

# September Friday Email Blast

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Friday, September 1, 2017

Directors,

Please see the attached letter regarding the change of name for Georgia's dual enrollment program. Governor Deal announced on August 3, 2017 that the State is changing the name from "Move on When Ready" to "Dual Enrollment" to eliminate confusion. The name change is aimed to clarify the opportunities available to Georgia's students.

I have reflected greatly about opportunities to improve Georgia's schools and support implementation of local district and school improvement efforts that directly impact students. While there are growing efforts to improve "schools of fish," there are limiting efforts to nurture the environment of the entire "Georgia Aquarium." Positive climate counts for everyone, and we are not insulated from the larger challenges around us. In an attempt to foster a positive climate and share the good work of many communities, schools, and districts, we would like to capture your feedback via the The "Extra" Award Survey. You may submit this information using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

We look forward to sharing information with you on the next [Directors' Webinar](#). Have a safe holiday weekend.

Check out [Georgia's Insights](#)

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Refueling for the Work Ahead,

**Zelphine Smith-Dixon**

### **EMAIL BLAST**

#### **New Items**

[GIMC Updates](#)

[Atlanta Speech School's 2017 Southeast LSL Conference](#)

[School-Based Speech Language Pathologists Week](#)

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

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff Conference](#)

[GATTAP](#)

### **GIMC Updates:**

Recently several pieces of equipment have been returned for repair to the GIMC. Many have evidence of misuse or abuse. Districts are responsible for repair of equipment that has been damaged because of such practices. If districts do not pay for repairs the device will not be returned to the student for which it is checked out. Please be sure that anyone requesting equipment from the GIMC be aware of this procedure. The full text of GIMC procedures can be accessed from this [link](#).

### **Atlanta Speech School's 2017 Southeast LSL Conference:**

Attached is the flyer for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 2017 Southeast Listening and Spoken Language Conference. It's just around the corner, September 22-23, 2017. (1-1/2 days)

Michael Douglas, MA, CCC-SLP, LSLC Cert. AVT will be presenting “Expanding Capacity: Multi-Lingual Learning and Data-Driven Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss.” He is a fantastic speaker, and the content is very relevant and useful for our LSL children and their families.

We would love for you to attend. We’d also love your help spreading the word! The link to register is – [www.atlantaspeechschool.org/slsc](http://www.atlantaspeechschool.org/slsc)

If you have any questions, please feel free to email the conference organizer, Kathy Newbern – [knewbern@atlantaspeechschool.org](mailto:knewbern@atlantaspeechschool.org)

### **School-Based Speech Language Pathologists Week:**

Governor Nathan Deal has issued the attached proclamation to recognize September 11-15, 2017 as School-Based Speech Language Pathologists Week. Your district may wish to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of these outstanding individuals in your schools!

### **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff Conference:**

For more information, please check out the link below. This page will continue to be updated throughout September. <http://www.parentmentors.org/home/2017-kickoff-conference/>

### **GATTAP:**

Please invite your teachers of students with autism to participate in a GATTAP session near you! See the attached flyer. For questions contact [dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **Attachment titles that were included with the September 1 Email Blast.**

-  2017\_Southeast\_LSL\_Conference\_Brochure.pdf (1 MB)
-  Dual Enrollment Letter from GovernorDeal August 2017.pdf (334 KB)
-  GATTAP 2017-2018.docx (31 KB)
-  2017 SLP proclamation by Governor Deal.pdf (1 MB)
-  Friday, September 1st Email Blast.pdf (262 KB)

Friday, September 8, 2017

Directors,

Please keep our communities in your thoughts and prayers during this time of inclement weather. Check on a neighbor to ensure that everyone has a safety plan.

Remember, Governor Nathan Deal has officially declared the week of September 11th through September 15th to be School-Based Speech Language Pathologist Week in Georgia. You may access the proclamation using the following link: <http://www.gosslp.org/?page=A7>.

As you know, Elaine Thagard recently retired as the GaDOE Visually Impaired (VI) Consultant, and we are going to miss her very much. The work of that position will be supported by the Division of State Schools/Georgia Academy for the Blind (GAB), which is within the GaDOE. In next week's email blast, we will share the contact information of the new VI Consultant.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Lynne Baker** in **Quitman County**. She works well with everyone to include students, co-workers, and families. Lynne always does what is best for students and brings great energy to the Quitman community. While she has retired from education in Alabama, Lynne Baker continues to do extraordinary things. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

We look forward to sharing information with you on the next [Directors' Webinar](#). Have a great weekend and stay safe.

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

### EMAIL BLAST

#### New Items

[FY18 Cross Functional Monitoring](#)

[Georgia Project AWARE Digest](#)

[Autism Resources Webinar Series](#)

[Transition Webinar Series](#)

#### Old/Updated Items

[Fall GATTAP Sessions](#)

### **FY18 Cross Functional Monitoring:**

In preparation for FY18 Cross Functional Monitoring, please follow [this link](#) to access the webinar training conducted on August 25<sup>th</sup> under the heading "Monitoring Resources." This webinar details fiscal and programmatic indicators requirements for all federal programs, including overarching needs that span various federal programs. Additionally, the Special Education Services and Supports Division will provide technical assistance opportunities and resources via collaborative communities, September Directors' Webinar, and a recorded fiscal indicator webinar that will be posted in the next couple of weeks. Please stay tuned for these updates.

### **Georgia Project AWARE Digest (see attached):**

We are proud to share the latest edition of the Georgia Project AWARE Digest, which provides helpful information on suicide prevention. State School Superintendent Richard Woods stated that “It is unimaginable for even one child suicide to take place.” Suicide prevention and mental health are serious business. We recognize Rebecca Blanton (Project AWARE Director) and Cheryl Benefield (Family Engagement Specialist) for their outstanding leadership in this area.

### **Autism Resources Webinar Series (NEW):**

Webinars will highlight Georgia agencies that provide services to students with autism. Supports available for families, as well as, school districts will be discussed. Information will be shared about the agency location, population served, services provided, and contact information. Mark your calendars for the following dates! Please contact Debbie Reagin, [dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us) if you would like to submit questions or suggested topics for discussion.

#### **September 25, 2017 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Emory Autism Center – Dr. Catherine Rice  
Marcus Autism Center – Dr. Nathan Call

**Registration link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/818542811618184961>

#### **October 24, 2017 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Tools for Life - Carolyn P. Phillips, M.Ed.

Georgia Instructional Materials Center - Carson Cochran, M.Ed.

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

### **Transition Webinar Series:**

The Division of Special Education Services and Supports is pleased to announce a transition webinar series. The series will focus on topics related to transition and improvement activities to facilitate students with disabilities graduating and having successful post-school outcomes.

Topics will include:

- Effective Transition Plans
- Career Technical Instruction
- Self-Determination and the Self-Determined Learning Module of Instruction
- Student-led IEPs and Student -led Conferences
- Inclusive Post-Secondary
- Dropout Prevention, and
- Self-Advocacy
- Assistive Technology

Our first webinar of the series will be on building **Self-Determination and the Self-Determined Learning Module of Instruction**. The webinar will be take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 3:00pm- 4:00pm. Please register using the link below to participate. The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. You will only receive the link for the recording, if you register. If you have any questions, please contact Elise James ([ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us)) or Laurie Ponsell ([lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us)).

**Self-Determination and the Self-Determined Learning Module of Instruction:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7737622150680659971>

**Fall GATTAP Sessions Begin (schedule flyer attached):**

Only 3 weeks until Fall GATTAP sessions begin! Don't miss this opportunity for your teachers of students with autism to learn strategies for working effectively with paraprofessionals. Teachers will also earn strategies to effectively support students with executive functioning deficits.

**Attachment titles that were included with the September 8 Email Blast.**

 Online GDAP-Sum17-final.pdf (3 MB)

 Autism Webinar Series 2017.docx (17 KB)

 GATTAP 2017-2018.docx (31 KB)

 School-Based\_Speech\_Language.pdf (1 MB)

 Friday, September 8th Email Blast.pdf (291 KB)

Friday, September 15, 2017

Directors,

Please keep our communities in your thoughts and prayers during this time of recovery from Irma and other storms. As you recover, the following websites provide information and resources that may be useful to you.

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/Disaster-Preparedness.aspx>

<https://www.ed.gov/hurricane-help>

We have rescheduled the [Directors' Webinar](#) for **Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm** and look forward to your participation.

As referenced during last week's email blast, the GaDOE would like to announce that **Zelma Murray** will be the statewide contact person for visual impairment. Zelma Murray currently serves as an Outreach Coordinator/Teacher VI. She can be reached by using the following contact information: Phone ([478-751-6083 ext 3634](tel:478-751-6083)) Email ([Zmurray@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:Zmurray@doe.k12.ga.us)).

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Erin Maureen Davis** who works with the **GNETS Program** in **Oconee RESA**. Ms. Davis has 25 plus years of experience supporting students with severe emotional and/or behavioral disorders. She served as a paraprofessional, teacher, and behavior interventionist. She has worked tirelessly with students, parents and educators to help students receive positive individualized interventions for their intense behavioral and emotional needs. Ms. Davis exemplifies excellence every day! 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**

[Transition Webinar Series](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[Technical Assistance for Transition Compliance \(Indicator 13\)](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

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



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

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. Registrants will receive a link to a recording if unable to participate during the scheduled session.

The webinars align with the FY18 Priority: **IEP Development and Implementation**. The topics and registration links are attached to the email blast.

**Data Collections:**

The presentations presented at the FY18 Data Collections Conference are posted on the Special Education Website. On the Special Education website, scroll to Budgets, Grants, Data Collection and Reporting and click on Data Collections Conference. You will find the pdfs of the sessions presented by Carol Seay and Wina Low. You will also find helpful Documents, Templates and Tools to assist you when collecting and reporting data. If you have questions about the presentations or the accompanying documents, please contact Carol Seay at [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us).

Several districts have not yet submitted CEIS student data for FY17. If your district was required to offer Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) in FY17 and you have not yet completed the student event data entry, please submit as soon as possible. Please contact Carol Seay, [cseay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cseay@doe.k12.ga.us) if you have questions.

**Technical Assistance for Transition Compliance – Indicator 13:**

In preparation for the annual compliance check of transition plans, one day professional learning sessions will be offered. The primary focus of the sessions will be compliant practice for transition but best practice will also be infused in the discussion. Space is limited. Please only register one participant per LEA.

**Dates and locations**

October 12, 2017	9:30 am -3:00 pm	Pioneer RESA 1342 Highway 254 Cleveland, Georgia 30528
October 18, 2017	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Bibb County Schools Professional Learning Center 2003 Riverside Drive Macon, Georgia 31204
October 19, 2017	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Bibb County Schools Professional Learning Center 2003 Riverside Drive Macon, Georgia 31204

**Please register using the link below:**

[Technical Assistance for Transition Compliance Training October 2017](#)

Please contact Elise James at [ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us) or Laurie Ponsell at [lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us) with questions.

**GIMC Updates:**

Last year, Georgia collected notarized parent consents to allow the GIMC to submit student names for registration with American Printing House (APH) and other accessible media providers. The procedure was implemented according to preliminary guidance aligned with FERPA policies. Since this time, GaDOE has received official communication from APH, which has been vetted by the Office of Special Education Programs.

- According to OSEP’s guidance, APH requires that EOTs secure parent and guardian signatures allowing the information required to complete quota registration to be shared with APH.
- APH will not collect these signatures but instead ask that EOTs to establish their own procedures to collect and store permissions obtained.
- This procedure change will take effect for the January 2018 Federal Quota Registration...”

Georgia is well ahead of this guidance in obtaining necessary information to comply with FERPA and continue to support districts in the acquisition of materials using APH quota funds. Thank you and your teachers for your hard work and dedication to students.

Please remember:

- Parent consents must be obtained for each student registered with APH.
- Consents must be notarized.
- Without consents, the GMC cannot order new materials for students.
- Consents are not district specific.
- Consents are valid until the parent resends the permission in writing, i.e., there is no need to collect them annually.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Carson Cochran, [ccochran@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ccochran@doe.k12.ga.us) or 470-316-8662.

**Attachment titles that were included with the September 15 Email Blast.**

 Transition Webinar Series.docx (16 KB)

 Friday, September 15th Email Blast final.pdf (521 KB)

Friday, September 22, 2017

Directors,

Thank you for tuning in for the [Directors' Webinar](#) on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm. You can access the archived recording and resources.

Emmaundia Ford will continue the work of special education leadership for a local school district. She has been such an outstanding contributor and has directly supported the professional learning for Georgia's CEEDAR Grant, SELDA, and work as a district liaison. We are going to miss her and wish her much success. On another note, we would like to announce several new employees to include the following: **Malissa Roberts** (Budget Unit), **Dale Rose** (GO-IEP Unit), and **Phoebie Atkins** (GO-IEP Unit). Join us in welcoming them to the GaDOE team.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2017 Kickoff Conference**. Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement includes family and community engagement, which is critical to improve schools. During the Directors' Webinar, we discussed Georgia's FY17 Parent Satisfaction data (Indicator 8) and celebrated that **69% of our families** reported that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. We appreciate your hard work in making the survey accessible for families, but more importantly, your efforts to meet the needs of our families and communities.

Georgia has continued to commit itself to the development of a continuum of dispute resolution processes and practices as modeled by [The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education \(CADRE\)](#). The State made tremendous progress in developing preventative practices such as the Parent Mentor Partnership, Special Education State Advisory Panel and Facilitated IEP project. We encourage you to consider similar strategies within your local school district.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to Amy Greene who works diligently as an administrative assistant for White County School District. Amy has spent COUNTLESS hours on and above her work day supporting the update of the district's policy and procedures manual. She has streamlined so many procedures and forms that will allow teachers the ability to do the real work and focus on teaching and students! Mary Kay Berry, the special education director, shared that Amy's work will allow her the ability to teach new teachers from an updated, live and interactive manual! 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

[Budget News and Reminders](#)

[Georgia Assistive Technology in Education \(GATE\)](#)

#### Old/Updated Items

[Autism Resources Webinar Series](#)

[Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program](#)

### **Budget News and Reminders (See Attachment):**

The deadline for budget submissions is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. This includes all IDEA grants, Preschool Disability services, GNETS, and GLRS. The budget submission sign-off report is used for Local District Determination for SSP/APR Indicator 20.

The deadline for FY16 MOE reconciliation is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. This means that if you did not meet the compliance standard for FY16 for Maintenance of Effort (MOE), you must either repay funds or reconcile with your IDEA budget specialist. For LEAs that have not reconciled by the due date, repayment must be made for the appropriate amount using state and local funds. The MOE compliance report is used for Local District Determination for SSP/APR Indicator 20.

We are pleased to announce a new staff member for the budget unit, Malissa Roberts. Malissa comes to us with prior experience in special education as well as finance experience from the United States Department of Treasury. Please see the attached Budget Specialist Map to identify which LEAs will be served by Malissa, as well as, contact information.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your respective budget specialist.

### **Georgia Assistive Technology in Education (GATE) Call for Proposals (See Attachment):**

Do you know someone who would like to submit a proposal to present at GATE? GATE Seminar planning committee encourages educators and therapists working with assistive technology to [submit proposals](#). The GATE Seminar is open to educators, therapists, parents and community members.

***Friday, December 8, 2017***

Georgia Tech Student Center, Atlanta, Georgia

### **Autism Resources Webinar Series (See Attachment):**

Webinars will highlight Georgia's agencies that provide services to students with autism. Supports available for families, as well as, school districts will be discussed. Join us for a webinar on **Sep 25, 2017** at 2:00 PM EDT. The presenters on September 25<sup>th</sup> are Dr. Catherine Rice from the **Emory Autism Center** and Dr. Nathan Call from the **Marcus Autism Center**.

**Registration Link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/818542811618184961>

### **Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program (GATTAP) 2017 – 2018 (See Attachment):**

The goal of GATTAP is to provide FREE regional training to teachers/therapists who work with students with autism, providing them an opportunity to meet with and learn from job-alike peers. Review the flyer for next week's sessions.

### **Attachment titles that were included with the September 22 Email Blast.**

 GATTAP 2017-2018.docx (31 KB)

 Call for Presentations 2017.pdf (94 KB)

 Autism Webinar Series 2017 (002).docx (17 KB)

 FY18 Budget Liaison Map.pdf (535 KB)

 Directors' Webinar\_September 19, 2017.pptx (6 MB)

 GAA2 0\_NomineesLetter\_09142017\_Final.pdf (448 KB)

 Transition Webinar Series and Face to Face TA 2017 2018(2).pdf (55 KB)

 Friday, September 22nd Email Blast.pdf (450 KB)