August 3, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

The U.S. Department of Education recognized the thirty-first anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Check out the new guidance to support LONG COVID under Section 504: Click Here.

Important Announcement - Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) identified as having significant disproportionality must reserve 15% of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B funds to provide Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS). LEAs required to provide CCEIS during FY22 must reserve 15% of the total IDEA Part B funds (IDEA 611 and 619) and the supplemental IDEA American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for both 611 and 619. LEAs will be required to budget for the total amount, which will be greater than the previously budgeted amount. The CCEIS plans will need to include the increased funding.

The submission deadline has been extended until August 30. LEAs must submit their draft plans to the District Liaison and Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) director. Once the plan has been approved, the District Liaison will send an approval email to the Special Education Director. Next, the Special Education Director will upload the approved plan in the CCEIS portal.
application. The required set-aside amounts may be found using the FY22 allocations spreadsheet: Click Here.

**Mining for Science Resources**

Are you looking for new science resources for the start of the school year? Click here for a tour on available resources ranging from on-demand professional learning playlist to digital learning plans: Mining for Science Resources.

**State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Leadership Launch**

Dr. Dawn Kemp, IDEA Part B Data Manager, will provide professional learning for the Leadership Launch on August 18 at 2 pm. Dr. Kemp will discuss the new State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) updates for Indicator 1 (Graduation Rate) and Indicator 2 (Dropout Rate), as well as, provide resources for Indicator 17 (SSIP).

The training updates will inform changes that impact all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and allow local leaders to ask clarifying questions. We encourage you to share this invitation with the appropriate team members. If you have questions, contact Susan Brozovic at sbrozovic@doe.k12.ga.us.

Registration Link: August 2021 Leadership Launch

**Special Education Data (Important Webinars)**

There are several important webinars scheduled to provide LEAs with updates for the FY22 FTE Data Collection, FY22 Student Class Data Collection, and FY21 Timelines Submission.

The FY22 FTE and Student Class presentations will focus upon new special education data elements and changes. The FY21 Timelines webinar will provide updates to accompany guidance given on April 29, 2021. The Timelines update is very important and based upon new information from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The registration links are provided below for
these sessions.

Special Education FY22 FTE Updates - August 19 (1 pm - 2 pm): [Click Here]
Timelines Updates - August 26 (1:30 pm - 3 pm): [Click Here]
Student Class Updates - September 2 (1:30 pm - 2:30 pm): [Click Here]

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have questions, contact Dawn Kemp dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us, Laurie Ponsell lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us, Phoebie Atkins patkins@doe.k12.ga.us, or Linda Castellanos lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us.

Best Practices Forum: Building Capacity for a Better Tomorrow

The Best Practice Forum will be held during the Virtual Parent Mentor Partnership Conference Kickoff. The dates of the events will be Tuesday, September 28 (Best Practices Forum) through Thursday, September 30 (Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff). The forum will spotlight the work of local leaders to foster use of the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI), the Self-Determination Inventory as a transition assessment, and the Self-Determination Inventory with student-led IEPs. For more information, contact Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us.

Audience: GLRS, Special Education Directors/Coordinators, administrators, transition personnel, teachers of students with disabilities, parent mentors, and LEAs implementing ASPIRE (student-led IEPs), and the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction
August 9, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

In last week’s email blast, we shared the U.S. Department of Education’s new guidance on LONG COVID: [Click Here](#).

You may access resources and tools on the Student Support Team webpage: [Click Here](#). The Division for Special Education will host an upcoming technical assistance webinar with the Office of Civil Rights to support local educational agencies (LEAs). We will include the date and registration link in an email blast. If you have questions regarding Section 504, you may call 404-974-9406 or email Eulen Emily Jang at Eulen.Jang@ed.gov.

On Tuesday, August 17, we will host a special technical assistance webinar to address Correctional Facilities. Registration: [Click Here](#).

**Equitable Services Platform**

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports will join the Office of Federal Programs' Equitable Services platform (known as ES4PS)!
The decision will assist LEAs in streamlining local procedures for IDEA and ESSA funds.

In addition, the platform offers an organizational tool for coordinating equitable services requirements across all programs and will foster transparency and collaboration with private schools and home school families. Full implementation will not occur until FY23; however, special education directors may begin using the invitation templates within the platform for Timely and Meaningful Consultations.

On August 24 at 1 pm, we will host a virtual technical assistance to provide general guidance on equitable services, proportionate share, data reporting requirements, and the roadmap for using this platform. You can submit questions about equitable services and data requirements in advance by contacting your budget liaison.

Special education directors may join the Federal Programs Listserv and attend upcoming collaborative training sessions beginning August 2021.

- To join the Federal Programs Equitable Services Listserv, send a blank email to join-essaequitableservices@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- Equitable Services Start of Year Webinar on August 18 @ 10 am: Click Here
- IDEA Budget and Data Special Technical Assistance Webinar for Equitable Services on August 24 @ 1 pm: Click Here
- Equitable Services Consultation Webinar on August 25 @ 1 pm: Click Here

**FY 2022 SSIP Professional Learning Series**

This professional learning series will focus on supporting teachers and leaders in secondary settings to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates for students with disabilities. Register for each session separately with the links provided below. The first presentation is August 11 at 2 pm. Marie Yuran, West Central GLRS Director, will present the Comprehensive Data Process and Action Planning For Special Education.

FY22 SSIP Professional Learning Series Registration: Click Here.

**State Systemic Improvement Plan**
(SSIP) Leadership Launch

Dr. Dawn Kemp, IDEA Part B Data Manager, will provide professional learning for the Leadership Launch on August 18 at 2 pm. Dr. Kemp will discuss the NEW State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) updates for Indicator 1 (Graduation Rate) and Indicator 2 (Dropout Rate), as well as, provide resources for Indicator 17 (SSIP).

The training updates will inform critical changes that impact all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and allow local leaders to ask clarifying questions. It is important that all LEAs attend this webinar. We encourage you to share this invitation with the appropriate team members.
If you have questions, contact Susan Brozovic at sbrozovic@doe.k12.ga.us.
Registration Link: August 2021 Leadership Launch

FY22 Professional Learning Calendar for Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials

Please access the link below for the FY22 Professional Learning Calendar for Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials. Be sure to share the calendar with district and school personnel: Click Here.

For additional information, contact: pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us.

MTSS & PBIS Virtual Conference

Jackson County students and staff are helping spread the word about the impact of implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Students (MTSS) in Georgia. All Georgia's educators are invited to attend the first MTSS & Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) virtual conference: Leveraging Tiered Supports to Meet the Needs of All Children on August 26-27. The free conference is from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Use the links below to enjoy a short message from West Jackson Middle School students and staff and register for the conference.

West Jackson Middle School - Video
Conference Registration Link: Click Here
August 16, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

Tuesday, August 17 at 1 pm, we will host a special technical assistance webinar to address Correctional Facilities. You may click the link to register: Click Here.

Wednesday, August 18 at 2 pm, Dr. Dawn Kemp, Part B Data Manager, will provide professional learning for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Leadership Launch. Dr. Kemp will discuss the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) updates for Indicator 1 (Graduation Rate) and Indicator 2 (Dropout Rate), as well as, provide resources for Indicator 17 (SSIP).

Registration Link: August 2021 Leadership Launch

Preschool Special Education Database Update Form

The purpose of this database is to ensure that we have preschool special education contacts to share important programming information.
By August 27, you should submit the database update form using the link below or the QR code. If no update is needed, the FY21 contacts will be used for the FY22 database.

FY22 Preschool Database Link: Click Here

**Preschool Special Education Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) Training**

The training will focus on using the GELDS and developmentally appropriate practices to create learning environments that meet the needs of each and every young learner with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Audience: Preschool teachers, related service providers, special education coordinators, and paraprofessionals

**Zoom Link:** Click Here

**Date:** 9/22/2021

Time: 12:00-3:00 (Please log into ZOOM by 11:45 to reserve a seat and make sure there are no technical difficulties.)

Meeting ID: 862 7251 1446

Passcode: DOE8500

**Note:** This training is an enhancement to the previous GELDS provided that will focus more on utilizing the GELDS to support progress monitoring, IEP implementation and preschool outcomes. New information will be shared during this session. The training will be recorded.

If you have preschool questions, you can contact Dr. Micole Talley (email: mtaalley@doe.k12.ga.us).

**MathCON for Teachers 2021 Resources**

During July 19 through July 22, teachers and teacher leaders embarked on a historical mathematics event – the first ever virtual Georgia mathematics conference, MathCON for Teachers 2021! Over 800 educators engaged in live
sessions to learn about Georgia’s K-12 Mathematics Standards as well as strategies to support increased student success.

Conference attendees were presented with opportunities for mathematical play within the virtual Game Room. Through the GaDOE Communities, networking opportunities created space for sharing instructional ideas and resources with colleagues from around the state. Another highlight aspect of the conference was a Desmos Design Contest. Participants demonstrated their creativity and understanding of transformations of graphs to create beautiful images! Congratulations to our overall winner, Peyton Williams!

We are excited to share all the resources from MathCON 2021 via the conference website. Click here to find recordings of all the sessions, presentations, and the game room. Simply click on “Resources” and then enter through the door labeled “Teachers”.

**Georgia’s Mathematics Strategies Toolkit to Address Learner Variability**

The GaDOE Mathematics Team is pleased to announce the Georgia Mathematics Strategies Toolkits are now available on GSO. These toolkits are intended to support teachers in addressing the various learners within the classroom. Combined with the implementation of the effective mathematics teaching practices as identified by NCTM, teachers will have the opportunity to strategically address barriers to learning. The toolkits offer teacher-actions aligned to the effective mathematics teaching practices and student-actions aligned to the mathematical practices, all which are associated with targeted areas of cognition, language and behavior. Toolkits are available based upon the following grade bands, K-5, 6-8 and high school. Click here to find the toolkit associated with your grade band.

**Smokey Powell “Outreach” Center (SPC)**

The Smokey Powell Center is updating email contacts. Let us know if you would like to be added to the email list. Email updates include Vision Outreach, Visual Impairment Consortium & GVEST Meetings (Professional Learning), Low Vision Clinic dates throughout the State, and Visual Impairment (VI) Eligibility updates.
Email your request to Tara.bowie@doe.k12.ga.us and indicate that you would like to join the SPC Info Group. The listserv group includes varied local and regional leaders to include special education directors, Georgia Learning Resources System directors, state leaders, school leaders, and district leaders.

Tara Nelson Bowie, M.Ed., CTVI, COMS
Outreach Education Program Specialist
Smokey Powell Center
Tara.bowie@doe.k12.ga.us
Office: 478.751.6083 x3638
Work Cell: 478.737.8574
https://www.gabmacon.org/domain/25
August 27, 2021 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) issued a press release to affirm the importance of implementing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) amidst COVID-19 Pandemic: Click Here.

The Georgia Department of Education hosted a technical assistance training on Correctional Facilities to support implementation of IDEA for students who are incarcerated in city or county jails. Hats off to Dougherty County for sharing your local best practices. You may access the training and resources on the webinar webpage: Click Here.

Join me in celebrating Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Teams for hosting their first joint conference. You can access the recording links on the conference webpage: Click Here.

Please see an important message from the Department of Community Health. You may access an electronic copy of this correspondence using the following link: Click Here.
State Board of Education Updates

Rule 160-4-2-.32 Student Support Team (Initiate)

The State Board of Education approved to initiate an amendment to SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.32 to address required updates per Senate Bill 48 (Dyslexia Bill).

FY22 State Interagency Grant

The State Interagency Grant was approved. You can review the board item to determine if your LEA is impacted by this grant.

FY22 Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) Allocations

Grant funding was approved for the GLRS to provide Special Education Induction Supports for Teachers.

You may learn more about these approved board items using the following link: Click Here.

Budget Updates and Reminders

IDEA Supplementation Relief Grant

Please check the status of your IDEA Supplemental Relief Grant. The IDEA Supplemental Relief grant (program code 2829) period ends on September 30, 2021 and is not eligible for carryover. Please be sure to fully expend grant funds on allowable expenditures prior to the deadline. The funds may be used in the same manner as the regular IDEA grants. The regular IDEA 611 flow-through and IDEA 619 Preschool grants will continue to be eligible for 100% carryover.

Maintenance of Effort Adjustment

IDEA allows a local educational agency (LEA) to receive an adjustment of 50% of the increase only in IDEA funds from the previous year to reduce local Maintenance of Effort (MOE) expenditures. Since IDEA American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding is considered an increase in IDEA funds, all eligible LEAs are strongly encouraged to complete a MOE adjustment form located here to take this adjustment. This form must be completed during the budget process and uploaded with the MOE Eligibility worksheet. LEAs that did not meet local IDEA Determinations or have a Significant Disproportionality Determination are not eligible to use the MOE adjustment. Additionally, if LEAs opt to use CEIS funds, then those funds must be subtracted from the available reduction.
**Equitable Services**

The Budget Webpage has been updated with new Equitable Services resources from the data and budget collaborative technical assistance training on August 24: [Click Here](#).

If you have any questions regarding these reminders, contact your Budget Liaison.

**Preschool Special Education Updates**

**Preschool Database**

The purpose of this database is to ensure that we have preschool contacts to share important information.

By Monday, August 30, you should submit the database update form using the link below or the QR code. If no update is needed, the FY21 contacts will be used for the FY22 database. Contact Dr. Micole Talley mtalley@doe.k12.ga.us with any questions or concerns.

Preschool Database Update Link for FY22: [Click Here](#)

**Georgia Early Learning Development Standards Training**

This training will focus on using the Georgia Early Learning Development Standards (GELDS) and Developmentally Appropriate practices to create learning environments that meet the needs of each and every young learner with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Audience: Preschool teachers, related service providers, special education coordinators, and paraprofessional

Zoom Link: [Click Here](#)

Date: 9/22/2021
Time: 12 pm - 3 pm (Please log into ZOOM by 11:45 to reserve a seat and make sure there are no technical difficulties.)
Meeting ID: 862 7251 1446
Passcode: DOE8500

The training is an enhancement to the previous training provided that will focus more on utilizing the GELDS to support progress monitoring, IEP
implementation and preschool outcomes. New information will be shared during this session, which will be recorded.

If you have questions, contact Dr. Micole Talley using mtalley@doe.k12.ga.us.

**Support Personnel Professional Learning and Technical Assistance**

The professional learning opportunities are free and will be conducted online. The target audience includes school-based occupational therapists, physical therapists, school psychologists, and speech and language pathologists.

Register for each event using the links below to receive the join link and training materials.

**Communities of Practice**

- September 23, 2021: Communities of Practice and Support Personnel Frequently Asked Questions. Review of the June 2021 Special Education Directors’ Webinar. [Registration Link](#)
- January 13, 2022: Communities of Practice. Topic to be determined. [Registration Link](#)

**Professional Learning**

- October 14, 2021: Reevaluation: What You Need to Know. [Registration Link](#)
- December 2, 2021: Related Services: Solving the Mystery. [Registration Link](#)
- February 10, 2022: MTSS & Child Find: Keeping Students First. [Registration Link](#)
- March 24, 2022: Dyslexia: A Collaborative Approach. [Registration Link](#)

**Calling All Transition Personnel**

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports is forming a statewide transition consortium. We would like each LEA to submit the name of your transition specialists, transition coordinators, or lead transition teachers. This information will be used to send the invitation to the meetings as well as to communicate activities and events. Please use the link below to complete the JotForm request. If you have any questions, contact Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us.

District Personnel Request: **Click Here**

**The Georgia Transition Consortium**
The Georgia Transition Consortium is an opportunity to collaborate with Transition colleagues around the state, seek guidance from others who serve students with disabilities, and have your questions answered following GaDOE webinars. After each session, local Transition Consortium can divide into groups to address regional needs and opportunities. If you are not included in a regional consortium, you will have the opportunity to join and/or build a consortium for your area.

The Georgia Transition Consortium will meet virtually from 11 am - 12:30 pm. The first meeting will be September 8, 2021. Use this link, GA Transition Consortium Teams Link, to participate. Subsequent dates are listed below. If you have questions, please contact Kristin Pewitt at kristin.pewitt@cobbk12.org, Susan Darlington at sdarlington@forsyth.k12.ga.us or Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us.

Consortium Dates:
• September 8th
• October 6th
• November 3rd
• December 1st
• February 2nd
• March 9th
• May 4th

Best Practices Forum: Building Capacity for a Better Tomorrow

The registration link for the Best Practices Forum is live. The link can be found in the Transition Professional Development and Technical Assistance 2021-2022 document located on the transition website. The Best Practice Forum will be held during the Virtual Parent Mentor Partnership Conference Kickoff. The dates of the events will be Tuesday, September 28 (Best Practices Forum) through Thursday, September 30 (Parent Mentor Partnership Kickoff). The forum will spotlight the work of local leaders to foster use of the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI), the Self-Determination Inventory as a transition assessment, and the Self-Determination Inventory with student-led IEPs.

Audience: GLRS, Special Education Directors/Coordinators, administrators, transition personnel, teachers of students with disabilities, parent mentors, and LEAs implementing ASPIRE (student-led IEPs), and the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction
Transition Professional Development and Technical Assistance 2021-2022

The schedule for professional development and technical assistance for transition has been published and is located on the transition website. This year, in addition to webinars, targeted technical assistance and training will be available to assist LEAs to evaluate and monitor their transition programs and student postschool outcomes. Review the offerings and ways to participate in the Transition Professional Development and Technical Assistance 2021-2022 document.

Occupational and Physical Therapists’ Community of Practice

The Division of Special Education Services and Supports will host a Community of Practice for Occupational and Physical Therapists. Each session will provide an opportunity for occupational and physical therapists to engage in conversations regarding relevant topics and seek solutions from other LEAs. The dates for the Community of Practice are October 4, 2021, December 6, 2021, February 7, 2022, and April 4, 2022. The session time is 3 pm - 4 pm. We are collecting your feedback on topics for these sessions. Use the links below to provide your feedback and register for this event. You will register once to participate in all four sessions.

Feedback for Topics: Click Here
Registration Link: Click Here

Time for School Counselors and Special Education to Collaborate

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports in collaboration with the Division for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education’s Counseling Unit will collaborate on a transition training series focused on the roles of counselors and special education professionals in providing access to instruction, interventions, and activities that will increase positive postschool outcomes (Employment, Education and Training, and, Independent Living). LEAs and/or schools are asked to attend as teams including counselors, special education teachers, transition personnel, and CTI coordinators across all grade bands.

School counselors are registering the teams in CTERN. Contact your school or counselor to ensure that your district or LEA is represented. The workshop dates are listed below.

• September 9: 1 pm - 3 pm
• November 9: 1 pm - 2:30 pm
• January 20: 1 pm– 2:30pm
• March 10: 1 pm –2:30 pm
For more information or assistance, contact Elise James at ejames@doe.k12.ga.us or by phone at 4040-326-0421.