

# State Advisory Panel (SAP) for Special Education May 2-3, 2019



## Thursday, May 2, 2019

10:00 - 10:15 am The meeting was called to order by Juree Hall, Co-Chair for the SAP at approximately 10 am. The Panel used the introductory time to introduce new agency representatives, as well as, veteran Panel members who were unable to attend regularly.

10:15 – 11:15 am GNETS Updates (Vickie Cleveland, Program Manager (GaDOE))

- ✓ The Department has a process of monitoring local GNETS for implementation and progress of the strategic plan.
- ✓ The State is continuing to support local districts to develop and outline a reintegration plan.
- ✓ Students receiving GNETS services have decreased during the past three years.

| 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------|------|------|
| 4684 | 4279 | 3998 |

- ✓ The State is continuing to provide infrastructure and supports to engage families.
- ✓ During FY18, GNETS hosted Parent Universities and partnered with parent mentors.
- ✓ The State would like to create a GNETS stakeholder advisory as a next step.

### SAP Feedback on the Unmet Needs of the State:

- ✓ How can the State decrease the likelihood of inappropriate referrals for GNETS services?
- ✓ How many GNETS Programs are in stand-alone trailers?
- ✓ How can Georgia address the holistic needs of our most vulnerable students? Sometimes, students who require GNETS services require lots of intensive supports.
- ✓ How do we address qualifications of staff? They must meet the same special education requirements.
- ✓ Is there a core understanding of wrap-around services for students?
- ✓ We have concerns when students are displaced from GNETS services and recommended to receive home-based services for 3 hours a week.

11:15 – 12:00 pm Co-Teaching (Jeannie Morris, Annette Murphy, and Susan Brozovic Program Specialists (GaDOE))

- ✓ 64.13% of students with disabilities are served in the general education classroom 80% or more of the school day.
- ✓ Referenced a video from misunderstood.org “The Trend towards Inclusion” to start a conversation about co-teaching
- ✓ IDEA requires states to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) educated with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent possible.

- ✓ It's critical for leaders and teachers to demonstrate an inclusive belief system for all students.
- ✓ Both teachers should communicate with families.

#### SAP Feedback on the Unmet Needs of the State:

- ✓ How can we ensure that general education teachers have the appropriate training?
- ✓ How can we better prepare parents for co-teaching?

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Open Meeting Act

The State Advisory Panel received awareness information about the Open Meeting Act and discuss implications for this content for SAP operating procedures.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Family Engagement and Dispute Resolution Data

Jamila Pollard provided an annual overview of Georgia's dispute resolution data and discussed tips to avoid these concerns and strengthen home-school partnerships.

#### SAP feedback:

- ✓ Can we ensure that higher education aligns the framework for preparation programs?
- ✓ Families feel that their kids get "stuck" in RTI for years – don't know how to access services and/or request an evaluation.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 4:00 Debriefing and Next Steps

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm Public Comments

The SAP reviewed the current public comments and read additional public comments from the previous SAP Meeting.

## Friday, May 3, 2019

8:30 am – 9:30 am Meeting was called to order by Paul West (Chair)

Brief Reflections about Comments:

SAP Feedback

- ✓ Can we evaluate and give recommendations that would support learners who aren't eligible for the alternate assessment, yet, don't do well with the Georgia Milestones.
- ✓ Could we have a representative such as NAMI to inform us about research in the area of mental illness?
- ✓ SAP Members may need more clarity how to inform the consensus seeking agenda.
- ✓ In addition to the parking lot, could we have a sheet for recommendations? Make post it notes available to all members.
- ✓ How are we using public comments being used to improve the unmet needs of Georgia?
- ✓ Please note the connection with HB 421 and the mental health needs.

Next, the SAP reviewed additional public comments submitted from the previous meeting.

9:30 am – 10:30 am "State Identified Alternate Diploma" Matt Cardoza

1.6 million dollars allocated to the RESA budget. The allocation was divided up among RESA. NAMI has provided training.

- Seeking amendment to our ESSA plan.
- Amendment relates to an Alternate Diploma option for students with significant cognitive disabilities assessed using alternate assessment.
- These students currently receive a Regular Diploma, but U.S. Ed has signaled this is not a practice with which they agree.
- U.S. Ed will allow Alternate Diploma graduates to count in the graduation rate.
- We will ask to include these students who receive Regular Diplomas in the graduation rate calculation until the first cohort of Alternate Diploma graduates finish (those will then be automatically included)

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am – 11:30 am

11:30 am – 12:30 pm GaDOE Updates/Next Steps