

April Friday Email Blast

Table of Contents

Friday, April 5, 2019.....	2
Friday, April 12, 2019.....	3
Friday, April 19, 2019.....	8
Friday, April 26, 2019.....	10

Friday, April 5, 2019

No Email Blast was sent out on April 5.

Friday, April 12, 2019

Directors,

The April Director's Webinar recording is now available using the link below. The title of the webinar is: ***Understanding Georgia's Tiered System of Supports: MTSS, PBIS and Clarification for Students Referred to Special Education***. The PowerPoint and the Taxonomy handout are attached. The recording is approximately 1½ hours. The first three minutes of the recording have some fluctuation in the audio, but the issue does resolve for the remainder of the recording. Thank you for your patience during the "live" broadcast due to the technical issues.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2651362737255834625>

The procedure for new braille book transcriptions has changed. Teachers are now required to submit a course pacing guide and an ink print of the book before an order is placed that requires new braille transcription. The change is necessary to work more efficiently to provide materials to students. Districts will be contacted once the pacing guides and ink prints are received by the GMC and a vendor's transcription price is quoted and/or a completion timeline is established. Transcriptions will begin at the point in the pacing guide where it is reasonable for the materials to be delivered at or before the point that the student is expected to be using the materials. Districts are responsible to produce accessible materials that cannot be transcribed in time for students' usage. Districts will be immediately contacted in order to plan accordingly if any unexpected delays are experienced with new transcriptions.

EMAIL BLAST ITEMS

[Data Collections](#)

[SELDA](#)

[CTI Leadership and Competition Conference](#)

[CTI New Coordinator Training](#)

[Phil Pickens Leadership Award Nominations](#)

[Important Reminders for your Students with Visual Impairments](#)

[Assessment Updates](#)

[Request for Applications – IEP Facilitators](#)

[Parent to Parent Trainings of Georgia](#)

Data Collections:

Registration is now open for the FY20 Data Conference at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. The conference will begin on August 21, 2019 and conclude on August 23, 2019. This conference fills up quickly! Please register now if you plan to attend. Registration and hotel information may be found at the following link: <http://dcconference.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

Please make your hotel reservations also. Your registration and hotel may be canceled if your plans change and you are not able to attend. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

The Annual Performance Report (APR) for each LEA will be publicly posted **Friday April 12, 2019**. The reports will be available by clicking the School Finder link as in previous years or at a link on the Special Education webpage. The link is on the right side of the page under the heading Resource Links. After clicking on the link, enter the name of a school district or zip code to view the APR. If you have questions, please email Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

Please encourage your families to complete the FY19 Parent Survey. The survey will be available until the end of May. You may see how many families completed the survey to date at each school by clicking on the “Download District Response” link in the Parent Survey application in the dashboard. Please reach out to schools with low participation. This is valuable data you may use to build strong relationships with families but only useful with good participation. If you have any questions please contact Anne Ladd aladd@doe.k12.ga.us or Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA):

If you are a new Special Education Director for the 2019-2020 school year, please register for the Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA). SELDA provides professional learning, technical assistance and mentoring for two years through a partnership with the Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports and the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). For additional information, please contact Wina Low, Program Manager Senior, at wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or Kachelle White, Program Manager Senior, at kawhite@doe.k12.ga.us. Information will be sent at a later date to register for individual sessions. Please see attached tentative calendar for SELDA 2019-2020.

Registration Link: [SELDA 2019/2020](#)

CTI State Leadership and Competition Conference:



We would be honored to have you join us for the annual CTI State Leadership and Competition Conference next week at Rock Eagle 4-H Camp in Eatonton, GA. Approximately 500 CTI students from across the state will be competing in 30 different competitive events aligned with CTAE career pathways. As part of all competitive events, these students will also be demonstrating employability skills as they present professional portfolios and participate in mock interviews. If you plan to join us, please email ppoulicek@doe.k12.ga.us.

The event schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, April 17: 8 pm

Opening Session in Talmadge Auditorium on Rock Eagle campus

Thursday, April 18: 8:30 am—12 pm

(Competitive event locations are across the Rock Eagle campus.)

Friday, April 19: 9 am—11 am in Talmadge Auditorium

Awards Ceremony

CTI New Coordinator Training:

CTI New Coordinator training will be offered this summer during the weeks of July 8th and July 15th. Training will be held at Alcovy High School in Covington, GA. If you are planning to add a new CTI Coordinator to your school next year, or if you had a new CTI Coordinator hired after training concluded last summer, this is the training your new coordinator will need. The training workshops are posted on the CTAE Resource Network and do not have a registration fee.

How to register:

Anyone interested in registering for these workshops who is not a member in the CTAE Resource Network will need to follow these steps:

- Contact the district CTAE Director/Supervisor and request to be added as a member in the CTAE Resource Network.
- Member/teacher login information will be given.
- Go to www.ctaern.org
- Click on “Member Login” and login to the network.
- Go to “Workshops” on the left-hand side of the page and click on it.
- Click on “Upcoming Workshops”.
- Locate CTAERN 6331 **and** CTAERN6332 and click on “Register”.

***If there are any difficulties with registration, or if there are questions regarding the training, please contact Paula Poulicek at ppoulicek@doe.k12.ga.us for assistance.

Phil Pickens Leadership Award Nominations:

We need your EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT!

It has been reported that parent mentors are excelling in leadership roles across the state of Georgia. There have been sightings of *collaboration* and *partnerships* from the local school districts to the state capital. The buzz words are *Student Success, Graduation, Transition, Self Determination, Medicaid*, etc....

Parent mentors are bridging gaps, fostering partnerships, and building **home, school, and community partnerships** through effective communication in an effort to increase graduation rates and successful post-secondary outcomes for all students, especially those with disabilities.

We are also seeking awesome Special Education Directors who continue to support the work of successful outcomes for students with disabilities.

Surely, you’ve seen something. If you have witnessed or supported this awesome work, contact April Wooten awooten@jones.k12.ga.us and her team. Nominations are being accepted now for the Phil Pickens Leadership Award 2019.

Go to this link to download the nomination packets: <http://www.parentmentors.org/home/kickoff-conference-2019/>

Also, please note the Parent Mentor Partnership Spring Newsletter.

Important Reminders for Your Students with Visual Impairments (see attached):

In an effort to assist you and your Teachers of students with visually impairments with general supervision, please review the attached document. It explains the Essential Assessments that are required for students who are blind or visually impaired. In addition, please note that Georgia requires a Low Vision Evaluation for students who have residual vision and can participate in the evaluation.

Assessment Update - April 2019 Posted:

The Assessment Update, April 2019, has been posted to the Testing/Assessment Webpage under the [For Educators link](#). You are welcome to share this information with other technology or assessment support staff as needed.

This month's *Assessment Update* focuses on several of Georgia's assessment programs and provides System Test Coordinators (STCs) with specific information and guidance.

- ✓ **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alt ACCESS** – Post-Assessment tasks and training opportunity details
- ✓ **Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0** – Transcription directions for the Nextera platform
Of note, Nextera TDS remains closed at this time. It is expected that notice will come by email to STCs regarding the opening of Nextera TDS once the platform has completed validation checks. We realize the burden this places on your district and teachers, and we thank you for your patience. We hope to re-open the platform quickly, as soon as the validation checks have been completed.
- ✓ **Georgia Milestones Assessments** – Student readiness for testing; reminders for student accommodations; and information regarding scoring and reporting
- ✓ **GKIDS** – Important reminders regarding the closing of GKIDS 1.0 and training opportunities for GKIDS 2.0
- ✓ **GOFAR and TestPad** – Updates regarding the transition from GOFAR to TestPad
- ✓ **Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)** – End of year planning and reminders and feedback from the field of teachers
- ✓ **Accountability** – Planning for CCRPI portal activities

Of note, all trainings for assessment programs are provided with **registration links** through the Assessment Updates each month. Any changes to the Assessment and Training Calendar will be made to the online calendar as well as announced through this newsletter and other communication, as needed.

You are welcome to submit questions, concerns, or feedback to your assessment specialist. Please let us know how we may help as you plan and manage assessments for the 2018-2019 school year.

Request for Applications – IEP Facilitators:

After providing IEP facilitation in a select number of school districts for the past 3 years, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education Services and Supports will offer IEP facilitation to all Georgia school districts starting in the 2019-2020 school year. In preparation for statewide availability of this collaborative dispute prevention and resolution process, the GaDOE is seeking applications from individuals across the state of Georgia who are interested in serving as IEP Facilitators. IEP Facilitators are trained, impartial individuals who assist members of the IEP Team in developing or reviewing a student's IEP, while also addressing conflicts and disagreements that may arise during the meeting. The request for application form, which includes minimum and preferred qualifications, essential functions, compensation, selection process, and how to apply is attached and also located on the GaDOE Division for Special Education Services and Supports website on the right-hand column under "IEP Facilitator Application" (<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/default.aspx>). If you know of individuals who would be great IEP Facilitators and are not employees of GaDOE or local educational agencies, please encourage them to apply. **Application deadline is May 15, 2019.** If you have questions, please contact Jamila Pollard at jpollard@doe.k12.ga.us or Tamyka Davis at tadavis@doe.k12.ga.us.

Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) Trainings (see attachments):

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 *Attendance-Why Does It Matter?*
Paulding/Cobb/Douglas/Bartow

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 *Sifting Through Your Parental Rights*
Paulding/Cobb/Douglas

Attachment titles that were included with the April 12 Email Blast.

-  4.16.2019.Attendance-Preschool, MS, HS.NS.Paulding
-  4.16.2019.Sifting Through Parental Rights.DB.Paulding
-  April 12th Email Blast
-  Essential Assessments for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired must include
-  GaPMP Spring Newsletter
-  SELDA -Tentative Dates for 2019 2020
-  Taxonomy Academic and Behavior Versions 1.17.19
-  Understanding Georgia's Tiered System of Supports MTSS PBIS and Clarification for Students Referred to Special Ed...

Friday, April 19, 2019

Directors,

The GaDOE would like to extend their congratulations and well wishes to Pam Glasgow and Beth McMickle as they retire and begin new adventures. Both ladies have had a longstanding and positive impact on special education in our state.

Pam Glasgow has 36-years of experience in education as a regular education teacher, pre-school special needs teacher, assistant principal, and principal. For the past 15 years, Pam has served as the GLRS Director for North Georgia GLRS, and there is no doubt she will be missed for her stellar work.

Beth McMickle has 32-years of educational experience and has worked with the GLRS network since 1999 when she started as a program specialist at West Central GLRS. In addition to her work at GLRS, Beth has worked as a special education teacher, special education coordinator and a diagnostic lead teacher. Beth is currently serving as the GLRS Director of Northeast Georgia GLRS where she has inspired a focus on continuous improvement with a commitment to educational excellence.

Please join us in wishing Pam and Beth the very best!

EMAIL BLAST

[New Series for Co-Teaching](#)

[Transition Technical Assistance Summary](#)

[Data Collection](#)

[GIMC Update](#)

[New Series for Co-Teaching:](#)

The GaDOE is excited to announce a **new** co-teaching professional learning series. The series includes power point presentations, a facilitator's guide with presentation notes, as well as, participant handouts. Additionally, the series provides short, one-pagers about co-teaching best practices. Attached, you will find a supporting document.

[Transition Technical Assistance Summary \(Attachment\):](#)

For students with disabilities to transition successfully from school to adulthood requires a process that promotes movement to postsecondary environments, which include postsecondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Effective transition programming incorporates each of the transition process to adulthood components and requires significant collaboration with outside agencies, community organizations, higher education and families.

We are proud to announce that 508 participants received transition technical assistance across all 18 GLRS regions from October 2018 – March 2019. In addition to this accomplishment, we

hosted eight webinars and provided transition technical assistance for 913 registrants. You can obtain additional information from the attachment.

Data Collections:

The Annual Performance Report (APR) for each LEA is now publicly posted. The current year APRs are **not** available on the School Finder Link; you may continue to view previous years' data at the School Finder site. The current APR are now available in 3 locations on Georgia DOE website, on the Special Education webpage under Resources, inside the Annual Reports Page under Budget, Grants, Data Collection and Reporting on Special Education webpage (left side) and on the Data and Reporting page under Educational Performance. After clicking on one of these links, enter the name of a school district or zip code to view the APR. If you have questions, please email Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

GIMC Updates:

The Georgia Prison Braille Program was honored to have Georgia's School Superintendent, Mr. Richard Woods speak at their annual open house and expo. Visit this Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) [YouTube link](#) to hear about the great work that's done to support our students through the cooperation of the GaDOE and GDC.

The procedure for new braille book transcriptions has changed. Teachers are now required to submit a course pacing guide and an ink print of the book before an order is placed that requires new braille transcription. The change is necessary to work more efficiently to provide materials to students. Districts will be contacted once the pacing guides and ink prints are received by the GIMC and a vendor's transcription price is quoted and/or a completion timeline is established. Transcriptions will begin at the point in the pacing guide where it is realistic for the materials to be delivered at or before the point that the student is expected to be using the materials. Districts are responsible to produce accessible materials that cannot be transcribed in time for students' use. Districts will be immediately contacted in order to plan accordingly if any unexpected delays are experienced with new transcriptions.

Attachment titles that were included with the April 19 Email Blast.

 New Series Co-Teaching

 Transition Technical Assistance Summary for 2018-2019 - April 2019 -Final

Friday, April 26, 2019

Directors,

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has approved Georgia's request to extend its waiver of the statewide alternate assessment 1.0 percent participation cap for the 2018-2019 school year. Georgia's [waiver request](#) and [approval letter](#) can be found at accountability.gadoe.org on the right side under "ESSA."

The April edition of *Teacher Tools* is now available. This month's issue features effective transition through the use of self-determination and includes an interview with Dr. Michael Wehmeyer from the University of Kansas. Dr. Wehmeyer is widely noted as the leading international expert in the field of self-determination. Please distribute to all teachers of students with disabilities.

Link to access *Teacher Tools* on the website:

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/GaMTSS/TeacherToolsApril2019.pdf>

The Teacher Tools newsletter was designed to support Georgia teachers and help them thrive in the classroom. Please visit: <https://form.jotform.com/gadoespecial/special-education-services-and-supp> to subscribe.

The next Self-Determination Community of Practice will convene via Webinar and Transition Webinar Updates (see attached information) on Monday, April 29, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Also, please note the webinar slides for Dr. Wehmeyer's Self-Determination presentation.

EMAIL BLAST

[Special Education Leadership Development Academy \(SELDA\)](#)
[Special Olympics Georgia after Graduation from High School](#)

[Special Education Leadership Development Academy \(SELDA\):](#)

If you are a new Special Education Director for the 2019-2020 school year, please register for the Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA). SELDA provides professional learning, technical assistance and mentoring for two years through a partnership with the Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports and the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). For additional information, please contact Wina Low, Program Manager Senior, at wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or Kachelle White, Program Manager Senior, at kawhite@doe.k12.ga.us.

Registration link for the 2019-2020 new Special Education Director's Cohort: [SELDA 2019/2020](#)

Information will be sent at a later date to register for individual sessions. Please see attached tentative calendar for SELDA 2019-2020.

[Special Olympics Georgia after Graduation from High School:](#)

Please share the attached flyer with high school special education teachers, transition coordinators, parent mentors and CTI coordinators. Special Olympics Georgia needs your

assistance to ensure athletes continue to stay involved in local programs and opportunities after graduation from high school. Please distribute to students (18 years or older) meeting the criteria for participation in Special Olympics or to their parent/guardian. Referrals should be made directly from the student, parent or guardian if interested in continued participation.

Attachment titles that were included with the April 26 Email Blast.

-  Friday, April 26 Email Blast
-  GABSI February Newsletter
-  SELDA -Tentative Dates for 2019 2020
-  Self-Determination Information and Transition Webinar Updates
-  Transition Flyer 2019
-  Wehmeyer Self-Determination webinar