

March Friday Email Blast

Table of Contents

Friday, March 1, 2019.....	2
Friday, March 8, 2019.....	5
Friday, March 15, 2019.....	8
Friday, March 22, 2019.....	11
Friday, March 29, 2019.....	13

Friday, March 1, 2019

Directors:

How are you supporting authentic family engagement at the local level? Would you like to participate in Georgia's Parent Mentor Partnership? Website Link: www.parentmentors.org

If you have questions about parent mentors and family engagement, please reach out to either Anne Ladd aladd@doe.k12.ga.us or Sharon Jones sjones@doe.k12.ga.us. The application for participation in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) for FY20 is available and due back to the GaDOE today. Districts who currently have a parent mentor and those who will be new to the Parent Mentor Partnership must return a signed application for participation. Application and instructions for submitting are attached. Scan the signed FY20 GaPMP Application and reference your district name in the file name. LINK for uploading application for submission: [FY20 GaPMP Application Submission](#)

Email Blast

[GIMC Updates](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[GAA 2.0 Support](#)

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

[Transition Webinar Series Update](#)

[GIMC Updates:](#)

Please send any accessible material orders (braille, large print, electronic) to the GIMC before 3/31/2019. Remember if the book is not commercially available, an ink print will be requested and required for production of the book. Please make your district staff aware of this requirement to expedite the material production.

[Awards of Excellence:](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of one outstanding graduating senior in your district! Accomplishments can be in the areas of academics, athletics, career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, and/or community service. All nominees will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. One student from each GLRS region and his/her family will be invited to Superintendent Richard Woods' Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 7th at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta. The ceremony is heartwarming and means a great deal to honorees and their families. Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 29, 2019. Questions? Contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us or Paula Gumpman at pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us.

Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)

[GAA 2.0 Support:](#)

Title: GAA 2.0 FAQ Session: Supplemental Test Examiner Training

Purpose: Presenters will review answers to common questions that test examiners have asked GaDOE staff related to test administration, eligibility criteria, and accountability policy.

For more information, please contact Crystal Callaway (404) 764-7321 or Ccallaway@doe.k12.ga.us.

March 4, 2019 (9 am – 11:00 am)	GAA 2.0 FAQ Session: Supplemental Test Examiner Training
March 6, 2019 (2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)	GAA 2.0 FAQ Session: Supplemental Test Examiner Training (Live Repeat)

March 4th Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2635608933457100811>

March 6th Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7205156168750085634>

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

Saturday, March 2, 2019: *Keys to Help Your Teen Get a First Job*
DeKalb/Clayton/Fulton/Gwinnett

Monday, March 4, 2019: *Georgia Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services-NOW/COMP Waivers*
Gordon/Murray/Bartow/Pickens

Thursday, March 7, 2019: *Sifting Through Your Parental Rights*
Ware/Pierce/Clinch/Brantley

Tuesday, March 5, 2019: *Georgia Medicaid and Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver*
Madison/Clarke/Jackson/Oglethorpe

Thursday, March 7, 2019: *I Can Do That!*
Chattooga/Floyd/Gordon/Walker

Saturday, March 9, 2019: *Georgia Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services-NOW/COMP Waivers*
DeKalb/Clayton/Fulton/Gwinnett

Transition Webinar Series Update (see attachments):

All sessions in the transition webinar series are from 3:00pm until 4:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Elise James (ejames@doe.k12.ga.us).

Rescheduled Sessions

- **Assistive Technology/Accommodations:** We are still trying to get a date scheduled with our presenters to record their session. Everyone who registered prior to the original session will receive the link to the recording once it is done. We will post the link in the Friday Email Blast once we record the session.
- **Dual Enrollment:** This session will be included in the March 26, 2019 session with **Transition Programs for 18-22 Year Old Students:** If you have already registered for the March 26th session you do not have to register again.

Remaining Sessions

- **March 26, 2019: Transition Programs for 18-22 Year Old Students and Dual Enrollment:**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1832022060643144450>
- **April 30, 2019: Health Transition Planning/Youth Mental Health:**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6468653798881546242>
- ***May 1, 2019: Guardianship/Supported Decision Making:**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4548819635366088706>

* This is a Wednesday webinar

Transition Webinar Series Recorded Links:

Family Engagement: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2815555004096327426>

IGP/Career Pathways/CTAE/CTI: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/189240641916445954>

Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs and Summary of Performance:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6006027688277940227>

Attachment titles that were included with the March 1 Email Blast.

-  3.4.2019.GA Medicaid NOW-COMP Waivers.DB.Gordon
-  3.5.2019.GA Medicaid Basics & Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver.LS.Madison
-  3.7.2019. I Can Do That!DB.Chattooga
-  FY20 GaPMP Application.2.1final (002)
-  Interrelated Components of Positive Transition Outcomes
-  March 7-MP-Waycross-Sifting through parent rights
-  SOP_IPSE
-  Tapestry Parent Class draft. 2 courses (1)
-  Tapestry Parent Class draft. 2 courses

Friday, March 8, 2019

Directors:

We will host the next Directors' Webinar on **Tuesday, March 12 @ 1:00 pm**. Carly Ambler (Program Manager, Title II, Part A and PQ/In-Field) and Carol Seay (Part B Data Manager) will share awareness information about Special Education Certification. If not already, you may register using the following link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4165888321260772097>

This is to inform you that the [2018 GAA Participation Justifications](#) have been posted on the [accountability](#) webpage on the right-hand side under *ESSA*. The explanation is on the first page of the document. Please contact the [accountability specialist](#) assigned to assist your district if you have questions.

As a reminder, you may register for both the [Federal Programs Conference](#), as well as, [IDEAS Conference](#).

A federal judge ruled Thursday that the Education Department violated the law when it delayed by two years the implementation of an Obama-era rule designed to tackle racial disparities in special education, which is known as significant disproportionality. Georgia will continue with its implementation of the new regulations.



SAVE the DATE

2019 Annual Kickoff Conference

September 11-13, 2019

UGA Center for Continuing Ed. Athens, Georgia

Email Blast

[IDEAS Awards Nominations](#)

[IDEAS Updates](#)

[GELDS Administrators' Training Recording](#)

[DECAL Criminal Records Check Webinar Recording](#)

[Effective Instruction for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[Budget Notification](#)

IDEAS Award Nominations:

Nominations are open for the GaCEC and Tools for Life Awards presented during the conference. Awards are given across a wide variety of categories. Use [this IDEAS web page link](#) and click "Awards" to nominate a deserving colleague. We encourage you to share the link locally, as well.

IDEAS Update:

Consider presenting at the IDEAS2019 conference. The conference is built on teachers supporting each other by sharing their evidence-based practices. Proposal submissions will be open through **March 15, 2019!**

Priority Areas for Proposals:

- Teaching cognitive and metacognitive strategies
- Specially designed instruction
- Scaffolding supports
- Using technology
- Active student engagement
- Providing positive feedback
- Using explicit and intensive instruction
- Adapting curriculum
- High Leverage Practices
- Implementation of Evidence-based Practices

If you decide to join the many professionals presenting at this year's conference, please visit the [IDEAS webpage](#) to submit your proposal. Proposal submission link is in the far-right column of the webpage under Presenters and Exhibitors.

Direct questions to Paula Gumpman (pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us).

GELDS Administrator Webinar Training Recording:

We would like to thank everyone who was able to log into our GELDS Administrator webinar on February 26, 2019. You may access the archived recording using the following link, which will be accessible on the website soon.

Recording Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8803355693327972353>

DECAL Criminal Records Check Webinar Recording:

The Department of Early Care and Learning has made important changes to the criminal records check requirements. Please use the link below to watch an important webinar providing information about the changes. Individuals providing services to students ages 3-5 in child care centers will impacted by these changes.

<http://www.dec.al.gov/documents/attachments/CRCandCompBackgroundCheckWebinar2019.pdf>

Effective Instruction for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities:

Jessie Moreau will facilitate a support session on March 21, 2019 in Atlanta, GA at the GaDOE for new teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities. For more information, please contact Crystal Callaway ccallaway@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 764-7321.

Registration Link: <https://form.jotform.com/gadoespecial/JMTraining>

Awards of Excellence:

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of one outstanding graduating senior in your district! Accomplishments can be in the areas of academics, athletics, career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, and/or community service. All nominees will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. One student from each GLRS region and his/her family will be invited to Superintendent Richard Woods' Recognition Ceremony on **Tuesday, May 7th** at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta. The ceremony is heartwarming

and means a great deal to honorees and their families. Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 29, 2019. Contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us or Paula Gumpman at pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us.

Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)

Budget Notification:

The Special Education Services and Supports Budget Unit received Residential and Reintegration Grants from eight LEAs via portal email, hand delivery, or the United States Postal Service. Please see the attached list for LEA name and number submitted. If any LEA submitted Residential and Reintegration Grants by the **March 1** deadline but are not included on the attached list, please contact Amber McCollum as soon as possible. She can be reached at (404) 463-0535 or amccollum@doe.k12.ga.us.

Attachment titles that were included with the March 8 Email Blast.

 March 8 Email Blast

 RRG Applications For Email Blast

Friday, March 15, 2019

Directors,

Effective October 2018, Federal and State law require a **comprehensive national records check**. The background check completed by school districts does not meet this criteria. Local district personnel providing services in child care programs or personnel providing child care in the public school setting, such as after school programs that receive CAPS subsidies, must comply with the **comprehensive background check** requirements and obtain a satisfactory determination from DECAL.

For the next two years DECAL **will pay the cost** of the initial fingerprint scan for eligible early care and **local school district personnel**. GaDOE and DECAL are collaborating to develop a plan for seamless implementation. DECAL must ensure compliant implementation no later than October 2019. **Local school districts will have until the end of July 2019 to demonstrate compliance with this request**. During the upcoming weeks, we will be able to share additional updates and procedural next steps. You may access the appropriate DECAL contact and/or website for additional information.

DECAL Contact: Glen Clardy --- glen.clardy@decalfga.us ---- 404-387-1425

Website: <http://www.decalfga.gov/CCS/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx>

Email Blast

[GO-IEP Support Session at Spring G-CASE](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[IDEA Program Compliance Monitoring](#)

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

[MTSS Implementation and Professional Learning Updates](#)

[Data Collections](#)

[GO-IEP Support Session at Spring G-CASE:](#)

The GO-IEP Team will hold a GO-IEP Support Session from 9:00 - 11:30 AM on Monday, March 18, 2019 in Athena G of The Classic Center in Athens. This session is intended to provide support for LEAs currently using GO-IEP or those transitioning to GO-IEP for FY20.

[Awards of Excellence \(Change of Date\):](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of one outstanding graduating senior in your district! Accomplishments can be in the areas of academics, athletics, career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, and/or community service. All nominees will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. One student from each GLRS region and his/her family will be invited to Superintendent Richard Woods' Recognition Ceremony on **Wednesday, May 1st** at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta. The ceremony is heartwarming and means a great deal to honorees and their families. Click on the link below to submit your electronic nomination by Friday, March 29, 2019. Questions? Contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us or Paula Gumpman at pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us.

Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)

IDEA Program Compliance Monitoring:

The Results Driven Accountability Unit (RDA) is planning for the resumption of IDEA program monitoring during the FY 2020 Federal Cross Functional Monitoring Process (CFM), beginning in the Fall of 2019.

As you may recall, FY 2019 was a year of universal technical assistance to LEAs, helping them focus on establishing and/or maintaining compliant policies, practices and procedures to increase educational benefit for students with disabilities.

The LEAs scheduled for Federal Programs Cross Functional Monitoring may be found here:

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/Cross%20Functional%20Monitoring/4%20Yr%20Cycle%20FY18%20to%20FY22%20MASTER%2011.12.2018.pdf>

LEA preparation for the IDEA program monitoring will consist of submitting 10 identified folders for desk audit, along with district policies, practices and procedures. The actual audit will be completed the same day as the onsite CFM visit to assure alignment of the process. An educational benefit component will be conducted for a small sample of the LEAs who are scheduled for CFM during the FY20 cycle. More information regarding the process will be available shortly. If you have questions, please contact your District Liaison.

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

Saturday, March 16, 2019: *Transition to Adult Healthcare- DPH Version (Parent/Youth)*
DeKalb/Fulton/Clayton/Gwinnett

Monday, March 18, 2019: *Peace, Love, Harmony...and the IFSP/IEP?*
Bryan/Liberty/Bulloch/Chatham

MTSS Implementation and Professional Learning Updates:

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students (Georgia's MTSS) state team recently completed Fidelity February with strong signs of implementation growth. Since September 2018, the team has completed 52 trainings with district and school teams around the state. More than one thousand people participated in the trainings, and 80% reported confidence in implementing the MTSS framework in their districts.

Cohort 2 applications are currently under review. District and school interviews will take place later this month. Selected districts will be announced April 1. All MTSS statewide resources are available online. The next professional learn unit of study is a two-part training focusing on building a Multi-Level Prevention System and outlining what happens at each tier. The unit will be available on www.gadoe.org/TieredSystemofSupports or www.gadoe.org/MTSS in April.

There was also a cross-divisional partnership developed this year to promote and improve literacy outcomes. The materials from the training are available at [Elementary to Middle Academic and Behavioral Connections: Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#).

Data Collections:

Certification Reporting Questions

The March 12th Directors' Webinar focused on certification of teachers of students with disabilities, specifically Professional Qualifications and In-field. Attached to the email blast, you will find several supporting documents such as the questions posed during the webinar session, Georgia Certification

Fields and Required GACE Assessments. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us

Annual Performance Reports (APR)

Public Reports of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for each LEA will be available soon. Prior to posting the APR publicly, we ask that Special Education Directors review their data. This link will navigate you to UAT portal (test site) where you may view your data *prior to public posting*.

<https://uat.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services> **This is the test site, not the actual Special Education webpage.** Click on “Special Education Annual Reports” under the Resource Links on the right side of the page. Enter your LEA Name or a zip code in your LEA. Please take time to review the data in your APR and contact Carol Seay, cseay@doe.k12.ga.us if you see any data you believe to be inaccurate. The public link will be posted in approximately 2 weeks.

Student Class and FTE Reporting

Many LEAs are calling with questions about Student Class E6040 and FTE533

E6040: PRIMARY AREA reported in Student Record does not match PRIMARY AREA in Student Class

This means that you have reported a Primary Area (PA) of Disability in Student Record, where the PA is attached to the student, and you have not reported the same (or any) PA in Student Class where the PA is attached to a course. In other words, you have not reported any special education courses.

For **some (not all)** students, this error is occurring because the student receives consultative services which are reported with a .0 Course Code (not special education). ***If the student receives only consultative services, this error will be relieved with an appropriate comment.*** Many of these errors are for students whose IEP states services other than consultative, and special education courses must be reported. These situations must be corrected and are not subject to relief. Please share this information with your SIS coordinator.

FTE533 = INCLUSION SEGMENT = ‘9’, PROGRAM CODE must be equal to P-Z or 1-3

When reporting an inclusion segment for co-teaching, collaboration or consultative, INCLUSION SEGMENT code ‘9’ is reported to indicate a special education teacher is providing the special education service in a regular education classroom. If your Student Information Systems (SIS) is pulling a regular education PROGRAM CODE (A-0) when the services are consultative, you will need to override the regular education PROGRAM CODE with the PROGRAM CODE that corresponds to the Primary Area of disability to correct the error.

Attachment titles that were included with the March 15 Email Blast.

-  GA Certification Fields and Required GACE Assessments
-  3.18.2019.Peace, Love, Harmony.WS.Bryan
-  3.16.2019.Transition to Adult Healthcare.LS.DeKalb.2
-  Questions from the Directors Webinar March 12, 2019
-  March 15 Email Blast

Friday, March 22, 2019

Directors,

GaDOE partners with Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) to provide technical assistance for local school districts. The Department identified state-wide priorities, as well as, encouraged local stakeholders to identify regional priorities. August 2018 – December 2018, GLRS led 524 sessions that addressed statewide priorities, and 1,172 sessions that supported regional priorities. 18,947 participants received supports! 92% of the professional learning/technical assistance reflected the face-to-face format, and a mixture of personnel participated in these trainings to include special education administrators, special education teachers, general education administrators, and general education teachers. In addition to this great work, the GLRS has prepared Instructional Strategy Flipbooks and Trifolds; two examples are attached to the email blast. Thank you to the GLRS network and Ann Cross for your leadership in this area.

Please note the OSEP LETTER dated Jan. 29, 2019 to Wayne:

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/osep-letter-jan-29-2019-to-wayne/>

EMAIL BLAST

[BCW and GaDOE Sped Administrator Webinar](#)

[Comprehensive National Records Check](#)

[GIMC](#)

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[Parent to Parent Trainings](#)

[BCW and GaDOE Special Education Administrator Webinar:](#)

Please join us for the BCW and GaDOE Special Education Administrator Webinar. This webinar is for Special Education Directors and Preschool Coordinators. It is a collaborative webinar that will also include District Early Intervention Coordinators (EICs) and Early intervention Specialists (EISs). This webinar is a follow up to the collaborative meeting held in February 2019. It will provide an overview of requirements for Part C and Part B preschool programs. Additionally, clarification regarding practices will be provided based on feedback received from the February meeting. The webinar will be recorded and posted for attendees who are unable to participate on the live webinar.

Date and Time: April 11, 2019 @1:00 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8603292956336879873>

[GIMC:](#)

Phase One of the APH annual census of Georgia's blind students is complete. LEAs reported 1,238 students who were blind and registered in GA districts on Jan 7, 2019. Georgia will continue to receive APH quota funds for blind and visually impaired students. These funds will be used to purchase APH books and materials all because of your hard work and dedication. Thank you!

[Comprehensive National Records Check \(Repeat\):](#)

Effective October 2018, Federal and State law require a **comprehensive national records check**. The background check completed by school districts does not meet this criteria. Local district personnel providing services in child care programs or personnel providing child care in the public school setting,

such as after school programs that receive CAPS subsidies, must comply with the **comprehensive background check** requirements and obtain a satisfactory determination from DECAL.

For the next two years DECAL **will pay the cost** of the initial fingerprint scan for eligible early care and **local school district personnel**. GaDOE and DECAL are collaborating to develop a plan for seamless implementation. DECAL must ensure compliant implementation no later than October 2019. **Local school districts will have until the end of July 2019 to demonstrate compliance with this request.** During the upcoming weeks, we will be able to share additional updates and procedural next steps. You may access the appropriate DECAL contact and/or website for additional information.

DECAL Contact: Glen Clardy --- Glen.Clardy@decalfga.gov ---- 404-387-1425

Website: <http://www.decalfga.gov/CCS/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx>

Awards of Excellence MAY 1, 2019 (Repeat):

Final 2 weeks to nominate deserving graduating senior(s) from your school district!

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding graduating senior in your district! Accomplishments can be in the areas of academics, athletics, career/vocational skill, innovative use of technology, social/emotional growth, and/or community service. All nominees will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. One student from each GLRS region and his/her family will be invited to Superintendent Richard Woods' Recognition Ceremony on **Wednesday, May 1st** at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta. Use the attached fillable form to plan responses required for the online submission. Electronic submissions are due Friday, March 29, 2019. Questions? Contact Debbie Reagin at dregain@doe.k12.ga.us or Paula Gumpman at pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us.

Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)

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

Tuesday, March 26, 2019: *Peace, Love, Harmony...and the IFSP/IEP?*
Brantley/Camden/Glynn/Pierce

Tuesday, March 26: *Georgia Medicaid Basics and an Overview of Home and Community- Based Services*
Greene/Oglethorpe/Putnam/Morgan

Wednesday, March 27, 2019: *Georgia Medicaid Basics and an Overview of Home and Community-Based Services*
Paulding/Cobb/Douglas/Bartow

Attachment titles that were included with the March 22 Email Blast.

-  3.26.2019.GA Medicaid Basics and an overview of HCBS.FC.Greene
-  3.26.2019.Peace, Love, Harmony.WS.Brantley
-  3.27.2019.GA Medicaid Basics and an overview of HCBS.DB. Paulding
-  EBP Tri-Fold Final
-  GLRS One Pager for State BOE
-  HLP TriFold Final
-  March 22 Email Blast

Friday, March 29, 2019

Directors,

The next Directors' Webinar will be on **April 9, 2019** at 1 pm. The title of the presentation will be: ***Understanding Georgia's Tiered System of Supports: MTSS, PBIS and Clarification for Students Referred to Special Education***. Wina Low, Program Manager Senior, Division for Special Education Services and Supports, Jason Byars, Program Manager, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and Karen Suddeth, Program Manager, Georgia Tiered System of Supports, will provide information, guidance and address frequently asked questions. The presentation is designed for district leadership for MTSS, SST, PBIS and Special Education. Please share the link below with appropriate personnel in your district to register for the webinar.

Link: [Special Education Directors' Webinar Registration](#)

USED released several new guidance letters. The links are below.

[OSEP LETTER: Jan. 29, 2019 to Duncan](#)

[OSEP LETTER: Jan. 29, 2019 to Nathan](#)

[OSEP LETTER: Jan. 29, 2019 to Zirkel](#)

[OSEP LETTER: Jan. 29, 2019 to Wayne](#)

[POLICY LETTER: Feb. 21, 2019 Letter to Siegel](#)

[POLICY LETTER: Feb. 22, 2019 Letter to Olex](#)

Email Blast

[Awards of Excellence](#)

[Teacher Tools](#)

[Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency \(GVRA\)](#)

[Request for Applications – IEP Facilitators](#)

[Private Day Schools/Residential Programs](#)

[Budget Update](#)

[Transition Webinar Series Update](#)

[Metro Atlanta AT Consortium and Georgia Tools for Life announce GATE Seminar Planning](#)

Note - There will not be an email blast next Friday.

Awards of Excellence:

Today is the *LAST* day to submit nominations for Superintendent Woods' **Awards of Excellence**! Don't let this opportunity to recognize outstanding seniors slip away! These nominations not only reflect the hard work and determination of the outstanding seniors but also the dedication, high expectations, and hard work of their supports which include parents and teachers! Send in those nominations! If you have questions, please contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us or Paula Gumpman at pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us. Link: [Awards of Excellence](#)

Teacher Tools:

The March edition of **Teacher Tools** is now available. This month's issue features Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) including guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's recently released letter to

address the most frequently asked questions about MTSS implementation. Please distribute to all teachers of students with disabilities. Link to access **Teacher Tools** on the website:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/Newsletters/Teacher%20Tools%20March%202019.pdf>

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA):

Attached to this newsletter is a new resource from Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Please share with your middle and high school leadership, counselors, graduation coaches, CTI coordinators, 504 coordinators and special education teachers.

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 Facilitation 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.

Private Day Schools/Residential Programs:

For private day schools and residential programs, the funding LEA is responsible for verifying that the school meets the minimal requirements for the provision of FAPE for students with disabilities. The LEA will maintain a collaborative relationship with the private day school and residential program in order to monitor the student's progress and the implementation of the IEP.

For additional questions, you may contact Felicia Peavy, Program Manager at (404) 232-7893 or by email at fpeavy@doe.k12.ga.us.

Budget Update:

The Residential and Reintegration Grants (RRG) and the High Cost Grants (HCG) were approved by the board Thursday, March 28th, as well as, additional reallocation funds. All of these funds will be uploaded in the Consolidated Application with a couple of weeks. Please go ahead and draw down the RRGs and HCGs because they are reimbursement grants with the grant period ending on June 30th. Grant Award Notifications will be forthcoming for all of the approved federal funds. If you have questions, please contact your Budget Liaison.

Transition Webinar Series Update:

All sessions in the transition webinar series are from 3 pm until 4 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Elise James (ejames@doe.k12.ga.us).

Rescheduled Sessions

- **Assistive Technology/Accommodations:** We are still trying to get a date scheduled with our presenters to record their session. Everyone who registered prior to the original session will receive the link to the recording once it is done. We will post the link in the Friday Email Blast once we record the session.

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Transition Webinar Series Recorded Links:

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IGP/Career Pathways/CTAE/CTI: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/189240641916445954>

Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs and Summary of Performance:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6006027688277940227>

Family Engagement: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2815555004096327426>

Metro Atlanta AT Consortium and GA Tools for Life Announce (see attachment):

GATE Seminar planning committee is extending invitations for presenters on assistive technology in a wide variety of Pre-k to 12 settings including school, home, recreation and community. We encourage educators and therapists working with assistive technology and vendors to apply. Request for presentations will be open until May 17th. Notices will be sent out via email near the beginning of June with the appropriate information. Submit your "Presentation Information" here: <http://bit.ly/gatepresent19> If you have questions, please email: gateseminar@gmail.com. Vendors should contact "Tools for Life" at info@gatfl.org for exhibit information.

GATE Seminar

Date: December 6th Time: 8 am - 4 pm

Georgia Tech Student Center (350 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, GA30332)

The Georgia Assistive Technology in Education Seminar, hosted by the Metro Atlanta Assistive Technology Consortium and GA Tools for Life and is a comprehensive venue for Educators, Therapists, Parents and Community Members to gather and learn about Assistive Technology to help achieve access to the curriculum. This seminar will be featuring a hands-on exhibit hall including national and local vendors in all areas of Assistive Technology. Specialists in the field will be presenting a variety of sessions focusing on best practices, product demonstrations, and classroom implementation strategies that will help to support each student opening their "Accessible Tomorrow".

Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) Trainings (attachment):

Wednesday, April 3, 2019: *Peace, Love, Harmony...and the IFSP/IEP?*
Barrow/Walton/Gwinnett/Jackson

Attachment titles that were included with the March 29 Email Blast.

-  4.3.2019.Peace, Love, Harmony.LS.Barrow
-  FY20 Request for Applications
-  GATE Call for Presentations 2019
-  GVRA What Schools Need to Know about VR March 2019
-  March 29 Email Blast