

**Special Education Online State Advisory Panel (SAP) Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 30, 2020**

The SAP advises on the unmet needs related to the education of children with disabilities within the State and provides feedback on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding special education.

Activity	Next Steps
10:00 am – 10:15 am Welcome/Opening Activity Ganesh Nayak, Chair & Karin Fisher, Co-Chair	The chair and co-chair welcomed State Advisory Panel Members.
10:15 am – 11:00 am Dyslexia Updates Franeka Colley, ELA Content Integration and Special Education Specialist GaDOE will share updates for the Dyslexia Pilot. What is the Georgia Dyslexia Pilot? What districts are participating in the Dyslexia Pilot? What is the current progress with Year One of the Pilot?	The State Advisory Panel received updates for implementation of Senate Bill 48 (Dyslexia Bill), which requires the identification and support for students in Kindergarten through 3 rd grade with characteristics of dyslexia. The presentation shared updates regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies for the identification and assistance of students with dyslexia, • Dyslexia informational handbook, • Professional development, • Teaching endorsement in dyslexia, • Pilot program, and • K-3 screening for characteristics of dyslexia. Pilot Districts: Charlton County, City Schools of Decatur, DeKalb County, Jackson County, Marietta City Schools, Muscogee County, and Ware County The Georgia Department of Education has partnered with Southern Region Education Board and Regional Comprehensive Center at SERVE to implement the work.
11:00 am – 12 noon Annual Performance Report Indicators GaDOE is required to submit an Annual Performance Report to the	The SAP received an overview for the Annual Performance Report and State Performance Plan. Support videos can be located on the following webpage: Click Here .



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<p>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm LUNCH BREAK</p>																					
<p>1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Annual Performance Report Indicators GaDOE is required to submit an Annual Performance Report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) by February 1st each year. The SAP must advise the State Director of the unmet needs of the state and give feedback concerning targets, progress, slippage, and activities in these areas. You may access additional information about the data using the following link: State and Local Data. During this Panel Meeting, we will address the following indicators: 1, 2, 8, 11, and 12.</p> <p>State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Stakeholder feedback Webpage Resources</p>	<p>Indicator 8: There were 24,492 valid responses. A valid response survey was one in which at least one question was rated. If no responses were indicated, the survey was not counted in the survey total.</p> <p>Parents completing the survey indicated the race/ethnicity of their children. 47.7 percent of parents indicated their children were White, 31.66% indicated Black or African American, 11.44% indicated Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2.53% Asian, .07% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, .56% American Indian or Alaska Native, 4.01% Multi-racial and 2.27% Unknown.</p> <p>Indicator 11 - The rate of completion for initial evaluations has been consistently above 97.5 for the past 7 years. In the most recent year the completion rate was 98.8.</p> <p>Indicator 12: The rate of transition is at 98% or higher for the past 7 years. The most recent year the rate was 98.41%.</p>																				

Activity	Next Steps
	<p>State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) (Indicator 17): What is the focus of the SSIP?</p> <p>State sets State Identified Measurable Result (SiMR) goal to increase SWD graduation rates to 65% or higher using the Annual Event Rate.</p> <p>In 2013-2014, the State decided to focus the SSIP on graduation based on data and stakeholder feedback. It had to identify the State Identified Measurable Result (SIM-R). Per baseline data, the State’s rate was 39.5%. The State set a focus on building capacity with 50 districts to improve the graduation rate for those 50 districts to at least 65%.</p> <p>Currently 48/50 (96%) of the 50 districts have met or exceeded the target of 65% graduation rate for students with disabilities. The state average is 73% graduation rate. We must continue to strive for greater gains keeping students first.</p> <p>For FY21, the work changed to align with an integrated partnership with School and District Effectiveness. The new SSIP districts will be chosen from Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI) districts that have been identified for students with disabilities whose graduation rate is below 67% or who have factors below targets in achievement for students with disabilities.</p> <p>All districts receive universal supports through statewide professional learning and targeted assistance in Collaborative Communities.</p>
<p>2:00 pm – 2:30 pm GaDOE Updates Zelphine Smith-Dixon, State Director Division for Special Education</p>	<p>Shared information regarding the new Special Education and Early Intervention Personnel Teacher Retention Grant and new guidance documents. The Georgia Teacher/Provider Retention Grant is a United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs grant awarded on September 28, 2020 to the Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports.</p> <p>The award is for \$500,000 per year for up to five years to address the retention of special education teachers and early intervention providers that have the necessary skills, knowledge, and support to effectively serve children with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>Serving Youth who are Detained or Incarcerated: Click Here State-defined Alternate Diploma: Click Here</p>

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<p>2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Public Comment Public Comment(s) This portion of the SAP Meeting is open to the public. The Public Comment procedures can be obtained using the following weblink: Procedures. Public Comment Online Survey Link: Survey Link Public Comment Printable Form: Form Link</p>	<p>Two public comments were heard during the SAP Meeting. Sara Aiello (written public comment) Ernest Bundschuh (virtual participation)</p> <p>The public comments addressed concerns with the application of Physical Education Performance Standards for Students with Disabilities, as well as, special education equity, funding, specialized instruction.</p>
<p>3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Next Steps</p>	<p>Upcoming SAP Meeting January 14 March 19 May 6</p>

To Do/Next Steps/Completed Actions
<p>During FY21, the SAP would like to address several areas: (1) Evidence-based Practices/Specially Designed Instruction for students; (2) Progress monitoring technical assistance and resources for families and teachers, (3) Teacher Pipeline for Recruitment and Retention of Special Education Teachers, (4) Dyslexia and Literacy, and (5) equity issues and concerns that impact students with disabilities.</p> <p>How does GaDOE address equity issues for local school systems and families? Examples include the Parent Mentor Partnership, Georgia Online IEP, Facilitated IEP Process, and Assistive Technology Partnership.</p> <p>How has the Dyslexia Pilot been impacted by the pandemic? What’s next for the pilot districts?</p> <p>How will Georgia continue to support restart for local school districts specific to students with disabilities?</p>