



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.

November 2, 2020 Email Blast

From Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

We added a Directors' Webinar on November 10 at 1 pm to complete the dispute resolution content started during the previous Directors' Webinar. Click here to register: [Click Here](#).

We are excited to share a new resource with you: [Georgia State-defined Alternate Diploma FAQ for Families](#). This resource will be featured on the upcoming Directors' Webinar.

Please complete the following survey to provide us feedback to ensure the enhanced Special Education Dashboard is as informative and useful as possible. All feedback is appreciated. [Survey Link](#).

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report

You may access awareness information for the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) in small increments. The SPP/APR content largely informs indicators selected for LEA Determinations. The Data and GO-IEP Team has posted a series of short recordings and resources to include Indicators 1, 2, 8, 11, and 12 on the [SPP/APR webpage](#).

The average length of each presentation is approximately 10-15 minutes.

Additional resources will be added to the webpage during this school year. Contact Dr. Dawn Kemp, Program Specialist/Part B Data Manager dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us, or Ms. Linda Castellanos, Program Manager/Part B Data Manager, lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us, if you have any questions.

Assistive Technology Professional Learning

Assistive Technology Professional Learning will be held on November 10 from 3 – 3:30 pm. The focus is Speech to Text to support the struggling writer. This presentation has been developed collaboratively with Georgia Department of Education and Tools for LIFE.

Please share this opportunity for professional learning with any individual who could benefit from this presentation such as parents, regular education teachers, special education teachers, building level leaders, etc.

Please register using the link: [Speech to Text: Supporting the Struggling Writer](#).

October was National Dropout Prevention Month!

Though the graduation rate has increased nationwide and statewide in the last decade, much more needs to be done so that every child has the opportunity for a brighter future that a high school diploma helps ensure.

Students at risk of high school dropout often miss school, fail courses, and account for many disciplinary actions and suspensions. Some end up in the criminal justice system. The further they fall behind, the more monumental the task of catching up becomes. What these students need are a wide variety of wraparound supports. Risk factors and early warning systems can play an integral role in promoting graduation and success for all. (American Institutes for Research, January 2017).

The sampling of resources listed below are available at no cost and have research to support their effectiveness in dropout prevention.

[School Completion: Dropout Prevention Resources and Tools](#)

[Early Warning Systems to Improve Student Outcomes: Supporting States, Districts, and Schools with Every Student Succeeds Act Requirements](#)

[Preventing School Dropout - What You Need to Know \(video for families\)](#)

[Long Story Short: Can Early Warning Systems Prevent Students From Dropping Out of High School?](#)

Warm regards,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon, Ed.D.,



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November 6, 2020 Email Blast

From Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

We added a Directors' Webinar on November 10 at 1 pm to complete the dispute resolution content started during the previous Directors' Webinar. Click here to register: [Click Here](#).

The revised dispute prevention and resolution forms for Facilitated IEP Team meetings, Mediation, Formal Complaints, and Due Process Hearings are now available on the GaDOE Special Education website. Please note that all forms may be submitted via the Special Education Help Desk at spedhelpdesk@doe.k12.ga.us.

We are excited to share a new resource with you. Click Here: [Guidance for Serving Youth who are Detained or Incarcerated](#)

Thank you for sharing your feedback for the enhanced Special Education Dashboard. If not already, you have time to submit your survey today. Click Here: [Survey Link](#).

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



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November 13, 2020 Email Blast

From Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

You may access the recording link to the November Directors' Webinar: [Click Here](#). The agenda included: Guidance for Students with Disabilities Incarcerated in Prisons and Jails and Part Two of the Dispute Resolution Findings for FY20. The recording link and PowerPoint are posted on the [webpage](#).

We shared the following survey link with local school districts to collect additional information regarding the implementation of IDEA during COVID-19. The survey deadline is November 25. Please let your district liaison know if there are questions.

Survey Link: [Implementation of IDEA during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

National Early Career Special Education Administrator

Let's celebrate Dr. Brad Bowling, recognized at the CASE Conference with the National Early Career Special Education Administrator Award! Dr. Bowling is the Director of Special Education for the Barrow County Schools and the G-CASE Professional



Learning Committee Chair.

National School Psychology Week

During the week of November 9-13, schools throughout the United States celebrated National School Psychology Week (NSPW) to highlight the important work school psychologists and other educators do to help all students thrive. Let's celebrate them!

Parent to Parent of Georgia Training



Webinar: Transitioning to Adult Health Care for Parents & Caregivers

When: Tuesday, November 17th at 11:00 AM EDT

Facebook link: [Click Here](#)

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

When: Tuesday, November 17th at 3:00 PM EDT

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

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November 20, 2020 Email Blast



Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

Georgia celebrates Family Engagement Month and would like to showcase Dr. Tosha Middlebrooks and Randolph County School District. In FY20, Randolph County School District had a high response rate for the Parent Satisfaction Survey (Indicator 8) and received a parent satisfaction rating of 95.08%.

Here are a few best practices shared by Dr. Middlebrooks.

1. Post
the
parent
survey
information
on
the
school
website
2. Invite
parents
to
use
the
school
computer

- 
- 
- lab
to
complete
the
survey
3. Offer
rewards
and
incentives
to
increase
participation
and
completion
 4. Send
courtesy
reminders
to
parents
via
phone,
email,
and
by
mail
 5. Ask
case
managers
to
call
parents
and
encourage
survey
completion
 6. Jointly
host
an
event
for
Exceptional
Education
Week
and
complete
surveys
 7. Host
fun
events
with
refreshments

and
promote
Survey
Day
for
completion

CARES Special Education Drop-In Questions & Answers (Q&A)

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will provide additional supports for the CARES Special Education allocation. A state team will address your questions and concerns.

CARES Special Education Drop-In Q&A
Fri, Dec 4, 2020 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Join Link

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (872) 240-3212

Access Code: 860-911-277

Assistive Technology Survey

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports would like your feedback about the Assistive Technology Partnership. The responses you provide will help us to evaluate the Assistive Technology Partnership and measure state trends.

Survey Link: [Click Here](#)

The Survey has been emailed to districts that are registered in the portal for the Assistive Technology Partnership. Thank you to districts that have completed the survey. If you have not completed the survey, we would appreciate hearing from you. The survey includes 20 questions and should take between 6 – 8 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and confidential. Please feel free to forward this link to others in your district to share their input

Student Record Training

The GO-IEP/Data Team will be presenting a virtual training to assist all districts.

Title: Student Record: Recovering Rejected Records

Date: December 3, 2020

Time: 1 pm – 3 pm

Please use the link below to join the meeting.

This webinar will be recorded for your convenience.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Click Here

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3112

Access Code: 910-388-957

Budget Reminder

This past summer, we created a course in the Professional Learning Portal for Maintenance of Effort. It is step-by-step guidance.

You may take the entire course or complete specific modules. Below, you will see the module breakout of the course. For more information about accessing the Professional Learning Portal (PLO), please click the link: **Click Here**.

The purpose of this course is to develop foundational knowledge of MOE regulatory requirements under IDEA, review examples of the application of IDEA MOE requirements to ensure appropriate implementation, and share resources to support IDEA MOE implementation and reporting. For more information, visit the Budget, Grants, and Consolidated Application page on the **GaDOE website**. It contains the following modules.

- Basic Understanding of MOE
- The Eligibility Standard
- The Compliance Standard
- The Four Methods
- Allowable Exceptions Part 1
- Allowable Exceptions Part 2
- Calculating Exceptions
- The Subsequent Years Rule
- Adjustments to MOE
- MOE Adjustments and Coordinated Early Intervening Services
- Documentation

Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Pyramid Model Training for Preschool Special Education Teachers

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has collaborated with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to provide Pyramid Model trainings for special education preschool teachers, paraprofessionals and related service providers. These trainings are free. Registration is required to attend the trainings. The first live webinar date is December 1! Contact Dr. Micole Talley (mtalley@doe.k12.ga.us) with questions or concerns. Attachment links are below.

Training Menu

Directions

Portal Special Education Applications Dashboard

The Data and GO-IEP Team have posted a link to a new recording for the Special Education (SE) Applications Dashboard to help you use the Contact State section, SE Dashboard Contact State Section. The recording can be found on the [Data Collection and Reporting](#) page linked from the Special Education Services and Supports webpage. The webpage is helpful for any of the data collections applications and receives frequent updates. If you have questions or need more information, contact the Data and GO-IEP Team or your DL. Contact information for the various data collections is available on the [Data Collection and Reporting](#) page in the Documents, Tools and Templates section.

Warm regards,

Zelphine Smith-Dixon, Ed.D.,

State Director, Division for Special Education Services and Supports

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