

# October Friday Email Blast

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Friday, October 6, 2017

Directors,

Thank you for tuning in for the [Directors' Webinar](#) on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm. The next webinar will be **October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm**. Please use the link to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/689247938610097922>. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we will host the first Directors' Forum (Monroe Board Office at 25 Brooklyn Ave Forsyth, GA) from 11 am – 1:00 pm. We would love a representative from each GLRS region to foster meaningful stakeholder engagement.

The Division for Special Education proudly announces a new team member, **Timmi Hunt**, who will join the PBIS Unit. We are excited to have Timmi here with us. On another note, many of you have met **Cheryl Benefield** who supports Project AWARE as a family engagement specialist. We are proud to announce that Cheryl will transition into a new role with the Department as the Program Manager for Safe and Drug Free Schools effective October 16, 2017. Join us in celebrating both Timmi and Cheryl.

The Self-Determination/Self-Determined Learning Module of Instruction presentation and other Transition reminders (recorded links) are attached to the email blast. I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming **2017 G-CASE Fall Conference (see attachment)**.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Flo Bry** and **Julie Hardeman**. They work collaboratively to promote the Student Success work and ensure that evidence based practices are accessible for targeted students. In a very short time, they scaled up the work to 200 students. They have active participation from all schools and received district recognition for the SSIP work. Specifically, the Chatham County Commissioners recently made a proclamation for student attendance in schools and presented this to Flo & Julie at a public meeting. In addition, both ladies were recently interviewed on a public television show where they described SSIP activities and the importance of this work. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

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Refueling for the Work Ahead,  
**Zelphine Smith-Dixon**

## EMAIL BLAST

### New Items

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff Conference](#)

[Smokey Powell Center for AT](#)

[Budget Updates](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[The FY19 CLIP in the SLDS](#)

[Redesigned CCRPI Report](#)

[GCEL Conference](#)

### Old/Updated Items



### **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff Conference:**

Check out the Parent Mentor Partnership webpage for helpful updates about the conference and to learn more information about the **2017 Phil Pickens Winners: Dr. Mary Kay Berry and Jackie McNair** <http://www.parentmentors.org/home/2017-kickoff-conference/2017-phil-pickens-nominees/>.

### **Smokey Powell Center for Assistive Technology:**

The Smokey Powell Center for Assistive Technology would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Kim Cagle (Special Education Director) and Chris Maniscalco (Visually Impaired Teacher) from Gilmer County for hosting the North Georgia Low Vision Clinic for the fourth year in a row. We were able to provide two days of clinics each year for students who are visually impaired and live in North Georgia.

### **Budget Updates:**

The IDEA Fiscal Cross Functional Monitoring Technical Assistance Webinar has been uploaded to the budget webpage [here](#) under the heading, "Resources for Guidance". Please contact your budget specialist if you have any questions. In addition to this update, several LEAs have not submitted IDEA budgets. Please remember the due date was October 1<sup>st</sup>. These budgets should be submitted as soon as possible.

### **Data Collections:**

In response to questions we are receiving about serving and reporting students with disabilities in a Hospital/Homebound setting, please see the **attached State Board Rule and guidance document**.

**FTE Reporting Update:** Please see the **attached slide with a revision to "When to Report a Primary Area for Exiters"**. After consulting with Data Collections, this guidance has been revised. Please see the highlighted area of the slide. If a student exits special education (Event code "09" or "10") *after the first day of school and prior to FTE 1* report the student as an "R" type student and **DO REPORT** the student with a Primary Area. This is a change from what was shared at the Data Conference.

**FY17 Size Groups:** Several districts have inquired about their District's Size Group. Please see the attached chart. Districts are grouped into AA, A, B, C, D, or E depending upon the number of SWD reported in the Federal Child Count. The district size group occasionally changes based on enrollment. The FY18 Size Groups will be shared in November/December after the FY18 Child Count data are available.



**FY17 SWD Annual Event Graduation Rate and FY17 SWD Dropout Rate:** The FY17 SWD Annual Event Graduation Rates and SWD Dropout Rates for each LEA are now posted in the portal. To view these documents, log into the portal, click on Documents, View Documents, then click on Special Education in the Browse by Category area. The Documents Search Results will appear on the right side of the screen. Scroll to see the FY17 documents. If you have questions about data collections, email Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **The FY19 CLIP in the SLDS:**

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has scheduled 5 regional meetings to share development of the migration of the FY19 Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), which includes the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and the District Improvement Plan, in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an overview of the online system and to collect feedback from potential users in Georgia.

- October 6, 2017 – GaDOE Offices in Atlanta; 1:00 – 3:00 pm **(Completed)**
- October 10, 2017 – Tifton, Georgia; Tift County; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- October 11, 2017 – Hinesville, Georgia; Liberty County; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- October 13, 2017 – Cartersville, Georgia; Bartow County; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- October 17, 2017 – Monroe, Georgia; Walton County; 1:00 – 3:00 pm

The exact training location will be emailed to registered participants closer to the actual meeting date in the event that changes have to be made to accommodate the number of attendees. If you are interested in attending, please register here: [http://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/SLDS/Pages/CNA\\_Registration.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/SLDS/Pages/CNA_Registration.aspx)

### **Redesigned CCRPI Report – Feedback Request:**

Georgia submitted its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan to the U.S. Department of Education. The plan includes refinements to the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) that were the result of countless hours of stakeholder feedback. In addition to a simplified and streamlined CCRPI, we are developing a new online reporting system for 2018 that we hope will be easier to navigate, understand, and communicate. **We need your feedback** to finalize the design to ensure it meet your needs. To provide feedback, use the links below to watch a short video overview, explore the new online reporting system prototype, and **complete a short survey by October 27, 2017.**

- [New CCRPI reporting system video](#) (*scroll to the middle of the page*)
- [New CCRPI reporting system prototype](#) (*Please note that this is a series of images and not a fully functioning website*)

[Please fill out this survey](#) after you have reviewed the links above. The video, report prototype, and survey are also available on our website at [accountability.gadoe.org](http://accountability.gadoe.org). Thank you for your continued support and feedback!

### **The 33rd Annual Georgia Compensatory Education Leaders (GCEL) Conference:**



**Date:** February 26-28, 2018 **Location:** Savannah, Georgia.

Conference information is available here: <http://www.gcel.org/2017-conference.html>

### **Attachment titles that were included with the October 6 Email Blast.**

HHB Guidance for SWD.DOCX (21 KB)

HHB Rule 160-4-2-.31.pdf (27 KB)

When to Report Primary Area for Exiters -REVISED 10-2017.pptx (146 KB)

FY17 Size Groups for Posting.pdf (416 KB)

SD and the SDLMI\_Webinar Slides.pptx (959 KB)

Transition Activities Reminder\_recorded links.docx (53 KB)

Fall G-CASE Conference 2017.docx (17 KB)

Friday, October 6th Email Blast.pdf (497 KB)

Friday, October 13, 2017

Directors,

Thank you for tuning in for the [Directors' Webinar](#) on **October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm**. On **October 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will host the first Directors' Forum (Monroe Board Office at 25 Brooklyn Ave Forsyth, GA) from 11 am – 1:00 pm. We would love a representative from each GLRS region to foster meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Did you know that October is officially recognized as National Dropout Prevention Month? I encourage each of us to reach out to a young person to encourage him/her to continue the race to student success and strive for school completion.

<http://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/10/october-is-national-dropout-prevention-month/>

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Susan Darlington** who is the **Transition Coordinator in Forsyth County Schools** and oversees the districtwide implementation of the ASPIRE project. With a team of district and school level staff, Susan has developed a 5-year plan to implement a K-12 ASPIRE project. Susan has developed an ASPIRE newsletter that goes out once a month to teachers. Check out the newsletter for October: <https://www.smore.com/g5426-aspire-applause?ref=email-content#w-9804788486>.

Susan has also built an extensive website that provides a list of trainings and resources for parents to navigate the different stages of transition for their children. She communicates many of these resources in her monthly Transition newsletter. Susan goes above and beyond to provide parents the needed resources and addresses all of their questions and concerns. Click on the following link to see Susan's transition website: <https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page/47040>. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

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Refueling for the Work Ahead,  
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## EMAIL BLAST

### New Items

[Partnering for Student Success with Attendance Works](#)

[Dispute Resolution Week in Georgia](#)

### Old/Updated Items

[Data Collections](#)

[FY19 CLIP in the SLDS](#)

[Redesigned CCRPI Report – Feedback Request](#)

### **Partnering for Student Success with Attendance Works:**

There are a few spaces available at the "Partnering for Success" meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> with GaDOE, a day of professional learning focused on improving graduation rates for students with disabilities. The session will be at the Macon Marriott City Center, from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.

The morning session will be led by Attendance Works, a national nonprofit focused on improving outcomes for students by raising awareness and providing practical strategies for improving attendance.

Attendance Works Senior Policy Fellow, Sue Fothergill, and Senior Fellow, Beshon Smith, will provide a hands-on workshop for school leaders to include an overview of common concepts, frameworks, and strategies for reducing chronic absences, including how to apply a multi-tiered systems approach to organizing attendance improvement strategies at their schools. The purpose of this session will be to equip school leaders and their teams with a deeper understanding of how to use attendance data to make strategic decisions about prevention and intervention strategies, help them to connect their attendance improvement efforts to other school improvement efforts underway in their district such as reducing suspensions and improving school climate. The workshop will provide teams with the information necessary for them to take back to their schools and begin to implement a coordinated, data-driven, tiered approach to reducing chronic absences equipped with free tools and resources available through Attendance Works.

Following the half-day session with Attendance Works, there will be time for stakeholder input and a best practices showcase. The session will be held October 26th at the Macon Marriott City Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon GA. Registration will begin at 8 am. The session will begin promptly at 9 am. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Lynn Holland at [lholland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lholland@doe.k12.ga.us). Please use the link below to register:

[Partnering for Student Success October 26, 2017](#)

### **Dispute Resolution Week in Georgia:**

Governor Deal proclaims October 15-21, 2017 as [Dispute Resolution Week](#) in Georgia. Dispute Resolution Week supports the education of judges, members of the Bar, and the public in finding durable solutions to resolve disputes outside of a courtroom by utilizing mediation, arbitration, and other restorative processes. The Week is intended to empower individuals, families, communities, organizations, and businesses to find common ground through collaborative problem solving. The Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution, State Bar of Georgia Dispute Resolution Section, and Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution are pleased to promote these values and advocate for champions in the field of dispute resolution.

### **Data Collections:**

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**FTE Reporting Update:** Please see the ***attached slide with a revision to “When to Report a Primary Area for Exiters”***. After consulting with Data Collections, this guidance has been revised. Please see the highlighted area of the slide. If a student exits special education (Event code “09” or “10”) *after the first day of school and prior to FTE 1* report the student as an “R” type student and ***DO REPORT*** the student with a Primary Area. This is a change from what was shared at the Data Conference.

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### **Attachment files that were included with the October 13 Email Blast.**

 [October Webinar.pptx](#) (1 MB)

 [Friday, October 13th Email Blast.pdf](#) (628 KB)

Friday, October 20, 2017

Directors,

We hosted the first Directors' Forum this past Thursday and would like to thank our local directors for the representation across regions. During the Directors' Forum, we solicited feedback on two main topics: (1) new disproportionality regulation and (2) integrated monitoring practices for disproportionality, transition, and cross functional monitoring. Your local representatives will follow up with you concerning these topics, as well as, additional information shared during this time.

The next *State Advisory Panel* meeting will be held *November 2-3, 2017* at the Macon Marriott, Macon, Georgia. The Panel meeting agenda can be accessed on the [SAP webpage](#), as well as, procedures to submit [public comments](#). We welcome the public as an observer to the Panel meeting.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to *Sabine Cluster* who is a pioneer leader at Georgia Connections Academy. She supports students and researches initiatives that directly align with the school improvement plan and positively impact students in a virtual environment. Sabine is dedicated to supporting and improving student learning and postsecondary transition for students with disabilities. Sabine has presented the district-wide initiative of "taking the fish out of the tank" to mirror the state and is working directly with our teachers on how to individualize instruction and support student progress. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

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Refueling for the Work Ahead,  
*Zelphine Smith-Dixon*

**EMAIL BLAST**

**New Items**

[Data Collections](#)

**Old/Updated Items**

[Autism Resources Webinar Series](#)

[Transition Webinar Series](#)

**Data Collections:**

The new Federal Regulation for Significant Disproportionality requires that states determine the "settings" to be used in their calculations for Significant Disproportionality. Information was presented to the Special Education Directors who attended the District Forum on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The directors will be soliciting feedback from all stakeholders. The form by which feedback can be given is attached to this Email Blast. If you would like to provide comments regarding the proposed settings for measuring significant disproportionality, please provide your comments on this form in the yellow highlighted boxes. Please email the form back to Zelphine Smith Dixon at [zsmith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:zsmith@doe.k12.ga.us). If you have questions about the new regulation for significant disproportionality, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **Autism Resources Webinar Series:**

On Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 p.m., the Autism Resources Webinar series will spotlight **Tools for Life/AMAC** and the **Georgia Instructional Materials Center**. We will also hear from Paula Gumpman, an assistive technology specialist at the GaDOE. Are you taking full advantage of the services these organizations can provide? Tune in! You just might learn about assistive technologies that will improve your life as well!

**Registration link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5417189721651980033>

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

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 3:00pm - 4:00 pm. Registrants will receive a link to a recording if unable to participate during the scheduled session. Topics and registration links are included in the above attachment.

### **Attachment titles that were included with the October 20 Email Blast.**

-  AUTISM WEBINAR SERIES 2017.docx (17 KB)
-  Transition Activities Reminder\_recorded links (2).docx (52 KB)
-  Feedback from Stakeholders - Dispro.xlsx (15 KB)
-  10-19-17 District Forum New Federal Regulation Disproportionality.pdf (1 MB)
-  Friday, October 20, 2017.pdf (396 KB)

Friday, October 27, 2017

Directors,

Join us in thanking two valued team members for their years of service to the Georgia Department of Education. As you may be aware, Debbie Gay, Deputy for Federal Programs, will retire on October 31<sup>st</sup> after ten years of service. We applaud her relentless efforts to the field and appreciate her vision for collaboration.

Dr. Frank Nesbit, Formal Complaints Coordinator and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program Consultant, will begin a new professional opportunity, and we will certainly miss him at the Department. We have been collaborating with Dr. Kenney Moore and would like to announce that Vanessa Robisch (Former Superintendent of AASD) has recently joined State Schools as an Outreach Coordinator. Mrs. Robisch will assist the state in offering technical support and outreach services relating to visual impairment, blind, deaf/hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Ella Carswell** who is the **District Student Success Coach in Bibb County**. After her first year of full implementation, Ella supported her school to increase the graduation rate. Southwest High School 4-Year Cohort Graduation rate for students with disabilities increased significantly. She has worked with community stakeholders, school stakeholders, families and students. This work has changed outcomes for many students. We are very proud of Ella and the work she has done to support the changes needed to increase the graduation rate. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

While the graduation rate for students with disabilities will require additional supports, we have made phenomenal increases. At the Partnering for Student Success Meeting, we heard heartfelt stories from local educators discussing the impact of addressing attendance, behavior and course completion. Houston County shared an innovative strategy of partnering with local dealerships to incentivize students to be present and accountable. Dougherty County shared the power of pairing a caring adult with students and how an alum partnership made the difference for school completion for at-risk students. If you are aren't convinced yet, then you must seek out examples in Henry County of using personalized learning to meet the needs of all students. A final example of engagement was shared by Gilmer County who adopted the motto "whatever it takes..."

The Division for Special Education has built internal and external partnerships to address school completion for all students-including students with disabilities. March 2015, we embarked upon a journey to improve Student Success by inspiring others to imagine the possibilities. Two years later, student success remains a salient priority, but it is time to shift beyond imagining possibilities to creating equitable opportunities! I would be remised if I didn't acknowledge the commitment of Georgia Learning Resources System and Regional Student Success Coaches; they have been the heartbeat of the work. Have a great weekend.

Follow us on twitter (@GaDOESped)

Like us on Facebook ([Georgia Department of Education Special Education](#)).



Use the [GaDOESped Calendar](#)

Refueling for the Work Ahead,  
**Zelphine Smith-Dixon**

## EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[GO-IEP](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Transition Webinar Series](#)

### [GO-IEP \(see attachments\):](#)

GO-IEP has many new features that are helping school systems to ensure data reported are both timely and accurate. Users of GO-IEP have access to a FTE submission report that includes most of the data fields collected for special education FTE and Federal Special Education reporting. There are also reports that help systems to accurately track and report Timelines, as well as, a Student Records extract that systems can use for Special Education Student Record submission. Attached are two documents that have been provided to GO-IEP districts related to the FTE Submission Report and the Timelines report. If you have not looked at GO-IEP lately and are interested, a video demonstration is available that describes all of the benefits and features that GO-IEP has to offer your system <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Georgia-Online-IEP.aspx>.

The deadline for submitting an application for your system to join the GO-IEP team for FY19 is February 23, 2018.

### [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 3:00pm - 4:00 pm. Registrants will receive a link to a recording if unable to participate during the scheduled session. Topics and registration links are included in the above attachment.

### **Attachment titles that were included with the October 27 Email Blast.**

 10\_24\_17 Email Blast Submission Transition.docx (52 KB)

 SD and the SDLMI\_Webinar Slides.pptx (959 KB)

 GO-IEP FTE REPORT Guidance\_.pdf (236 KB)

 Application for GO IEP Oct 17.docx (28 KB)

 GO-IEP Release Notes 20170615 Timelines Report.pdf (504 KB)

 Friday, October 27th Email Blast.pdf (262 KB)