



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.

September Friday Email Blasts



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.

September 11, 2020 Email Blast

From Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

Thank you joining the Directors' Webinar on Tuesday, September 8. You may access the archived recording using the following link: **Archived Recording Link**.

The State Board of Education approved the initiation of the Student Support Team Rule 160-4-2-.32. You may access the proposed rulemaking, as well as, other rules which may be applicable to students with disabilities using the following link: **Proposed Rulemaking**.

Assistive Technology (AT) Partnership

Thank you for supporting the AT Partnership. Our first six months have resulted in 139 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) registered through the AT portal plus GNETS and State Schools. Georgia has distributed 249,759 AT software licenses to LEAs to support students with disabilities in the areas of reading, math and writing for students with disabilities. Considering the AT portal opened on February 24, the participation has been amazing!

As the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and Tools for Life collaborate in planning for the contract renewal, we need LEA assurances to let us know if you plan to continue your participation or do not plan to be involved

in the AT Partnership. This information will assist in planning and budgeting as we move forward. Just as a reminder, these services are provided to LEAs at no cost.

Please complete the AT Partnership Assurance by September 18, 2020. Feel free to contact Wina Low (wlow@doe.k12.ga.us) or Paula Gumpman (pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

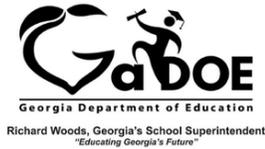
Link to AT Partnership Assurance: **Assistive Technology (AT) Participation Assurance**.

Guidance Document

GaDOE has issued a consultation guide for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding that has been allocated to districts. Please review this guide. Beverly Strickland can be contacted about CARES Act funding at Beverly.strickland@doe.k12.ga.us.

GaDOE CARES - SEA Reserve Consultation Guide

A state education Agency (SEA) may target ESSER SEA Reserve funds for a specific purpose or population of students, in which case an LEA (on behalf of public and private schools) would need to use the funds accordingly. The Georgia Department of Education's SEA Reserve subgrants should adhere to the parameters listed below. Link to **SEA Reserve Consultation Guide**.



GaDOE CARES - SEA Reserve Consultation Guide

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SA Reserve – GAVS Segments
Purpose: The purpose of this grant is to allocate emergency relief funds to rural LEAs to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, across Georgia and the nation.
Grant Use: Private Schools may enroll in allocated GAVS segments on a first-come first-served basis.
Resources: Georgia Virtual Webpage
Contact: Georgia Virtual School Staff 404-657-0574

SA Reserve – Equitable Services
Purpose: The purpose of this grant is to allocate additional emergency relief funds to LEAs currently providing equitable services to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, across Georgia and the nation.
Fund Use: All 12 Allowable Uses of Funds
Resources: CARES Act Use of Funds Flyer
Contact: Budget – Beverly Strickland beverly.strickland@doe.k12.ga.us

SA Reserve – CTAE - Ag Ed	
Purpose: The purpose of these grant is to assist schools in program improvement efforts related to student agricultural career and leadership development.	
Fund Use: CARES Act CTAE - Ag Extended Day	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers engaged in agricultural instructional services and supervision of agricultural projects beyond the regular school day.
Fund Use: CARES Act CTAE - Ag Extended Year	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers engaged in supervising students who complete a series of planned agricultural education activities during the summer.
Fund Use: CARES Act CTAE - Ag Young Farmer	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers delivering program that provides educational instruction and opportunities to adults interested or engaged in agriculture.
Fund Use: CARES Act CTAE - Area Teachers Program	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers providing technical assistance to teachers of agriculture in teaching short-term adult classes, assist in improving in-school specialized classes, improve teacher skills, and conduct leadership and career development events.
Resources: GaDOE Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Webpage	
Contact: Budget – David Turner david.turner@doe.k12.ga.us	

SA Reserve – CTE	
Purpose: The purpose of these grant is to assist schools in program improvement efforts related to student career and technical education leadership development.	
Fund Use: CARES Act CTE Extended Day	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers delivering CTE work-based learning services/experiences and CTE leadership development activities beyond the regular school day for students in career and technical education programs.
Fund Use: CARES Act CTE Extended Year	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers engaged in supervising students who complete summer technology/career (vocational) instructional programs during the summer.
Fund Use: CARES Act CTE - Supervision	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers who serve as part-time or full-time vocational supervisors and who are directly responsible for coordinating the CTAE program of a school.
Fund Use: CARES Act CTE Youth Apprenticeship	Grants for the purpose of providing stipends for Georgia certified private school teachers who facilitate work-based learning that integrates school-based learning and a training plan coordinated with business, industry and labor that facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education by providing the apprentice the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, post-secondary credential/diploma and a completer certificate.
Resources: GaDOE Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Webpage	
Contact: Budget – David Turner david.turner@doe.k12.ga.us	

SA Reserve – Special Education	
Purpose: To offset costs for providing special education services to private school students.	
Eligible Students: Follow LEA criteria for identifying eligible special education students in private and homeschool settings (IDEA “child find”).	
Fund Use: Funds used must be specific to the needs of individual students, not the school. If a service plan is in place, expenditures should adhere to the needs addressed in the service plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Priority: Students currently receiving special education services through service plans. • Second Priority: Other students eligible to receive special education services, but who do not currently have a service plan. 	
Resources: United States Department of Education – Serving Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents in Private Schools (Specifically D-2, F-3)	
Contact: Budget – Beverly Strickland beverly.strickland@doe.k12.ga.us	

General Questions about the provision of Equitable Services and consultation under the CARES can be directed to the GaDOE State Ombudsman ombudsman@doe.k12.ga.us.

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



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September 18, 2020 Email Blast

From Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) regarding the alternate assessment 1.0 percent participation cap put in place under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Prior to submitting the waiver, the GaDOE is seeking comments from local education agencies (LEAs) and other education stakeholders.

In submitting the 1.0 percent participation cap waiver, the GaDOE is requesting that US ED allow the State a year to further implement guidelines and interventions to support LEAs in ensuring the appropriate administration of the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA). During the one-year waiver period, the GaDOE's offices of Special Education and Assessment and Accountability would work collaboratively to ensure LEAs are provided the necessary support and technical assistance.

Additional waiver details are available in the alternate assessment waiver public notice. You may access the notice using the following link:[Notice Attachment Link](#): If you have any comments or questions pertaining to this waiver, please send them to me by **October 16, 2020**.

Data and GO-IEP

The Data and GO-IEP Team posted several updates for Full-time Equivalent

(FTE) and the Special Education Applications Dashboard on the [Data Collection and Reporting](#) page, Data Collection and Reporting, linked from the Special Education Services and Supports webpage.

Please review the FTE documents posted at the link above and submit any questions you have regarding FTE reporting to Dawn Kemp at dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us. The Data and GO-IEP team will collaborate to answer all your questions and provide responses. The team will also produce a document to share the most frequently asked questions. In addition, a webinar will be conducted on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. to provide FTE guidance using your questions. FTE tips and suggestions will also be provided.

Please register at the link below for "Special Ed FTE Data Q & A":
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3263726953891298318>.

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.

If you need assistance, contact Franeka Colley at franeka.colley@doe.k12.ga.us.

Title: A Deep Dive into Dyslexia

Presenter: Dr. Nora Schlesinger, Kennesaw State University

Descriptor: This a 3-part series that will focus on better understanding dyslexia intervention and the application of structured language (SL). Participants are encouraged to attend all three sessions because the sessions build on one another.

Session Date Time Registration

1. November 6, 2020 7:00 pm [Click Here](#)
2. November 9, 2020 7:00 pm [Click Here](#)
3. November 13, 2020 7:00 pm [Click Here](#)

Title: The Cultural, Linguistic, and Socioeconomic Differences in the

Classroom: The Impact of Language Variation on Development

Presenter: Dr. Julie Washington, Georgia State University

1. Differences are not Deficits: Cultural, Linguistic, and Socioeconomic Differences in the Classroom

Focus: Recognizing and accepting the cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic richness of the children we serve and separating who they are from how they are

doing. October 8, 2020 10:00 am [Click Here](#)

2. The Impact of Language Variation on Development: What do we Know

Focus: Discussing the current understanding of the potential impact of linguistic differences on language and reading outcomes of African American children growing up in poverty. November 9, 2020 10:00 am [Click Here](#)

Check & Connect (An Evidence-based Intervention)

Check & Connect is an intervention used with K-12 students who show early warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out.

At the core of Check & Connect is a trusting relationship between the student and a caring, trained mentor who advocates and challenges the student to keep education salient.

Students are referred to Check & Connect when they show warning signs of disengaging from school, such as poor attendance, behavioral issues, and/or low grades.

Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) are trained trainers. Training is free. GLRS provides ongoing support to districts who are implementing Check & Connect.

Contact your GLRS to schedule a training or find out more information. Currently over 100 schools are implementing Check & Connect in Georgia.

Effingham County Shares Their Check & Connect Journey

- * [Check & Connect Video](#)
- * [Check & Connect Resources](#)
- * [Check & Connect Flyer \(PDF\)](#)

Parent to Parent Trainings

Webinar: Georgia Medicaid & Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver

Date: Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 pm

Click to Register: [Link](#)

Facebook post for Parent Mentors to share: [Link](#)

Webinar: Sifting Through Parental Rights

Date: Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm

Click to Register: [Link](#)

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



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September 28, 2020 Email Blast

From Federal Programs - Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Directors,

On **October 2**, we will host a virtual **Special Education Directors' Forum** and prioritize engaging local leadership for a **High Cost Grant Stakeholders Meeting**. **We will discuss your feedback regarding how we might improve the High Cost Grant process.** If you would like the opportunity to complete the survey, you may do so using the following link: [High Cost Grant Stakeholder Survey](#). If you have any questions, please contact your Budget District Liaison.

At least one special education director from each Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) region should participate in the virtual forum. It is appropriate if two to four directors would like to register and participate. You can register using the following link: [Directors' Forum Registration Link](#).

Preschool Special Education Updates

In early October, the Child Outcome Summary (COS) Training Modules developed by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) will be available within the Professional Learning Opportunities (PLO) in the portal. District leaders will be able to assign the modules to teachers and monitor module completion. Teachers will receive a certificate of completion when they have successfully completed each module.

Also, check the [Preschool Special Education](#) website for General Guidance, COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions from ECTA, and the FY21 Preschool Outcomes Template.

Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) 2.0

Beginning in FY21, all kindergarten students, including those students instructed using an alternate curriculum, will participate in the GKIDS 2.0 formative assessment. Universal and comprehensive supports in the GKIDS 2.0 formative assessment are not accommodations and should not be documented as accommodations for state required testing in an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Students instructed using an alternate curriculum should have IEP documentation of Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) eligibility and should be reported as “YES” for GAA in FTE 1 and FTE 3. This information is used to ensure that teachers are appropriately certified to instruct students using an adapted curriculum. Improper reporting may result in in-field errors. Please see the attachment for additional information.

GKIDS 2.0 Resource: [Click Here](#)

Special Education Dashboard Portal Applications Enhancements

Recently, the Division for Special Education hosted feedback sessions to improve the Special Education Dashboard in the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) portal. The dashboard has been updated to include many enhancements. On September 23, the Division hosted a webinar for more than 200 attendees to demonstrate the new dashboard enhancements. If you were unable to attend the demonstration, the link is posted on the following webpage: [Data Presentation, Recording, and Documents](#).

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