



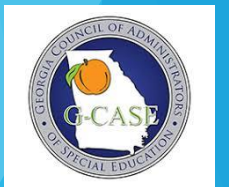
# Welcome to G-CASE

The Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education

# A Unified Voice for Special Education Students and Leaders Across Georgia

## G-CASE:

- Promotes Professional Membership
- Provides Professional Learning
- Practices Professional Leadership



Our Major Goal:

To improve services  
to children with  
special needs

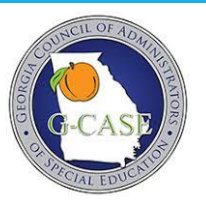


G-CASE strives to provide leadership and support to our members by providing input into the policies and practices in Georgia which impact the quality of education and by providing support to the professionals who serve the students of Georgia.



## G-CASE Leadership

- ▶ Leadership of this organization includes an **Executive Committee**, an **Advisory Board** from the eighteen districts across the state and several ad-hoc members from other organizations.



# Leadership

G-CASE is led by elected officers who volunteer their services and expertise.

An Executive Director funded by G-CASE oversees the day-to-day activities, finances, and professional learning opportunities.

# G-CASE Opportunities

G-CASE Members have the opportunity to serve on a variety of working committees designed to enhance our mission:

- ▶ Professional Learning
- ▶ Legislation
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Strategic Planning
- ▶ Research and Innovation
- ▶ Policy and Procedures

# An Affiliate of GAEL

The Georgia Association of  
Educational Leaders  
(GAEL) is the organization  
that provides unity of  
school leadership groups  
in Georgia.



# An Affiliate of GAEL

The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) is a statewide organization composed of seven professional affiliate organizations for school leaders:

- ▶ The Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors (GACIS)
- ▶ The Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP)
- ▶ The Georgia Association of Middle School Principals (GAMSP)
- ▶ The Georgia Association for Secondary School Principals (GASSP)
- ▶ The Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE)
- ▶ The Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators (GASPA)
- ▶ The Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA)



## ...and Two Associate Groups:

- ▶ **Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educators (SSTAGE)**
- ▶ **Georgia Educational Leadership Faculty Association (GELFA)**





# G-CASE Membership

G-CASE seeks individuals for membership who are involved in the administration of special education programs at a regional, system, or building level, as well as college faculty involved in the preparation of administrators.



- ▶ There are **613** active members of G-CASE, as of June 30th!
- ▶ The Membership Year goes from **July 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- ▶ Membership in G-CASE costs **\$50/year**.
- ▶ We have included **SELDA members** on all G-CASE Correspondence until you have the opportunity to join.

## G-CASE Membership





# CEC and CASE

## Memberships

G-CASE members are encouraged to join national professional organizations designed to enhance the skills of special education administrators:

The Council for  
Exceptional Children  
(CEC)

and the

Council for  
Administrators of  
Special Education  
(CASE)



# National Membership Costs

Membership in CEC and CASE begins on the anniversary date of the membership and extends for one complete year from that date.

- ▶ CEC/CASE Membership through GAEL/G-CASE: \$127.00. Easiest way to join is when registering for a G-CASE Conference.



# Why Join G-CASE?





G-CASE offers two major conferences a year, including a Spring Legal Forum featuring attorneys from Georgia and the nation; as well as “*Drive-In Conferences*” featuring timely presentations on trending topics.

# G-CASE Promotes Professional Learning



# Professional Learning Since COVID-19:

- ▶ **Three Collaborative Conversations with all G-CASE Members:**
  1. *Town Hall Meeting on COVID-19 (April 16, 2020)*
  2. *Meeting the Needs of Our Students with Disabilities during COVID-19: Reliable, “Best Practice” Answers from the GaDOE*
  3. *Back to School for Students with Disabilities: Restarting Guidelines Specific to the Implementation of IDEA*
- **Strengthening Virtual Instruction for Non-GAA Students**
- **Three-Part Webinar Series on Cultural Responsibility and Responsiveness**



Georgia Department of Education

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
*"Educating Georgia's Future"*

G-CASE partners with the Georgia Department of Education by co-sponsoring the **Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA)**, a two-year program for new directors.

# G-CASE Promotes Professional Learning for New Administrators of Special Education



# Mentors to SELDA

- ▶ G-CASE provides mentors to each SELDA member through the Advisory Council.
- ▶ These mentors have at least three years of experience as a Director of Special Education.
- ▶ They are available to the new directors at GLRS meetings and when needed.
- ▶ The mentors partner with the area GLRS Directors and the GaDOE District Liaison at each monthly Special Education Director/Collaborative Communities meeting to provide support and training.
- ▶ Make sure you know who your mentor is! Call on him/her to help!



G-CASE, GAEL, GACTE, and PAGE members participate in “*A Day at the Capital*” in Atlanta each year to share our educational priorities with state legislators.

**G-CASE Provides Input into State Policies and Practices that impact the quality of education, as well as...**

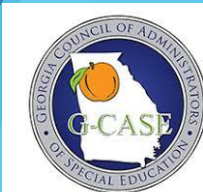


# Public Comment

- ▶ Last month, G-CASE met with key stakeholders at the GaDOE and developed Public Comments on the **Proposed SST/Dyslexia Rule**.
- ▶ G-CASE's Public Comments were also endorsed by SSTAGE (*Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educators*) and the *Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals* (GAESP).



...Providing Our Voice into NATIONAL Policies and Practices that Impact Educational Outcomes for Our Students



**President's Corner**

Greetings GCASE members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and managed to catch up on some much-needed rest and family time. Wow! I want to thank Sarah for coordinating an outstanding Fall Conference. I hope you all enjoyed the time together in Savannah as much as we all did. Also please be reminded that once again

GCASE be hosting our Legal Forum in Athens. The Legal Forum will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia from March 18-March 20, 2019. As the winter months set in, many times it is important for us to be reminded of the positive impact we can have on a student's life. I have included a short article below about how one teacher changed the world for one student.

Maya Angelou: Passion in Poetry

Before Maya Angelou became the powerful poet and civil rights activist the world remembers her as she suffered a life of torment and darkness that nearly stole her voice forever. At a very young age she was forced to endure intense physical and emotional abuse at the hands of a family member. As a result, she became mute for nearly five years. It all changed one day with the help of a family friend, a teacher named Bertha Flowers. Angelou credited Mrs. Flowers for helping her find her own voice again. Through Flowers, she was introduced to African-American female artists like Frances Harper, Anne Spencer, and Jessie Fauset. In addition, Mrs. Flowers introduced Angelou to Dickens, Shakespeare, Poe, and several other prolific writers who would come to greatly influence her personal and professional philosophies.



Again, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be President of this amazing organization. I am very honored in your trust in me to lead GCASE

**Notes from the Executive Director**

G-CASE has planned two valuable conferences to help you "sharpen your saw" as you program for the highest possible outcomes for our students with disabilities. Because Mental Health has become such a crucial issue for so many of our students, we are proud to be able to offer our members, as well as other interested student support staff, Trauma 101 and Brain 101 training in February. This training is first-class and will be provided by the Child Welfare Training Collaborative, Andrew Young School of Social Work Georgia State at University and will be offered as a one-day Drive-In Conference in Perry, Georgia. We will host the one-day training on February 5th and again on February 6th so that everyone can be accommodated. Registration is now available on the GAEL website. Please fee free to invite your counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers to this respected training. G-CASE has intentionally kept the price low (\$50 for G-CASE members; \$80 for non-members) so that several people from a school district can attend.

Registration for the 2019 G-CASE Spring Legal Forum will open in late January. This always highly-anticipated conference will be held at The Classic Center in Athens from March 18th (beginning at 1:00 P.M.) through March 20th (ending at 12:00 Noon). Presenters will include well-known practicing "special education" attorneys from the GaDOE, Georgia, and the nation (Jamila Pollard; Harben, Hartley, &amp; Hawkins; Julie Weatherly; Deanna Arivett), as well as highlights from the Director of Government Relations with NASDSE (National Association of State Directors of Special Education) from Washington, D.C. and the Georgia Department of Education (Zelphine Smith-Dixon), and the always popular Legislative Update from Jimmy Stokes. G-CASE has worked with the attorneys and presenters to ensure that "best practices" are included in the sessions. We are also inviting all college and university professors of special education in Georgia to attend this forum so that our rising special educators will have access to this up-to-date, cutting-edge information as the prepare to teach in our schools.

As always, thanks for all you do all the time for all our students! G-CASE is strong with 448 active members like you!



Sarah Burbach

All G-CASE members receive our newsletter -- "G-CASE Comments" on a quarterly basis - full of information from attorneys, the GaDOE, CASE, and local administrators.

G-CASE Communicates through discussion and publication information to improve services to exceptional students





G-CASE is just beginning a new mission -a **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER LEADER ACADEMY** - providing training for teachers interested in becoming special education leaders based on CEC/CASE curriculum standards!

Opening June, 2021!

G-CASE Provides Opportunities for Research into Innovative Practices



# Come Join Us!

Serve on a G-CASE Committee

Run for a G-CASE Office

Attend a G-CASE Conference

Lead a Breakout Session

Share Legislative Priorities

Work with G-CASE to Improve Outcomes  
for our Students!

# G-CASE

Leadership  
Professional Learning  
Advocacy

Communication  
Research and Innovation  
and Support...

to improve services  
to children with special needs





A  
Unified  
Voice