole Young (Dalton High School). Join me in celebrating their success!

During the Directors' Webinar, we discussed the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Waiver and received a request to share information about the GAA 2.0 Pilot. Attached to the blast, you will note some general information about GAA 2.0. We would also like to share a link about the Public Notice on ESSA Waiver to Exclude GAA 2.0: <https://mailchi.mp/c4b6efa7688c/federal-programs-update-290471?e=7d8515a4b2>.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to the **Georgia Autism Teacher and Technical Assistance Program (GATTAP) Facilitators** across the state. These dedicated individuals have provided high quality professional learning and technical assistance to over 240 teachers and therapists in 51plus school districts. GATTAP sessions provide teachers with up-to-date research and evidence-based instructional strategies that can immediately be implemented in the classroom. Thanks for recognizing these amazing, dedicated individuals! Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

**Dougherty County location** - Sheila Swicegood, Sarah Ruddle

**Bryan County location** - Erica Birchall, Rachel Kunert

**Houston County location** - Denise Duke, Jennifer Simpson, Larissa Beecher

**Metro Atlanta location** - Megan Sayago, Karen Barineau

**Ware County location** - Chassidy Altman, Lori Taylor

**Whitfield County/Dalton City location** - Ruthie Reed-Rule, Suzanne D'Itri. Kim Dudley

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

**EMAIL BLAST**

***New Items***

[Data Collection](#)

[Parent to Parent of Georgia \(P2P\) Trainings](#)

[2018 Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#)

## **Data Collections:**

Clarification of Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS):

FY19 Significant Disproportionality Determinations will be made in December 2018 using the new Federal Regulation methodology. Districts that have a determination of Significant Disproportionality will spend 15% of their IDEA grant funds to provide **CCEIS**, services to students **with** and without disabilities, in the School Year (SY) 2019-2020. Districts determined to be Significantly Disproportionate in FY18 (determination made in December 2017) will continue CEIS in SY2018-2019 and provide services to students without disabilities.

More information regarding the new Significant Disproportionality Federal Regulation will be shared at the Federal Programs Conference, the Data Collections Conference and on webinars.

Data Collections Conference: Registration for the Data Collections Conference in August has closed as it has reached capacity. If you are a new Special Education Director or your district will be getting a new director this summer, please email me as soon as possible, [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us).

## **Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) Trainings (Attachment):**

**May 10, 2018**

Where Do We Go From Here? Preparing for Transition from High School (Fulton, Douglas, Henry, Fayette, and Clayton)

**May 16, 2018**

Transition to Adult Healthcare (Harris, Muscogee, Talbot, Chattahoochee)

## **2018 Georgia Education Leadership Institute:**

**Call for Presenters: The submission deadline is May 15, 2018.**

As the school year is coming to a close, start making plans to attend the [2018 Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#) hosted by the Georgia Department of Education and presented by the Georgia Foundation for Public Education. [GELI 2018](#) is September 16-18, 2018 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta.



**Attachment files that were included with the May 11 Email Blast.**

 SpEd\_Percentage.pdf (372 KB)

 P2P Trainings May.pdf (555 KB)

 GAA Presentation1.pptx (169 KB)

 Friday, May 11th Email Blast.pdf (175 KB)

Friday, May 18, 2018

Directors,

The [Virtual Parent University](#) offers informative videos on four topics to help parents throughout the state of Georgia who seek information and would like to have a better understanding of resources available for their children. The purpose of the Virtual Parent University is to inform and educate parents on becoming partners in learning, advising, advocating and making decisions for their children. We welcome all parents to watch as many of the videos that meet your needs. The webinars will be provided for five regions throughout the state. Behavioral and social emotional learning topics will be covered. Virtual Parent University webinars will be offered from May 18 - June 18, 2018.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Beth Lewis** (Regional Student Success Coach). Beth has supported Valdosta City through the SSIP process for three years. She is always available to answer questions and present at all stakeholder meetings with excellent customer service. Even when the district canceled or rescheduled meetings due to unforeseen circumstances, Beth demonstrated flexibility and commitment to the work. She has been an invaluable resource for Valdosta City Schools, and they will certainly miss her leadership. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things.](#)

**EMAIL BLAST**

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership \(GaPMP\)](#)  
[2018 GaPMP Conference Kickoff Call for Proposals](#)  
[Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Participating Districts](#)  
[Call for New Special Education Directors](#)

**Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP):**

All returning districts who applied, as well as, all new districts were accepted to the FY19 Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP). If you are a district new to the GaPMP or a district who is hiring a new parent mentor, please forward the new mentor's name and contact information to Anne Ladd [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us).

Be on the lookout for the 2018 Annual Kickoff Conference Registration in mid-June!

**GaPMP 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Kickoff Conference**

**Shine the Light on Family Engagement!**

September 5 – 7, 2018  
Coastal Georgia Center  
Savannah, Georgia

This is a *required* event for all parent mentors and their directors or direct supervisors.

**2018 GaPMP Kickoff Conference Call for Proposals:**

The 2018 GaPMP Kickoff Conference will be held September 5-7, 2018 at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. This year's theme is Shine the Light on Family Engagement! A link to the Call for Proposals is available below. This is a fabulous time to share your good work and learn from other districts from across the State. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Ladd, Family Engagement Specialist, [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us)

**Registration: [2018 GaPMP Kickoff: Call for Proposals](#)**

**Facilitated IEP Team Meeting Participating Districts:**

We are excited to welcome 17 new districts into the collaborative dispute prevention and resolution process of FIEP Team meetings. A list of all 37 participating districts is attached.

- Atlanta Public Schools
- Cartersville City Schools
- Charlton County
- City Schools of Decatur
- Clarke County
- Cobb County
- Columbia County School District
- Cook County
- Georgia Cyber Academy
- Gordon County
- Lamar County Schools
- Miller County
- Muscogee County School District
- Oconee County
- Richmond County
- Scintilla Charter Academy
- State Charter Schools II - Coweta Charter Academy

**Call for New Special Education Directors for FY19:**

We would like to invite NEW Special Education Directors to attend the 2018-2019 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.

If there is space permitting after the New Special Education Directors have registered, we will open registration to district support staff. The 2018-2019 SELDA schedule will be posted soon on the website.

**Registration:** [2018-2019 Special Education Leadership Development Academy \(SELDA\)](#)

**Attachment titles that were included with the May 18 Email Blast.**

 FY19GaPMP.xlsx (15 KB)

 2018-2019 FIEP Participating Districts.docx (16 KB)

 GVEST SAVE THE DATE Flyer 2018.pdf (54 KB)

 2018 GaPMP KickoffAccommodations.docx (47 KB)

 Friday, May 18th Email Blast.pdf (197 KB)