

June Friday Email Blast

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Friday, June 7, 2019

Directors,

It was great seeing many teachers at the IDEAS Conference this week. We believe this professional learning opportunity offers great value for many educators.

We have posted several additional implementation manual chapters and look forward to your participation during the TA in June.

Implementation Manual Webpage: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Implementation-Manual.aspx>

Please note the Project AWARE newsletter. <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/Project%20AWARE/GPAD-Spg19-web.pdf>

Have a great weekend.

EMAIL BLAST

Data Collections

IDEA General Supervision and IDEA Implementation Training Sessions

The May edition of Teacher Tools

Data Collections:

The CEIS student data application is open for data entry. The data may not be submitted until mid-July after the validation process is complete. The validation process cannot be initiated until Student Record (SR) signoff has occurred as the SR data are used to verify or validate the student data you have entered. We will notify you through the Friday Email Blast when the verification and submission process may begin.

IDEA General Supervision and IDEA Implementation Training Sessions:

We will host **IDEA General Supervision and Implementation Training Sessions** at the Georgia Department of Education on the dates listed below. You will need to register for only **one** day, and it may be helpful to attend the training as a district leadership team of 2-4 individuals to support subsequent planning. The following topics are planned for the training: Discipline, Young Children, Private Schools, Parents, General IDEA Technical Assistance. Please register by **June 13, 2019**.

Training Registration Link: <https://form.jotform.com/91393631276158>

Date: June 17, 2019	Date: June 20, 2019
Time: 12 pm – 3 pm	Time: 9 am – 12 pm
Location: West Tower 20 th Floor Floyd Room	West Tower 20 th Floor Floyd Room
***Lunch on you own	***Lunch on your own


The May edition of *Teacher Tools*:

The May edition of ***Teacher Tools*** is now available. This month's issue features a message from State Superintendent Richard Woods. Please distribute to all teachers of students with disabilities.

Link to the Teacher Tools newsletter: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/Newsletters/TeacherToolsMay2019.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.

Attachment titles that were included with the June 7 Email Blast.

 GPAD-Spg19-web

Friday, June 14, 2019

No Email Blast was sent this week.

No attachments were sent June 14.

Friday, June 21, 2019

Directors,

As always, I enjoyed seeing you at Federal Programs Conference and appreciated opportunities to check in about the work. This week, we completed another round of General Supervision and IDEA Implementation Training. You will be excited to know that we have scheduled two additional sessions for next school year and will consider how to redeliver the June training for districts that were unable to attend the professional learning.

Please note the **FY20 Save the Date** document! If you use the calendar feature to add the directors' webinars, you will need to double check the dates due to an ongoing glitch with the system. Have a great weekend.

EMAIL BLAST

[Summary from LRP](#)

[Timeline Report and GO-IEP](#)

[Budget Update](#)

[Budget Training Tool](#)

[Important State Fund Information](#)

Summary from LRP:

Below is the summary from LRP and the actual letter is attached.

SEP FILE: Screening doesn't alter duty to give parent PWN after evaluation request

Case name: *Letter to Mills*, [119 LRP 21572](#) (OSEP 05/02/19).

Ruling: A district must provide a parent prior written notice in response to a parent's request for an evaluation regardless of whether the district is screening or planning to screen the child to determine whether the child is suspected of having a disability.

What it means: Districts are free to screen a student to determine whether the student needs to be evaluated under the IDEA. But regardless of whether a district is screening or planning to screen a student, it must respond to a parent's evaluation request in accordance with the IDEA. That includes sending the parent PWN that explains that the district will evaluate the student and conducting that evaluation within 60 days (or within the state time frame), or sending PWN to the parent explaining why the district does not suspect the child has a disability.

Summary: A district's decision to screen a child following a parent or guardian's request for an IDEA evaluation doesn't alter the district's obligation to respond with a properly composed PWN, OSEP stated. Regardless of whether the district chooses to screen the child, the district must notify the parent in accordance with [34 CFR 503](#) that it is, or is not, going to evaluate the student and why.

OSEP was responding to a writer who asked whether a district violates the IDEA's PWN requirements by failing to either agree to conduct the assessment requested by a parent, or to deny that assessment, when it proposes to conduct a "screening" in the same area of suspected disability by different personnel. According to OSEP, the question stemmed from the writer's request for a functional vision assessment by an optometrist for a child with a diagnosed visual disability.

OSEP noted that when a district responds to a parent's or guardian's evaluation request, it must provide the parent PWN regardless of whether it decides to proceed with the evaluation. If the district believes the evaluation is unnecessary, it must explain in the PWN why it has decided not to evaluate the student.

OSEP added that the IDEA does not prohibit districts from screening a child to determine whether the child is suspected of having a disability. However, OSEP observed that districts may not use screening procedures to delay or deny an IDEA evaluation.

"Therefore, referring a child for screening after a request for an evaluation has been made does not replace the evaluation and does not alleviate the public agency's responsibility to issue a prior written notice," OSEP Director Laurie VanderPloeg wrote.

Timelines Report and GO-IEP (attachment):

Please remember that after submitting the Timelines Report in GO-IEP, you MUST go to the SE Applications Dashboard in the portal and enter the data into the Timelines Report. You can just enter the numbers which are shown in the white rows in the pdf you printed from GO. See the attachment for additional guidance.

Budget Update (attachment):

Attached to the June 14th email blast was a spreadsheet detailing FY19 IDEA 611 and 619 adjustments. That spreadsheet was accurate and is attached again for your convenience. There have been confusing and conflicting automatic email notifications as Grants Accounting has been in the process of entering in these adjustments. The reasons for this are different per LEA. For instance, some LEAs had a budget that was not in an approved status in March, therefore the March reallocation of funds was never entered. In some instances, that reallocation has now been entered simultaneously with this June adjustment. Another reason is that the FY19 June adjustment does not account for those LEAs that have parent mentor grants included in their 611 Flowthrough budgets. For these reasons the totals in the automatic email notifications may not match the totals in the Consolidated Application. However, the totals in the Consolidated Application should be accurate. We have verified the accuracy of these adjustments several times with LEAs.

Additionally, Grants Accounting could not make the June adjustments this week for LEAs who are currently going through the budget approval process. All original and amendment budgets must be fully approved in order for any adjustments to be made. For example, if an LEA has an amendment that has been signed off by the coordinator role, that budget is currently in the approval process; therefore, the budget cannot receive an adjustment until the budget has been rejected or approved. If you feel that you should have received an adjustment but did not, please review the audit trail in your budget to determine if the budget is able to receive the adjustment. If you have questions about the total amount, or if you feel that the Consolidated Application contains errors, please reach out to your Budget Liaison. We are sorry for any confusion the automatic email notifications have caused, and we are able to answer any questions you may have.

Budget Training Tool (attachment):






During the IDEA Fiscal Sessions at the Federal Programs Conference, professional development was given surrounding the IDEA 611 and 619 formula allocations. The training tool that Amber used is attached so that LEAs may better understand the formula allocations. This

spreadsheet contains examples only. Student counts and funding amounts do not accurately reflect actual allocations but rather how the formulas function. We hope to provide additional training in the future for personnel who were unable to attend those sessions.

Important State Fund Information:

The Georgia Department of Education reduced the Preschool Disability Grant (state preschool) and Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) state funds due to the reduction in SHBP employer contribution for June. The reduction can be seen in GAORS but does not match the Consolidated Application. Our Grants Accounting office made the decision to not include that reduction in both places to ease the burden of creating budget amendments for those grants. In summary, LEAs do not need to create budget amendments for Preschool Disability or GNETS state funds due to the SHBP employer contribution holiday. For more information, please refer to the webinar held on May 22nd for all Finance Directors by our Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Ted Beck.

Attachment titles that were included with the June 21 Email Blast.

-  Email Blast Timelines Report
-  FY19 611 619 adjustments to Board- June
-  FY20 Division for Special Education Save the Dates_Email Blast
-  IDEA 611 and 619 Formula Example
-  osep-letter-to-mills-05-02-2019

Friday, June 28, 2019

Directors,

We **will not** do an email blast next Friday and trust that each of you will enjoy a safe holiday weekend.

I have updated the "Save the Dates" attachment to reflect a **1:00 pm** start time for the **Directors' Webinars**.

The **latest training resource** has been uploaded to the **Implementation Manual Webpage**. You may access those slides using the following link: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Implementation-Manual.aspx>.

Please complete the **Preschool Database Update** form by **August 1, 2019**.
<https://form.jotform.com/91744583559168>

The Georgia Department of Education's Division for Special Education Services and Supports is in the process of developing a toolbox highlighting **best practices related to improving the graduation rate** from LEAs across our state. Our goal is to present this information through the use of an **interactive map** of our state that will provide information about where the best practices are located.


We are very excited about providing this resource to LEAs as it will be a great place to go to learn more, gain tangible resources, and simply learn which districts might serve as a source of information. If your LEA has what you consider "best practices" or "innovative practices" around any of the topics listed below, please take a moment to complete this brief application, giving our review team more information.

Once the team receives your application, someone will reach out to you to learn more and to determine if the practice aligns to the goal of the GaDOE resource map. If your LEA practice is chosen, we will also work to determine the best way to highlight the identified practice(s). We are interested in videos, digital and text resources that can be easily highlighted and accessed.

Please use the link to submit your application: [SCHOOL COMPLETION BEST PRACTICES APPLICATION](#)

Please remember that the **Timeline data (Indicator 11, Child Find and Indicator 12, Early Childhood Transition), Preschool Exit data, and Post-secondary Outcome Survey data** must be submitted in the **Special Education Dashboard by July 31st**. Also, please make sure that the **District Special Education Director's name** is updated in the **Dashboard**. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us. For LEAs who had a determination of **Significant Disproportionality** and are **required to submit a CCEIS plan**, the FY20 application is now open for plan submission. If you have questions about your CCEIS plan, please contact your district liaison.

Attachment titles that were included with the June 28 Email Blast.

 FY20 Division for Special Education Save the Dates_Email Blast

