May 7, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs -
Division for Special Education

Directors,

Join me in celebrating our teachers for the outstanding service provided for students each day. I am reminded of how teachers change the world for many students to include Augie who aspires to be a math teacher one day. He spoke at the Georgia School Board Conference in 2016. Augie, you do have more strength than you ever thought you did! Click Here: Watch.

The final Directors’ Webinar will be Tuesday, May 11 @ 1 pm. We will provide awareness for several end of the year reminders and guidelines for successful monitoring results. If you need to register, Click Here.

Federal Programs

In recent Friday Updates, the Office of Federal Programs asked local educational agencies (LEA) to hold the week of June 21-25, 2021 for a virtual conference focused on the federal ESSA and IDEA grants. We are announcing a change of plans for this time frame. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will host an overarching virtual conference during this week. This conference will provide resources and best practices from divisions across the GaDOE and highlight the work of successful practitioners across the state. This virtual conference is scheduled for June 21-22, 2021. Information was shared with LEAs earlier today.

The ESSA and IDEA programs will transition to a virtual professional learning series on July 14-15, 2021. This series will address ESSA and IDEA grant requirements to assist LEAs with planning and budgeting for FY22. We will share the topics and registration links for this webinar series soon. All webinars will be recorded and posted on our website.
**WIDA Screener**

GaDOE is offering you OPEN OFFICE HOUR sessions collaboratively hosted by Assessment, ESOL, Special Education, and Title IIIA. We encourage LEAs to bring collaborative questions to the sessions and participate with colleagues. Open Office Session #2 – May 11 @ 3:00 p.m.

Click Here: [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
Or call in (audio only)
+1 470-440-6149,,125669228# United States, Atlanta
Phone Conference ID: 125 669 228#
Find a local number | Reset PIN

**Preschool Disability Grant**

You may click the link below to review the State Preschool Disability grant. LEAs will need to complete a budget amendment in the ConApp and draw the funds down in GAORS. The grant period ends on 6/30/2021.

Preschool Allocation: [Click Here](#)

**Post School Outcomes FY21**

Post School Outcomes are currently open in the GaDOE Portal, Special Education Applications Dashboard for viewing names of FY20 graduates for submission. It will open to begin submission of Post School activities on May 15, 2021. The link for the Definitions and Directions and a list of Activity Codes are located in the application. Please contact your District Liaison or Data and GO-IEP regional contact person with questions.

**Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDRA)**

If you are a new Special Education Director for the 2021-2022 school year, please register for the Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDRA). 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).
Student Record (SR) Recovering Rejected Records

When recovering Special Education Events in Student Record from Special Education Event Rejection Recovery, consider these tips.

* Do not recover an event when the rejected SpEd event does not include the student’s name. This indicates a Student level record for the student, at that school, has not been reported.

* Do not recover a SpEd event if the name of the school is not included in the details. This indicates the school has either not been reported in Student Record or the school is closed. If an event is recovered in error, the district will be unable to access the event to delete it.

If in doubt whether to recover an Event, please follow up with the appropriate contact person. You may click on the link for a full listing of DOE Contacts.
May 14, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs -
Division for Special Education

Directors,
The final Directors' Webinar was Tuesday, May 11. We encountered a technical issue with the recording. We will rerecord and post the recording link at a later date.

On May 5, we hosted the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)/School and District Effectiveness (SDE) Leadership Launch webinar. This Leadership Launch highlighted Check and Connect, an evidence-based mentoring program to promote student engagement. Click Here: Leadership Launch- Check and Connect May 2021. For more information, contact your local Georgia Learning Resources System or Susan Brozovic, sbrozovic@doe.k12.ga.us.

Families of Children with Special Needs Reimbursement

Governor Brian P. Kemp and the Georgia Department of Education have opened the applications for the Families of Children with Special Needs Reimbursement through June 30th. You may access the updated press release using the following link: Click Here.

The application is available clicking the following link: Click Here.

Changes in Social Security Sponsored Programs for People with Disabilities

The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program and the Shepherd Center Benefits
Navigator will no longer be providing services after June 30, 2021. The programs have decided not to apply for the next 5-year award from Social Security. On July 1, 2021, new providers will begin providing services for the state. Encourage families to contact the Ticket to Work Helpline to be referred to the new program serving their counties. The Ticket to Work Helpline is available from 8 am to 8 pm. The contact phone number is 866-968-7842.
May 28, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Congratulations to our Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) retirees. Each of these phenomenal leaders have made impacts in the field of special education and leadership.

Lisa Hill began her teaching career in a Richmond County School, T.W. Josey High School, teaching the transition class for students with severe cognitive disabilities.

She worked as a special education lead teacher and later as a special education coordinator, assistant principal, and special education director in two school districts. Lisa has served as the East GLRS director for four years.

Dana Robbins has been with South Central GLRS for 11 years and the director for three years. She is completing her 35th year in education! Previously, she was a school psychologist for a school district and a Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Supports (GNETS) center.

Dr. Terrie Young-Graham has served as the Director of East Central GLRS for seventeen years. Terrie began her career in 1993 as a teacher at Heartland Academy GNETS and transitioned into an administrative role after five years in the classroom. During her eleven-year tenure at Heartland Academy, Terrie acquired several additional degrees in special education and administration before moving to East Central GLRS in 2004 as Director. After twenty-eight years in education, Terrie is excited about her upcoming retirement and looks forward to finding new adventures in the next “chapter” of her life.

Thank you for your years of service and excellence.

New Webpage for Students with
the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities

A new webpage has been created to address the needs of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The page is available through the Intellectual Disabilities webpage with two links to reach the Significant Cognitive Disabilities page. Please share this information with teachers as resources will be posted and updated frequently including information on the State-Defined Alternate Diploma.

Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD)

Data Visualization Reports (Public Posting)

Data visualization reports were available in the Special Education Applications Portal Dashboard since May 7, 2021 and will be publicly available on the Georgia Department of Education website beginning June 5. These reports include trend data for the following Indicators and Reports; Preschool, Post-secondary, Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), and Timely and Accurate Data.

Please review your data visualization reports before June 5. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the reports, contact Linda Castellanos lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us or Dawn Kemp dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us.

ELA Summer Learning Resources Guide

The GaDOE ELA team has compiled learning activities and digital resources to continue and reinforce summer learning. Parents and caregivers can use this guide to promote quality screen time practices when students are online continuing their studies, playing games, or socializing with friends and family. We know how important the continuation of learning during the summer is to all students, and we hope these resources help make summer learning fun and engaging. Use these resources at home, on the go, or at your local public library!

You can find the Summer Learning Resources Guide HERE.

Parent to Parent of Georgia Training
Webinar: Who Do You Think You're Talking To - Having Age and Developmentally Appropriate Conversations with Your Kids

Wednesday, June 2 at 11:30 am
Calendar link: Click Here
Facebook link has the photo: Click Here