



January 8, 2021 Email Blast

Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

Our next **Directors' Webinar** will be **Tuesday, January 12** beginning at 1:00 pm. The webinar topics will include Orientation and Mobility (O&M) as well as a continued discussion about the State-defined Alternate Diploma. Please use the following Link to register: **Click Here**.

Annual Local District Determinations will be released and available in the Portal Dashboard on **January 8, 2021**. Please review your determination and contact your District Liaison (DL) if you have any questions.

Science Teacher Communities

GaDOE has launched a new innovative platform to provide the opportunity for science teachers, special education teachers, leaders and GaDOE staff to collaborate as well as share resources. Meet the **wonderful virtual specialists** from around the state who we are working with to lead groups. This space provides a place to view webinars from the virtual specialists, ask questions and collaborate with each other to best meet the needs of all students. To get started, **Visit the GaDOE community website**. Then select "Create an Account" and follow the prompts for setting up a new account on the platform. Once you have your login, then you will navigate to the Groups section, select and join the groups you are most interested in. This **instructional flyer** can be used to assist in signing up for the communities. We look forward to connecting with you!

Additional Keenville Alpha and Beta Testers Needed

GaDOE's Division for Assessment has been working closely with the Keenville program developers to provide accessibility to students who have difficulty

using a mouse. They are currently in need of teachers with 1st and 2nd grade students (general or special education) with limited mobility to participate in playtesting of the Keenville formative assessments. Some 3rd grade students may qualify as well. Teachers will observe students interacting with three to four Keenville games over a one to two-week period depending on the availability. Playtesting windows are 2/8-12 and 2/15-19 for Alpha testing and 3/15-19 and 3/22-26 for Beta testing. Teachers will complete a short online survey after the playtesting has been completed.

Please identify any teachers who have eligible students and are willing to participate and have them contact Mary Nesbitt-McBride (Email: MNesbit@doe.k12.ga.us) by January 29. Thank you in advance for your support of this important accessibility step for our students.

Warm regards,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon, Ed.D.,
State Director, Division for Special Education Services and Supports

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January 15, 2021 Email Blast

Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

On Tuesday, we hosted the **Directors' Webinar**. You may access the archived recording. Stay tuned for additional information about the Georgia Parent Survey, which will be available on the following page: **Information for Parents**.

The 2019-2020 Annual Performance Reports are now available in the Special Education Applications Dashboard. Your 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.

These reports will be publicly released on **January 26**. Please contact your District Liaison, if you have any questions regarding your report.



Budget Reminders

This is a friendly reminder that the **Special Education Excess Cost Calculation Submission** is due **January 31**. Please remember the Excess Cost Calculation Submission is a two-step process, which is explained in the IDEA Excess Cost Handbook: **Click Here**. Excess Cost Results calculation must be approved by your Special Education Budget Specialists before the Excess Cost Base calculation can be completed.

It is advised that Special Education Directors collaborate with their Finance Directors. Additionally, collaboration is considered best practice and helps to increase timely and accurate submissions. Please allow enough time to have the Results processed in order to submit the Base by the deadline.

Reimbursement Grants Submission Period Now Open

The submission period for the state Residential and Reintegration Grant, as well as, the federal **High Cost Grant** opened **January 1**. The **deadline for submission** is **February 15**.

Please click the link: **Budget Page**. Resources for each grant application are at the bottom of this page. Please contact your Budget Liaison for any additional questions.

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 all students, especially students with disabilities.

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

The link to the fillable application and the **JotForm** for submission can be found here: **Click Here**. The GaPMP is here to partner with you! If you have questions, contact Anne Ladd aladd@doe.k12.ga.us

Community-based Summer Literacy Grant

The English Language Arts & Literacy team is excited to offer rural schools and school districts the opportunity to apply for a Community-Based Summer Literacy Grant. The purpose of the FY21 Community-Based Summer Literacy Grant is to assist rural schools and LEAs with their efforts to create, develop, or sustain community-based summer learning activities that support literacy education and improve student outcomes in English Language Arts.

For more information and access to the application, **Click Here**.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Breanne Huston at bhuston@doe.k12.ga.us.

Transition Resources

This is a reminder about the transition resources that are available at this link: **Transition-Focused Activities and Resources for Distance Learning**. We are requesting that you submit additional resources that you believe will be of benefit to students with disabilities for transition by using the link below. The resources on the website are divided into categories and include career, college, employment, daily living skills, life skills, recreation, self-determination, education/academics, and educators' resources. It is updated once every two months. The Georgia Department of Education does not endorse any non-Georgia Department of Education websites or products contained within these pages or through external hyperlinks. It is at the discretion of individual districts and schools to determine appropriate resources to serve stakeholders. If you have questions, you may contact Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us.

Submission Link: [Submit Transition Resources](#)

Announcing the Start of Virtual Job Shadow

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), in collaboration with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), is pleased to announce the availability of **Virtual Job Shadow**. GVRA will work with school-based transition personnel to provide this tool for pre-employment transition services in transition programming. For more information about Virtual Job Shadow, check the resource section of the **Transition Best Practices webpage**.

GVRA will send you a letter with a survey link to provide awareness for special education leadership and school-based transition personnel, including CTI Coordinators. The survey will collect contact information for the school-based transition personnel and CTI Coordinators at the district level and for each of your high schools. Please share the link with the appropriate personnel who collaborates with GVRA. Questions about the form can be directed to Karla Wade, GVRA Transition Coordinator, at karla.wade@gvs.ga.gov.

Parent to Parent Training

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

Wednesday, January 20th at 10:00 AM EDT

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

Parent to Parent Training

Webinar: Crossing the Medical Bridge - Transition to Adult Healthcare for Children & Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Tuesday, January 26th at 9:00 AM EDT

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)



FY21 Transition Planning Survey

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education Services and Supports, monitors Indicator 13 (Secondary Transition) using the Cross Functional Monitoring (CFM) process beginning in FY20. Due to COVID-19 school closures, the FY21 CFM Cycle was rescheduled to FY22. As required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and reported in the Annual Performance Report (APR), the State must complete this review of Indicator 13 each year.

GaDOE has selected randomly Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to complete the FY21 Transition Planning Survey. Selected LEAs will be required to upload a maximum of five transition plans for high school students who are 16 or older. If the LEA does not have five students meeting the age and grade requirement, then you may submit fewer plans. In the Special Education Applications Dashboard, the tile for **Secondary Transition** will show one of the following phrases.

- (1) Your LEA is not selected for Secondary Transition collection for FY21.
- (2) Application will be available for FY21 collection on 1/26/21.

For LEAs selected, the Survey will be available for upload in the Special Education Dashboard located in the GaDOE Portal from January 26, 2021 - February 12, 2021. GO-IEP Districts will have the pdf of the active IEP file as of 1/25/21 for each student auto uploaded in the application. If that IEP is amended or a new Annual Review is developed prior to submission, please upload the most current file in the Secondary Transition Application in the Dashboard. If you have additional questions, please contact your District Liaison.



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Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

We are excited to announce that the **Special Education Parent Survey** is live and available on multiple websites. The survey data will be used to measure parent satisfaction for Indicator 8 of the Annual Performance Report. Families of all students with disabilities may access the survey on the **GaDOE Webpage**, **Georgia Parent Mentor Webpage**, and **Parent to Parent of Georgia Webpage**

Direct Link for Parent Survey: [Click Here](#)

In addition to the survey, you may access the following supporting documents:
2021 Parent Survey Flyer (English)

2021 Parent Survey Flyer (Spanish)

2021 Parent Survey FAQ

Information for the Parents of Young Children

Learn the Signs. Act Early. is a program developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics that provides FREE resources for monitoring the development of children ages birth through 5. The website, [cdc.gov/ActEarly](https://www.cdc.gov/ActEarly), contains a multitude of free materials including milestone checklists, story books, and even a Milestone Tracker App for mobile devices. Georgia has also created a **developmental milestone** with web-based milestone checklists and links to different resources to support families of young children in Georgia. Explore these exciting resources today! You may contact Bridget Ratajczak, Department of Early Care and Learning Child and Family Development Supervisor and the Act Early Ambassador to Georgia, at bridget.ratajczak@dec.al.gov or 770-359-5547 for more information.

Announcement from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)

Newly Released Video Series (Preschool During the Pandemic: Early Childhood Education in Extraordinary Times)

This **multi-part video series**, developed by Larry Edelman, features preschool staff and families from five states and illustrates their working together to use technology to make the virtual learning experience exciting, effective and engaging for young children.

Currently, there are 12 videos in the series, each ranging from five to 16 minutes in length. The videos cover the perspectives of professionals and parents on topics such as inclusion, equity and family support, the challenges and joys of remote learning, hands-on and play-based experiences, a family's approach to supporting a preschooler in a virtual environment, promoting social skills, relationships and positive social emotional development and the use of green screens to engage preschoolers.

New Early Childhood Outcomes Resource

We are please to share a new resource created to help parents understand and engage in the Early Childhood Outcomes process. Please share this valuable resource with your diagnostic teams, teachers and parents.

[Child Outcomes One pager 1-2021 final ver3.pdf \(gadoe.org\)](#)

Student Record Training

The Division for Special Education (GO-IEP/Data Team) will offer technical assistance for local school systems to support how to accurately report special education data in the Student Record Data Collections. The GO-IEP/Data Team will offer a series of student record (SR) training webinars, which will be recorded.

Training content will not address student specific issues. If you have student specific questions, contact your regional data program specialist. Please register for the sessions you would like to attend. After registering for each webinar, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the live session. Student Record is open in the portal, and you may begin uploading and recovering rejected records to the extent possible prior to the training.

1). Student Record for Special Education: What Are the Special Education Events?

When: Feb 2, 2021 1:00 PM EST – 3:00 PM EST

This webinar will address topics related to what should be reported in the Special Education File for each special education event, when to report an event type and how to know which event to use for students who transfer.

Registration link: [Click Here](#)

2). Student Record for Special Education: What Other SR Level Records Impact Special Ed Data?

When: Feb 16, 2021 1:00 PM EST – 3:00 PM EST

This webinar will address topics related to the special education data elements reported in the other student record files such as student level information and programs such as GNETS and Preschool. It will also address discipline data reported in the Student Safety file.

Registration link: [Click Here](#)

3). Student Record for Special Education: Reporting and Reviewing Student Record Data and Recovering Rejected Records

When: Mar 2, 2021 1:00 PM EST – 3:00 PM EST

This webinar will address topics related to the steps to report student record, navigating the portal to review what has been reported, as well as the process to recover records if they are rejected.

Registration link: [Click Here](#)

4). Student Record for Special Education: Errors and Reports

When: Mar 9, 2021 1:00 PM EST – 3:00 PM EST

This webinar will address topics related to understanding the errors and warnings in Student Record and ways to correct the errors. Relevant reports available in Student Record will also be discussed.

Registration link: [Click Here](#)



January 29, 2021 Email Blast

Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports



Directors,

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

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.

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

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Application for Georgia Online IEP (GO-IEP)

Districts may submit an application to use the Georgia Online IEP (GO-IEP) application for the FY22 school year, which is due by February 19. The **application** is available on the GO-IEP Webpage: **Georgia Online IEP**. GO-IEP has many features to improve accurate and timely reporting of data. GO-IEP users have access to a Full-time Equivalent (FTE) submission report that includes most of the data fields collected for special education FTE and Federal Special Education reporting. There are also reports that help districts to accurately track and report Timelines, as well as, a Student Records extract that can be used for Special Education Student Record submission. If you are interested, a brief overview is also available online that describes all the benefits and features offered in the platform. If you have questions, contact Linda Castellanos at (404) 719-08450 or lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us.

Division for Assessment Updates

GaDOE has a long history of involving Georgia educators in various steps of the test development process. In preparation for upcoming events, three memoranda have been posted to the [GaDOE website](#).

- **GAA 2.0 Nomination of Educators for Test Development Activities**

- o Districts may submit up to 21 nominees. Please note that we are seeking both Special Education and General Education nominees for the GAA 2.0 activities.

- **Georgia Milestones Nomination of Educators for Test Development Activities**

- o Districts may submit up to 28 nominees across all grades/content areas and courses.

- **GKIDS 2.0 and Keenville Nomination of Educators for Test Development Activities**

- o Districts may submit up to 14 nominees across grades K-2.

Nominations for each program will be accepted through **Friday, February 5, 2021**.

Details regarding the process for submitting nominations for each program can be found in the memoranda. We have also included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at the end of each memo. Please share this page with your nominees to assist with their understanding of the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jan Blose with any questions. Thank you for your collaboration in the ongoing development and implementation of our state assessment system.

Jan (Reyes) Blose, Ed.D.
jreyes@doe.k12.ga.us
404-463-6665

Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services

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. Early Intervention Specialists provide services during hour-long home visits (or other natural environments*) up to 4 times each month. Due to the pandemic, services are delivered via distance learning.

Georgia PINES service providers render contract services and may work for a school district or agency. They can provide early intervention services through PINES after their regular work hours and/or on weekends; the additional work does not interfere with their primary employment. Please share this information with any of your staff that you think might be interested/eligible.

Further information is attached via the 2021 Georgia PINES Training Flyers.

SKI-HI Summer Training

INSITE Summer Training

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