

April 2, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Directors,

April is Autism Awareness Month! Based on FY21 FTE, 11.16% of students with disabilities were identified as having autism as compared to 10.3% of students with disabilities in the FY19 FTE. Georgia moves beyond awareness of autism to a commitment of ensuring that each student with autism experiences a sense of belonging to his/her community.

Join us for the Directors' Webinar on April 13 by using the following registration link: [Click Here](#).

State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series (Bonus)



The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education will conduct a bonus session to provide additional technical assistance. The bonus session will be conducted on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 from 3 pm – 3:45 pm. You will need to register using the link below. If you have questions, contact Lynn Holland at lholland@doe.k12.ga.us or by phone at 404-805-5113.

Bonus Session Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

Fireside Chats for Support Personnel

The next Fireside Chat for support personnel will be on April 22, 2021 from 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm. If you have already registered, you will use the same participation link that you used for the first session. If you have not registered, use the link below to register for the rest of the chats. The Fireside Chats are

not recorded to encourage interaction by participants. If you have questions, please contact the Program Specialist for your group. We look forward to seeing you.

Fireside Chat Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

Remaining Fireside Chat Dates:

- April 22, 2021
- May 20, 2021

Contact Information:

Elise James, ejames@doe.k12.ga.us: Occupational and Physical Therapists

Alicia Mercer, amercer@doe.k12.ga.us: School Psychologists

Evelyn Dixon, edixon@doe.k12.ga.us: Speech-Language Pathologists

A NEW Self-Paced Science Module

“3D Science Design and Supports” is a course developed for both general and special education science teachers. The course specifically addresses designing three-dimensional science lessons to support all learners. The course is in the Professional Learning tab of the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). Educators can take the course at their own pace and stop and start as needed to fit their schedules. Upon successful completion, teachers will earn a badge. For more information contact Renee.Shirley-Stevens@doe.k12.ga.us.



**3D Science Design
and Supports**

FY21 Timelines Update Webinar (Important Announcement)

There are several changes in the Timelines data submission for FY21 in the Special Education Applications Dashboard in the Portal. A webinar will be conducted to review the changes and provide examples. Please register for the Timelines Reporting Update webinar on Apr 29, 2021 (1 – 3 PM) at the link below.

FY21 Timelines Update Webinar: [Click Here](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have questions, please contact Dawn Kemp dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us, Laurie Ponsell lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us, Phoebe Atkins patkins@doe.k12.ga.us, or Linda Castellanos

lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us.

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April 16, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Directors,

Governor Brian P. Kemp has issued a press release regarding Applications for Families of Children with Special Needs Reimbursement. You may access the press release by [Clicking Here](#). For additional information, you may watch a brief training video: [Click Here](#). Please assist us in sharing this information with your local families. You may access additional information on the Georgia Department of Education webpage: [Click Here](#).

On Tuesday, April 20, the Georgia Department of Education will host jointly an awareness session with Parent to Parent of Georgia. You may access the information using the following link: [Click Here](#).

Thank you for joining the Directors' Webinar on April 13; you may access the recording on the Directors' Webinar Webpage: [Click Here](#).

2021 Special Needs Summer Camp and Respite Directory

Each year, Metro East Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) provides a special needs summer camp and respite directory. Here is the link to the new FY21 Summer Opportunities Directory for Students with Special Needs.

Feel free to print and send to parents or simply provide them with the online link. As needed, additional updates will be made the the directory and available using in the webpage link: [Click Here](#)

Georgia's Special Education Teacher Induction Program

Beginning in Fall 2021, the Georgia Department of Education will provide a Special Education Teacher Induction Program for local school systems identified induction level Special Education Teachers. The induction program will be supported regionally through GLRS to improve the retention of new special education teachers through the development and implementation of high-quality mentoring and induction programs.

Training Objectives:

Increase innovation in teaching the high-leverage practices (HLPs) using mixed-reality simulation labs

Increase coaching and immediate performance feedback for new special education teachers

Induction Flyer: [Click Here](#).

To facilitate planning, please complete the survey by April 30, 2021 to indicate your school system's interest. **[Click Here](#)**

Collaborative Leadership Launch

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and School and District Effectiveness (SDE) Collaborative Leadership Launch.

The purpose of the Leadership Launch is to provide updates on the SSIP collaborative work with School and District Effectiveness and to highlight local best practices.

We will showcase Georgia's Implementation of Check and Connect mentoring program, which is a proven evidence-based intervention to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates for all students. Crisp County School District and Dekalb County School District will provide an overview and share the benefits, successes, and challenges they have experienced with implementing Check and Connect.

The SSIP/SDE Leadership Launch will be held on Wednesday, May 5th at 2:00 pm. Please register using the following link: **[SSIP/SDE Leadership Launch-Check and Connect](#)**.

FY21 Student Record (SR) Warnings and Reports

There are several SR Warnings and SR Reports listed below that should be closely reviewed in Student Record before submission in June. A careful review can prevent reporting errors in discipline which can result in Disproportionality

and inaccurate reporting for Continuation of Services. After SR is signed off/closed by your Superintendent, it cannot be reopened to correct these reporting errors.

SR Warnings

- W861- ACTION CODE is either '20' (ISS) or '30' (OSS), NUMBER OF DAYS suspended normally is not greater than 20 days.
- W862- Possible duplicate- the SYSTEM CODE, SCHOOL CODE, GTID, INCIDENT DATE, INCIDENT TYPE, ACTION and AUXILARY CODE are the same for more than one discipline record. For most current data, see Report DIS092.
- W863- Multiple suspensions reported for same student and date. For most current data, see Report DIS091. See SR Reports below.
- DIS090 Suspensions with the Same Date and Days
- DIS092 Possible Duplicated Safety Records
- DIS095 OSS Greater than 10 days w/out Services
- DIS097 SWD System Totals by Discipline Action

Positive Behavior Support (Parent Training)

Parent to Parent of Georgia in partnership with Center for Leadership in Disability is hosting a series of virtual training sessions for parents/caregivers on Positive Behavior Supports. The sessions will include understanding the purpose/function of behavior and practical tips and suggestions on managing and preventing challenging behavior.

Flyer: [Click Here](#)

Parent to Parent of Georgia Trainings

Webinar: Georgia Medicaid - NOW/COMP

Thursday, April 22 at 12 pm

Calendar link: [Click Here](#)

Facebook photo link: [Click Here](#)

Webinar: Georgia Medicaid Basics and Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver

Tuesday, April 27 at 2 pm

Calendar link: [Click Here](#)

Webinar: Peace, Love and Harmony and the IFSP/IEP

Thursday, April 29 at 6 pm

Calendar link: [Click Here](#)

April 23, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Join the team in welcoming James “Trace” Vaughn as a new program specialist who will support the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Trace has 15 years of experience in the field of special education and 12 years as a Graduation Coach. Let's welcome Trace to the Division for Special Education Services and Supports.



United States Department of Education released the "COVID-19 Handbook" Volume 2: **Click Here**. The COVID-19 resource can be useful as you plan for the FY22 school year.

Project Family IMPACT

The Department of Special Education at the University of Illinois is excited to announce Project Family IMPACT, a fully-funded OSEP doctoral training program! For more information: **IMPACT_flyer_2021.pdf**.

Collaborative Leadership Launch

The Division for Special Education will host jointly a Leadership Launch with the Division for School and District Effectiveness (SDE).

The purpose of the Leadership Launch is to provide updates on the collaborative efforts for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and highlight local best practices.



We will showcase statewide implementation of the Check and Connect

mentoring program, which is a proven evidence-based intervention to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates for all students. Crisp County School District and DeKalb County School District will provide an overview and share the benefits, successes, and challenges of implementing Check and Connect.

The SSIP/SDE Leadership Launch will be held on Wednesday, May 5 at 2 pm. Register using the following link: [SSIP/SDE Leadership Launch-Check and Connect!](#)

Georgia's Special Education Teacher Induction Program



Beginning Fall 2021, the Georgia Department of Education will provide a Special Education Teacher Induction Program for locally identified induction level Special Education Teachers. The induction program will be supported regionally through the Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) to improve the retention of new special education teachers through the development and implementation of high-quality mentoring and induction programs.

Training Objectives:

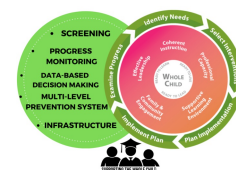
Increase innovation in teaching the high-leverage practices (HLPs) using mixed-reality simulation labs

Increase coaching and immediate performance feedback for new special education teachers

For more information: [Click Here](#)

To facilitate planning, please complete the survey by April 30 to indicate your local interest: [Click Here](#).

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports Training



Georgia's Tiered System of Supports is excited to announce that Dr. Tessie Rose Bailey, a national expert on the Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework with the American Institutes for Research, will provide an upcoming opportunity for training on Georgia's MTSS.

Thursday, May 6, from 9 am to noon, Dr. Bailey will present an overview of the MTSS framework. This session is open to all of our educators; interested participants may register to participate: [Click Here](#).

Dr. Bailey also provided a training on MTSS Overview for SELDA that focused on special education considerations on April 14. MTSS Overview for SELDA Recordings of the two-part trainings and handouts are located on the SELDA Webpage: [Click Here](#).

Districts interested in learning more about how MTSS can support increased school performance and improved outcomes for students may contact Karen Suddeth, SPDG Project Director for Georgia's Tiered Systems of Support, at ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 548-4348

Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services

Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services is Recruiting Service Providers-specifically in South Georgia, including the Macon, Valdosta, and Columbus areas.

Georgia PINES is seeking Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Speech Language Pathologists, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation & Mobility Specialists, and Special Education Teachers (preschool preferred) and/or teachers of related fields to train to become Early Intervention Specialists. Georgia PINES Early Intervention Specialists serve families of children who have diagnosed hearing or vision loss, ages birth to three years.

Our Early Intervention Specialists provide services during hour-long visits in the family's home (or other natural environments*) up to 4x per month.

At this time, our services can be delivered by distance learning platforms, in the family's home, or a combination of these models.

Georgia PINES service providers work on contract and may work for a school system or another agency, as well. They can provide early intervention services through PINES after their regular work hours and/or on weekends to avoid conflicts of interest.

Please share this information with any of your staff that you think might be interested/eligible. If you have questions, contact Heidi Evans at hevans@doe.k12.ga.us.

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April 30, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

If you are a new Special Education Director for the 2021-2022 school year, please register for the Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA). SELDA provides professional learning and mentorship for new (first and second year) Directors of Special Education in conjunction with the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). If you have questions, contact Wina Low, Program Manager Senior, wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or Kachelle White, Program Manager Senior, kawhite@doe.k12.ga.us.



Registration link for the 2021-2022 new Special Education Director's Cohort:
[SELDA 2021-22 Registration](#)

We will share the FY22 SELDA schedule next Friday.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and School and District Effectiveness (SDE) Collaborative Leadership Launch



The purpose of the Leadership Launch is to provide updates on the SSIP collaborative work with School and District Effectiveness and to highlight local best practices.

We will showcase Georgia's Implementation of Check and Connect mentoring program, which is a proven evidence-based intervention to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates for all students. Crisp County School District and Dekalb County School District will provide an overview and share the benefits, successes, and challenges they have experienced with implementing

Check and Connect.

The SSIP/SDE Leadership Launch will be held on Wednesday, May 5 at 2 pm. Please register using the following link: **SSIP/SDE Leadership Launch-Check and Connect** and feel free to invite others who may be interested!

Final Call! Georgia's Special Education Teacher Induction Program for 2021-2022



Please complete the survey below even if you have notified your GLRS.

Beginning in Fall 2021, the Georgia Department of Education will provide a Special Education Teacher Induction Program for LEA identified induction level Special Education Teachers. The induction program will be supported regionally through Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) to improve the retention of new special education teachers through the development and implementation of high-quality mentoring and induction programs.

Training Objectives:

Increase innovation in teaching the high-leverage practices (HLPs) using mixed-reality simulation labs.

Increase coaching and immediate performance feedback for new special education teachers.

For more information: [Click Here](#)

To facilitate planning, please complete the survey by **May 5, 2021** to indicate your LEA's interest. Survey: [Click Link](#)

Annual Performance Reports- Updated

The 2019-2020 Annual Performance Reports (APR) have been updated to provide additional information regarding state level data to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and the public. There are no changes to LEA level data. State level data on the APR for both the LEA and State level reports have been added to Indicators 1 (Graduation Rate), 4A (Suspension and Expulsion), 4B (Suspension and Expulsion by Race and Ethnicity), 8 (Parent Engagement), 9 (Disproportionate Representation), and 10



(Disproportionate Representation by Disability Category). The reports are available in the Special Education Applications Dashboard. Your local report can be accessed from the landing page in Special Education Applications. Please select the REPORTS tab at the top of the landing page, and the 2019-2020 report will display.

Enhancement to the Special Education (SE) Applications Portal Webinar



The Division for Special Education would like to invite you to attend a webinar showcasing data visualization capabilities that will be available for your use. The enhanced capabilities will provide a variety of LEA level reports reflecting 4 years of trend data in the Special Education Applications Portal Dashboard. Reports will soon be available for the following Indicators/Reports; Preschool, Post-secondary, LRE, and Timely and Accurate Data. Additional Indicators are forthcoming. The enhancement will allow district analysis of data to determine strengths/needs and support instructional and general supervision planning.

Please register for the Enhancement to the SE Applications Portal webinar on May 12, 2021 (12:00 – 12:45 PM) at the link below.

Enhancement to the SE Applications Portal Webinar

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have questions, please contact Linda Castellanos lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us or Dawn Kemp dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us.

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