



Provide infrastructure and supports for leaders, teachers, and families to meet the whole child needs of each student and improve student outcomes and school climate resulting in increased quality of life and a workforce ready future.

August Friday Email Blast

Table of Contents

Friday August 31, 2020.....	2
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Friday August 31, 2020

Directors,

We will host the **Directors' Webinar on Tuesday, September 8 @1 pm**. You may register using the following link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2239009603553734155>.

On **August 27**, the State Board of Education (SBOE) approved the **Rule 10 State Interagency Grant and Preschool Disability Services Grant** in state funding streams.

GaDOE allocates \$6 million to assist with special education services.

The Georgia Department of Education is allocating \$6 million to school districts to help them serve students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. State School Superintendent Richard Woods recommended the funding allocations, which were approved by the State Board of Education. The allocation is a combination of federal funds from the CARES Act (the COVID-19 stimulus bill) and IDEA funds for supplemental relief.

“It is critical that we ensure students who receive special education services do not fall behind as a result of the pandemic,” Superintendent Woods said. “These funds will be specifically directed, on a district-by-district level, toward safeguarding access and opportunity for students who require special education services.”

The effects of the pandemic – both the school closures in the spring and the virtual learning options districts are offering this fall – mean some districts are facing additional costs related to special education services. For example, implementing an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in the distance-learning setting or offering therapies remotely may require additional resources. This funding will help to offset the effects of these increased costs, along with the impact of revenue decreases due to COVID-19, so that districts can offer appropriate services to students who need them.

The funds are a formula grant; the amount allocated to each school district was based on the amount of funding that districts received from the IDEA 611 grant – an annual federal grant all states receive to support special education and related services – in the current fiscal year. [Click here for individual school district allocations.](#)

The **grant award notices** for federal funds will be uploaded in the Consolidated Application within the next few days. For additional questions about special education funding, please contact your Special Education Budget Liaison. For additional questions about the CARES allocation, please contact Beverly Strickland at beverly.strickland@doe.k12.ga.us. You may access SBOE files using the following link:

https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=1262&MID=83182.

Get Your Teams Registered for the First ASPIREPlus Training Session

The first ASPIREPlus training begins on September 10, 2020. The session will be from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Get your teams scheduled to attend. Register using the link [University of Kansas Live Session 1: Introduction to Self-Determination](#). This is a continuation of the work begun during FY20. The session is for every group in the grant (ASPIRE only, SDLMI only, ASPIRE Plus and

those districts who are not doing any of the initiatives this year for the study). GLRS is encouraged to participate.

Districts that have not signed onto the project can still join. Register for the training sessions and contact Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us. Additional information and materials will be provided to registrants by Friday, September 4, 2020.

[It's Almost Here! Register for the Best Practices Forum](#)

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Registration Link: [Best Practices Forum](#)

The Best Practice Forum will be conducted virtually. The forum will showcase districts' implementation of ASPIRE and the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI). Feature presentations include GLRS support for implementation of self-determination initiatives, GNETS, District-wide implementation, student leadership through ASPIRE Ambassadors and parent support for self-determination. The Self-Determination Inventory will be introduced and information for access provided. Next steps for participation in ASPIREPlus with the University of Kansas will also be discussed.

Keynote Speakers:

- **Dr. Michael Wehmeyer**, Co-Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities University. Self-Determination and Persons with Disabilities.
- **Dr. Karrie Shogren**, Co-Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities University. Embedding the SDLMI within other evidence-based initiatives and across content areas.
- **Dr. Sheida Raley**, Assistant Research Professor, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities. SDLMI Trainer and curriculum developer.

Audience: GLRS, Special Education Directors/Coordinators, administrators, transition personnel, teachers of students with disabilities, and parent mentors and districts staff participating in ASPIREPlus. For more information, contact Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us.

Attachment titles that were included with the August 31 Email Blast.

 [Preschool Disability Services Grant](#)

 [Rule 10 Allocations](#)