



February 5, 2021 Email Blast

Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

The next **Directors' Webinar** will be **Tuesday, February 9 @ 1pm**. We will discuss budget/fiscal updates; you may register using the following link: **Click Here**.

The Georgia Online MTSS/SST 2021 Application is Available!

Georgia's Online Multi-tiered System of Supports/Student Support Team Application (GO MTSS/SST) is designed to help districts and schools facilitate data-based decision making within a tiered system of supports for students. School districts that would like to participate in the next GO MTSS/SST Cohort may now apply at **www.gadoe.org/MTSS**.

Benefits of using the application include that it is web-based and accessible to all Georgia districts, provides real-time data at no cost to districts, and allows transfer of student data to other districts in Georgia.

Go MTSS/SST is fully integrated with the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

Users can request technical assistance and support by creating a ticket through the application's support portal.

To complete the application, visit **GO MTSS/SST 2021 Application**.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) 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 several districts to highlight the great work to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates for all students. Join us as we feature Clayton County School District, Dekalb County School District, and Meriwether County School District.

The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Leadership Launch on **February 9 at 2 pm**.

Please register for the Leadership Launch using the following link: **SSIP Leadership Launch**

Dyslexia Professional Learning Opportunities

The GaDOE ELA team is committed to providing professional learning opportunities that are customized to the needs of the teachers and leaders. In an effort to increase our knowledge regarding dyslexia in Georgia, we are offering several opportunities for educators to engage in professional learning.

Title: A Deep Dive into Dyslexia

Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Lindstrom, University of Georgia

Description: This series will focus on understanding dyslexia, screening, and teacher preparation. Participants are encouraged to attend all three sessions as the sessions build on one another.

Session 1: What is Dyslexia? What Do We Know About it?

March 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Click **here** to register.

Session 2: How to Screen for Dyslexia and Other Reading Difficulties

April 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Click **here** to register.

Session 3: The Intersection of Teacher Preparation, the Science of Reading, and Dyslexia

May 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Click **here** to register.

If you need assistance registering for the sessions, contact Franeka Colley at **franeka.colley@doe.k12.ga.us**.

GaDOE ELA/L4GA 2021 Professional Learning Interest

Survey

To ensure that the literacy professional learning needs of Georgia's educators are being met, the GaDOE ELA and L4GA teams are requesting your participation in the 2021 Professional Learning Interest Survey. The results from the survey will assist in the planning and development of future professional learning opportunities. Please feel free to share the survey with all educators in your schools and districts. The link to complete the survey can be found [here](#).

If you need assistance with the survey, contact Holly Schmidt-Davis at holly.schmidt-davis@doe.k12.ga.us.

Assistive Technology Webinar

Tuesday, February 9, Assistive Technology Webinar Series

Time: 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Title: The Importance of communication for students with the most significant disabilities

Link: [Communication for students with Significant Disabilities](#)

Wednesday, February 10

Time: 3:15 – 4:00pm

Title: The “Georgia Brigade” a community of practice for teachers, related service personnel and district/school leaders who support students with significant disabilities

Link: ["Georgia Brigade" Community of Practice](#)

State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series

In response to the numerous requests for additional professional learning concerning the State-Defined Alternate Diploma, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education Services and Supports will be releasing a comprehensive professional learning series beginning in March 2021 for leadership, counselors, transition specialists and teachers to access virtually during “live” sessions and recorded for on-demand viewing. Dates and times for the live sessions and the registration link are listed below. You will only need to register once for the entire series.

Understanding the Alternate Diploma

- March 3, 2021 – Session 1: Who are the students?
- March 10, 2021 - Session 2: Why is communication essential?

- March 17, 2021 – Session 3: What is the role of adaptive behavior?
- March 24, 2021 – Session 4: What is the State-Defined Alternate Diploma?
- March 31, 2021 – Session 5: What are best practices for transition to life beyond the school setting for students with significant cognitive disabilities?

Basic information about the diploma and its requirements can be accessed by viewing the December 12, 2020 and the January 12, 2021 Director’s webinar located at **Special Education Directors’ Webinars** website. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Holland at **lholland@doe.k12.ga.us** or by phone at 404-805-5113.

Registration for Live State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series

- March 3, 2021: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- March 10, 2021: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- March 17, 2021: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- March 24, 2021: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- March 31, 2021: 3:00pm - 3:45pm

Transition Planning for Students with Significant Needs

The last two sessions of the Transition Supports for Students with Significant Needs will focus on communication. These sessions will be conducted on February 16 and March 16 from 3:15 pm – 4:00 pm with Paula Gumpman (GaDOE Assistive Technology Program Specialist), and Gina Gelinas (Educational Outreach Manager, Tools for Life at the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation).

The session, “Transition Planning for Students with Significant Needs-Part 2” has been rescheduled and will be presented on Wednesday, February 24 from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. This session will focus on video resumes and career portfolios.

Registration Links:

- February 16, 2021: **Communication: Part 1**
- February 24, 2021: **Transition Supports for Students with Significant Needs: Part 2**
- March 16, 2021: **Communication: Part 2**

If you missed any of the sessions in this series, use the recorded links below to access the information:

Task Analysis - Teaching Approach: Trial and Error, Errorless Learning and Chaining Strategies: Part 1

Task Analysis - Teaching Approach: Trial and Error, Errorless Learning and Chaining Strategies: Part 2

Transition Planning for Students with Significant Needs: Part 1

Transition Planning for Students with Significant Needs: Part 3

Parent 2 Parent of Georgia

Webinar: Where Do We Go From Here?

Thursday, February 11 @ 6 pm

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

Webinar: Georgia Medicaid Basics and an Overview of Home and Community-Based Services

Tuesday, February 16 @ 9 am

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

Webinar: Georgia Medicaid Basics and an Overview of Home and Community-Based Services

Saturday, February 20 @ 11 am

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

Webinar: I Can Do That! A Brief Overview of Assistive Technology

Wednesday, February 24 @ 10 am

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

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

Thursday, February 25 @ 6 pm

[Click Here](#)

February 12, 2021 Email Blast

Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

Georgia Department of Education's leaders are working together to ensure students have the vital tiered supports and services needed for continuous school improvement for ALL of Georgia's students. Learn more about their mission viewing the following video: [Click Here](#). If not already, you should follow us on twitter: [@georgiadeptofed](#) [@gadoesped](#) [@georgiamtss](#)!

Thank you for tuning in for the **Directors' Webinar** on Tuesday. You may access the archived recording using the following link: [Click Here](#). You can visit the **Directors' Webinar webpage** for other resources.

We encourage you to access the Division's calendar on the public webpage and review ongoing professional learning opportunities: [Click Here](#).



State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series

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Understanding the Alternate Diploma

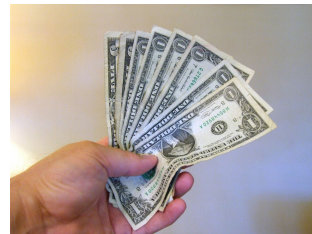
Training Dates (3 pm - 3:45 pm)

- March 3, 2021 – Session 1: Who are the students?
- March 10, 2021 - Session 2: Why is communication essential?
- March 17, 2021 – Session 3: What is the role of adaptive behavior?
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Basic information about the diploma and its requirements can be accessed by viewing the December 12, 2020 and the January 12, 2021 webinar recordings located on **Special Education Directors' Webinars** website. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Holland by email **lholland@doe.k12.ga.us** or by phone at 404-805-5113.

Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

High Cost Grant and Residential & Reintegration Grant



The High Cost Grant and Residential and Reintegration Grant submission period opened on January 1. The High Cost Grants are submitted using the GEM software <https://www.gahcf.org/>. New Directors will have to create a GEM account before you can submit a High Cost Grant. The Residential and Reintegration Services Grant Applications are submitted by emailing your Budget Liaison using the **GaDOE Portal email system**. Please visit the webpage to review webinar recordings and other resources posted concerning these grants: **[Click Here](#)**. The deadline for the submission of these grants is February 15. If you have any additional questions, please contact your **budget liaison**.

Georgia Assistive Technology in Education (GATE)

What: Free Virtual Seminar

Hosts: Metro Atlanta Assistive Technology Consortium in collaboration with Georgia Tools for Life and GaDOE

When: Thursday and Friday, March 18-19, 2021

Time: 4 PM – 6 PM

Speakers: Featuring Tools for Life Panel & Caroline Musselwhite

Registration Link: [GATE Virtual Seminar \(swoogo.com\)](https://swoogo.com)



Promoting Predictability and Safety for Early Learning

You may access the archived recording for the webinar: Promoting Predictability and Safety for Early Learning. This webinar is now archived on the

GaDOE PBIS Early Learning webpage for you to access at www.gadoe.org/pbis/earlylearning. Instructions are provided below.

Instructions

Step 1: Go to the GaDOE PBIS Early Learning webpage at

www.gadoe.org/pbis/earlylearning

Step 2: Scroll down to the subtitle Early Learning Webinars

Step 3: Find the date February 2021 and click the video link Webinar: “Promoting Predictability and Safety” (February 3, 2021)

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February 19, 2021 Email Blast

Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

Georgia Department of Education has been busy updating several technical assistance resources to provide high-quality services and supports. On Tuesday, I joined the G-CASE Lunch and Learn; you may access the GaDOE Restart Guidance on "Change of Placement" versus "Change of Location" on the special education webpage: [Click Here](#).

We developed GaDOE Restart Guidance for Compensatory Services. The guidance is available on the public webpage: [Click Here](#). In addition to the one-pager, we have released a 13 minute podcast to support further the understanding of the compensatory services determination process. It will be available on the webpage soon.

In preparation for completing the FY22 Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), you should consider using the "CLIP Tips" to assist Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in answering the four questions directly related to local implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Please contact your district liaison if you have questions. Click Here: [CLIP FY22 IDEA Performance Goals Tips](#)

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP)

The mission of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is to build effective family, school, and community partnerships that lead to greater achievement for students, especially those with disabilities.

Consider utilizing the GaPMP to strengthen your engagement with families. The FY22 GaPMP application is available and due back to the GaDOE by March 1. We ask that both districts who currently have a parent mentor and districts who will be new to the partnership return a signed application for participation. The

GaPMP is here to partner with you! If you have questions, contact Anne Ladd aladd@doe.k12.ga.us.

The link to the fillable application and the JotForm for submission can be found here:

Special Education Webpage *Under "Resources"*

GaPMP Application

GaPMP Application Submission Link

IDEA 611 and 619 Allocations Training

The Office of Federal Programs is preparing the FY22 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) formula grant allocations for the upcoming school year. To provide greater transparency and understanding about these formula allocations, we are hosting a webinar series to highlight each ESSA and IDEA formula grant. These webinars will include information about the federal statute directing the allocation, how GaDOE follows the federal statute, and how GaDOE ensures the accuracy of the allocations. Please plan to join us! All webinars will be recorded and posted on the Federal Programs website. The webinar information for IDEA allocations will be held on February 26, and the registration link is below.

Training: Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part A; IDEA 611; IDEA 619

Date: February 26, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Register here: [Click Here](#)

Professional Qualifications (PQ) Updates for Special Education/Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Supports (GNETS)

Date: March 3, 2021

Time: 1 pm – 2 pm

Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

Quick Guide: Professional Qualifications ESSA Fiscal Agents - GNETS Programs

Fireside Chats for Support Personnel

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Division of Special Education

Services and Supports would like to announce the start of Fireside Chats for support personnel. The Division has created a support personnel team that supports the scope of work for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Psychologists, and Speech-Language Pathologists. Fireside chats focus on specific topics in a 45-minute session and provide an opportunity for support personnel to engage in dialogue pertaining to school-based practices.

The team is requesting that Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Psychologists, and Speech-Language Pathologists submit questions and topics for the chats using this link: **Topics for Fireside Chats**. Feel free to submit multiple questions and topics. Please make your submission by Friday, **February 26 2021**.

The dates, times and registration for the Fireside Chats will be released soon. If you have questions, please contact the Program Specialist for your group.

Contact Information:

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

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

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

Certification of Print Disabilities

The Library of Congress has released an amendment to the language which broadens the scope of competent authorities who are able to certify print-based disabilities. This was published 2/12/2021.

For all disability categories, i.e., 1. blind, 2. visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, or 3. physically disabled the language is amended to:

"(2) Eligibility must be certified by one of the following: doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, ophthalmologist, optometrist, psychologist, registered nurse, therapist, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as an educator, a social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian)."

Full regulation text can be found with this **Federal Register Link**.



February 26, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Directors,

The Office of Federal Programs, both ESSA and IDEA, and the Office of School Improvement are planning for a virtual conference in June. Please save the week of **June 21-25, 2021** for this virtual conference! Additional details will be available in the coming weeks.

We need your feedback! As our planning for this conference continues, we need to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete this short survey to help us target our conference planning efforts. [Click Here](#)

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) would like to announce the start of Fireside Chats for support personnel. The Division has created a support personnel team that supports the scope of work for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Psychologists, and Speech-Language Pathologists. You may submit questions and topics for the chats using this link by today: [Click Here](#).

If you are interested in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership, you can submit the application through March 1. You can access the application using the following link: [Click Here](#).

State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series

The State-Defined Alternate Diploma webinar series will begin on March 3. If not already, please register to participate in the live sessions. You will register once for the entire series.

Understanding the Alternate Diploma (Session Time: 3:00 pm -3:45 pm)

- March 3, 2021 – Session 1: Who are the students?

- March 10, 2021 - Session 2: Why is communication essential?
- March 17, 2021 – Session 3: What is the role of adaptive behavior?
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Registration for Live State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series

Online Workshop for Parents and Caregivers on Transitioning Students to Adult Health Care

The Georgia Department of Public Health in collaboration with Parent to Parent of Georgia will sponsor a free online workshop for parents and caregivers to provide transition planning tools and resources to help their young adults learn to manage their health care needs. They will award a \$25 e-gift card to one household after completing participation in the online workshop. Please share this information with your parents. Registration is required. Information and the registration link are listed below.

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Audience: Parents and Caregivers of youth ages 12 and older

Link: **Registration Link**

If you need more information, contact Parent to Parent of Georgia at 800-229-2038.

Transition Webinar Series

You may register for the final webinar in this series. The webinar will be hosted on **March 16 from 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm. Click Here: [Communication: Part 2](#)**

Archived Recording Links:

- **Task Analysis - Teaching Approach: Trial and Error, Errorless Learning and Chaining Strategies: Part 1**
- **Task Analysis - Teaching Approach: Trial and Error, Errorless Learning and Chaining Strategies: Part 2**
- * **Transition Assessment and Person-Centered Planning: Transition Planning Part 1**
- **Video Resumes and Career Portfolios: Transition Planning Part 2**
- **Communication: Part 1** (This session will be rerecorded due to technical

issues.)

2020 Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Virtual College Fair

The Center for Leadership in Disability conducted a virtual college fair for the Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Programs. These programs are for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each IPSE program in Georgia provided an overview of its program and featured current students and alumni. This presentation is a good resource for students, parents, and teachers. Use the link below to access the presentation.



Click Here: [2020 GAIPSEC Virtual College Fair - YouTube](#)

Five Part Webinar Series on Pre-Employment Transition Services

The Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) and the National Transition Technical Assistance Center (NTACT) have released a five-part webinar series on Pre-Employment Transition Services.



This series of pre-recorded webinars highlights the five required pre-employment transition services. Each of the five webinars include curricula/activities, state spotlights, examples of expected outcomes and ways to identify student progress, tips for successful service delivery, and additional supports and resources that may be used to provide these services for students with disabilities.

Closed Captioning will stream during each of the pre-recorded webinars. A copy of the transcript is also available upon request. Contact information will be provided during the webinars. Presentation materials are available for download once registered. Please be sure to complete the evaluation located in the Web links pod in the Adobe room. CRC credits (1.5) will be awarded upon completion and submission of your evaluation.

To register and view this recorded webinar, please visit the following link(s) to each webinar:

- **[Job Exploration Counseling](#)**

- **Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE)**
- **Counseling on Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Educational Programs at Institutions of Higher Education**
- **Workplace Readiness Training**
- **Instruction in Self-Advocacy**

Strategies for Working with Non-Traditional Deaf and Hard of Hearing Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Division of State Schools is hosting a free professional learning series for any educators working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students in Georgia. Each topic consists of a 60-minute recorded session as well as a 60-minute live session. Registration is now open for the March presentation on non-traditional DHH Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Contact Vanessa Robisch with any questions at vrobisch@doe.k12.ga.us.

Click on this link to register: [Click Here](#)

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