

March 5, 2021 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Directors,

I would like to share Superintendent Woods' message regarding all the work to provide services to students with disabilities, particularly during these challenging times. GaDOE's Division of Special Education Services and Supports – the Assistive Technology (AT) Partnership, developed a collaboration between GaDOE and Georgia Tech's Tools for Life.

The AT Partnership provides access to AT services, software, customized training, and a lending library for participating school districts. Participating districts receive basic AT services at no cost, and can access services like coaching support on implementation of evidence-based practices for AT, and districtwide licenses of AT software that can help students with reading, writing, math, and study skills.

For a look at the impact the AT Partnership has made in three Georgia school districts, [click here](#). An article providing additional information is available on the Georgia Department of Education's [new blog site](#).

If you would like to learn more about the AT Partnership, please contact Paula Gumpman at [pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us).



### State-Defined Alternate Diploma Webinar Series

The first webinar of the State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series was conducted on Wednesday, March 3. Below is the link to the recording. Presentations in this series will also be posted on the Special Education website. The next

webinar in the series is “Why is communication and assistive technology

essential?" This session will be March 10, 2021 at 3:00pm. Register for the series at **State-defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series**.

Recording: **Understanding the State-defined Alternate Diploma (Session 1): Who are the Students?**

## **Federal Programs Virtual Conference**

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**

## **FY21 Post-School Survey for 19-20 Exiters**

The FY21 Post-School Survey data collection application is available. To meet the requirements of the State Performance Plan, the Post-School Survey for individuals exiting school during the 2019-2020 school year will be conducted between May 15, 2021 and July 31, 2021. The application opened for reviewing student data on February 15, 2021 and will open for data entry May 15, 2021. The report must be submitted to the Division for Special Education by July 31, 2021. The survey will be completed via the MyGaDOE Web Portal. You must be provisioned in the role of Special Education Director for your district to access the survey. If you have questions about becoming provisioned, please contact the Information Systems Customer Support Center by emailing [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us) or by calling 1-800-869-1011. The link below will provide guidance for completing the survey. If you have any questions, contact Dawn Kemp at [dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us) .

## **FY21 Post-School Survey for 19-20 Exiters, Reporting Guidance**

## **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 Fireside Chats supports the scope of work for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Psychologists, and

Speech-Language Pathologists.

Each chat is a 45-minute session. The dates and registration link are listed below. You will register one time to participate in all sessions. If you have questions, please contact the Program Specialist for your group.

Elise James, [ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us) Occupational and Physical Therapist

Alicia Mercer, [amercer@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:amercer@doe.k12.ga.us) School Psychologist

Evelyn Dixon, [edixon@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:edixon@doe.k12.ga.us) Speech-Language Pathologists

**Registration for Fireside Chats** (1:00 pm-1:45 pm)

March 18, 2021

April 22, 2021

May 20, 2021

## Parent to Parent of Georgia Training

Webinar: Movin' Up - Planning Your Child's  
Successful Transition at Age 3

Tuesday, March 23 at 2:00 pm

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)



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**March 12, 2021 Email Blast**

## **Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education**



Directors,

We are excited to announce the 2021 Awards of Excellence for high school seniors. High school seniors might demonstrate excellence in the following ways.

- Outstanding academic achievement
- Outstanding athletic achievement
- Innovative use of technology
- Exemplary growth in social/peer relationships
- Participation in organizations and clubs
- Exemplary participation in the Arts (creative writing, visual arts, performing arts)
- Exemplary involvement in the community
- Acceptance into one of the military branches

Please complete this **electronic form** by Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to spotlight the outstanding achievement of a senior in your school district as well as his/her teachers and staff.

The Georgia Department of Education will review all applications and identify one winner from each GLRS region. We will be sure to share the winner's information with district leadership.

There will be a virtual awards ceremony this year (date and time to be determined) featuring messages from state leaders. Please complete the electronic form no later than Wednesday March 31, 2021.

For questions contact Debbie Reagin ([dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us)) or Paula Gumpman ([pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us)).

## **Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund**

The **Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund** provides resources for individuals with a traumatic brain injury or a spinal cord injury. Individuals may be eligible for up to \$10,000. There are three steps to be eligible for support from the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund.

1. Demonstrate that you are a US citizen and a Georgia resident
2. Know that you want to improve your quality of life, independence and or have better opportunities to participate in your community
3. Submit the required documents (Injury documentation, cost quote, Affidavit of Citizenship, and proof of Georgia residency)

Mostly, individuals have requested the following: Transportation, Personal Support Services, Health Wellness, Computers and Home Access Modifications. If you need additional support or have questions, call toll free 1-888-233-5760 or email [DPH-INFO-BSITF@dph.ga.gov](mailto:DPH-INFO-BSITF@dph.ga.gov)

**“The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund 2020 Annual Report”**

## **Accessible COVID-19 Resources - Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation**

The Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI) at Georgia Tech, with support from the CDC Foundation, has created COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for people with disabilities. The resources on the site are adapted and accessible versions of CDC’s COVID-19 guidance. This is a very comprehensive site. Please visit the site at [Click Here](#)

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March 19, 2021 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



**Dr. MaryKay Berry**  
*Winner of the  
2021  
Lillie Moncus Award*

Directors,

We would like to join G-CASE and extend our congratulations to Dr. MaryKay Berry, Director of Student Services for the White County Schools. Dr. Berry was announced as the 2021 Lillie Moncus Special Education Administrator of the Year at the Spring Legal Forum!

## 2021 IDEA Documents Available for Public Review and Comment

In order to meet the requirements as set forth by IDEA 2004 for the annual state application of Georgia's grant award under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for federal fiscal year 2021 (2021-2022), the Georgia Department of Education is publishing the following documents for at least 60 days beginning March 11, 2021 with an opportunity for public comments on such plan to be accepted for at least 30 days. You may review the documents on the public webpage: **Click Here**.

Your comments should be forwarded to Dr. Zephine Smith-Dixon.  
Division for Special Education Services and Supports  
Address: 1562 Twin Towers East Atlanta, GA 30334  
Email: **ZSmith@doe.k12.ga.us**

## Preschool Outcomes - Change for ALL Districts

The 2020-2021 Preschool Outcomes Application in the Special Education Applications is now available for data entry only. All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must submit a response in the Preschool Outcomes Application by July 31, 2021, even if your LEA does not have preschool. The Preschool Outcomes

Application tile is accessed from the landing page in Special Education Applications. Please select the "View Application" button at the bottom of the Preschool Applications tile, and three choices will display (shown below).

- \* This LEA did not serve preschool students with disabilities in FY21.
- \* This LEA did serve preschool students with disabilities but none who exited preschool in FY21.
- \* This LEA served preschool students with disabilities who exited preschool in FY21.

Please select the correct option for your LEA.

- 1) If option 1 or 2 above is selected, save your response. The response can be submitted in June 2021 when submission of data is enabled in the application.
- 2) If option 3 above is selected, the Childhood Outcomes template to enter data will appear. Data entry can then begin, and responses can be saved and submitted by July 31, 2021.

If you have questions, contact Dawn Kemp via email at [dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us) or Linda Castellanos via email at [lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us).

## Page Turners

The GaDOE ELA Team and **Page Turners Make Great Learners** would like to invite you to a Virtual Author's Visit on March 25, 2021, featuring the award winning author and illustrator duo, Shannon Hale & LeUyen Pham, as they premier their newest book, Itty Bitty Kitty Corn!



The event is open to all, but the target audience is K-3 educators, parents/caretakers and students. **Click here** for more information to register for this event. If you have any questions, contact Franeka Colley at [franeka.colley@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:franeka.colley@doe.k12.ga.us).

## Parent to Parent of Georgia Trainings

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

Wednesday, March 24 at 10:00 AM EDT

Facebook link: **Click Here**



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

Thursday, March 25 at 10:00 AM EDT

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

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March 26, 2021 Email Blast

## Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Directors,

Thank you for joining the State-Defined Alternate Diploma Professional Learning Series. Session 5 is scheduled for March 31 at 3 pm. Per your request, we will hold a bonus session on April 21 to address additional questions submitted during Session 4.

During the webinar series, we received questions regarding the publishing of report cards, transcripts, and diplomas. You may access a resource from the Office of Civil Rights on these topics: [Click Here](#).

The Division of Special Education has released a one-page guidance document for families that explains the types of diplomas available per the **Georgia Graduation Board Rule**. This document explains the requirements for each diploma and who is eligible to receive it. Please share this resource with your families. It can assist you with your discussion of the State-Defined Alternate Diploma.

The resource can be found on the main Special Education webpage in the right-hand column under "Resources". If you have questions, contact Elise James at [ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us).

**Click Here: [Georgia High School Diploma Options one-pager guidance](#)**

## Budget Update

The State Board of Education approved federal and state grants: (1) FY21 High Cost Grant; (2) FY21 Residential and Reintegration Grant. You may access the public board items using the following link: **[March State Board Meeting](#)**. The funds will be uploaded in the Consolidated Application within the next few days. The FY21 Grant Award Notifications for the High Cost Grants will also be

uploaded in the Consolidated Application. If you have questions, contact your **IDEA Budget Liaison**.

## **Secondary Transition Plan Reviews- Important Change to Reporting**

The Local Educational Agencies (LEA) Annual Performance Summary containing a target for Indicator 13 (Secondary Transition) is posted in the Special Education Applications Dashboard on the Reports tab and publicly on the GaDOE website. LEAs randomly selected for a review of secondary transition plans receive a compliance percentage for transition plans reviewed. LEAs not participating in a transition plan review currently receive a designation of N/A for transition plan compliance.

Beginning FY22, Georgia will no longer be able to show the LEA Rate as “Not Applicable” for Indicator 13 (Secondary Transition) when the LEA is not in the random selection for that year. Instead, the last rate must always be reported, and the year of that rate will also be displayed (i.e., 2019 - 60%).

Beginning next year, LEAs scoring less than the target of 100% on the last review of transition plans will be offered the opportunity to voluntarily choose to participate in another review of transition plans. The voluntary review will allow an LEA to avoid showing an unsatisfactory rate for multiple consecutive years. Additional details on the process will be provided later. If you have questions, contact Dawn Kemp [dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us) or Linda Castellanos [lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us).

## **REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING MATH CONFERENCES!**



Teachers and leaders are invited to participate in a series of professional learning opportunities. GaDOE is hosting several pre-conferences and two summer mathematics conferences. The conferences will provide an opportunity for principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, grade level chairs, and department chairs to review and discuss the Georgia mathematics standards, engage in purposeful work to plan for the implementation of the standards, and network with other school leaders from across the state.

Registration links are provided below:

- District Leaders Pre-Conference: April 28, 2021 - **Register**

- School Leaders Pre-Conference: May 7, 2021 - **Register**
- Georgia Mathematics Summit for Georgia Mathematics Supervisors, Coordinators, and Leaders Pre-Conference: May 12, 2021 - **Register**
- Summer Leaders Conference: June 8-9, 2021 - **Register**
- Summer Teachers Conference: July 19-22, 2021 - **Register**

Contact: **Lya Snell**

## **A New Resource about the Use of Scribes**

A scribe is an individual who writes down what a student dictates with his/her voice or an assistive communication device, pointing, or by communicating via American Sign Language, etc.. You can find more information about a scribe on the **Assistive Technology web page**, far right side under documents.

**Resource: Scribe Usage Feb 2021**

## **The New NTACTION: The Collaborative (National Technical Assistance Center on Transition) Website**

The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT:C) is a Technical Assistance Center co-funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The new website combines the resources of the National Technical Assistance Center and the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center have launched.

You can locate the website at **NTACT: The Collaborative**. Resources for transition under IDEA and WIOA are in one location to facilitate the collaboration between special education and vocational rehabilitation services. You can still access the original websites for NTACT and WINTAC until the migration or the resources is complete.

## **Self-Determination Community of Practice**

The final Self-Determination Community of Practice will take place on Monday, March 29, 2021 from 3:00pm-4:00pm. This session will put the spotlight presentation tools that can be used online to support your self-determination initiatives including ASPIRE and The Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction. Participants will also be provided with resources for supplementing their efforts to build self-determination for students with disabilities. Use the registration link below to join the conversation. This session will not be

recorded. For additional information contact Elise James at [ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us).

Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

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