Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

July 19, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators
                Special Education Coordinators

FROM: Tony Eitel
                Director for Assessment Administration

SUBJECT: Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Fall 2012 Training

In preparation for the 2012-2013 administration of the GAA, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be conducting pre-administration training online, via webinar, using *Blackboard Collaborate*. The purpose of these webinars is to provide information to guide the appropriate system-level and school-level staff in the development of portfolios that showcase the achievement and progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Representatives from the GaDOE and Questar Assessment, Inc. will be presenting the sessions. The specific dates/times and links to access both the live broadcasts and recorded sessions are listed on the following pages.

A variety of topics will be addressed during four webinars. The topics selected were identified based upon an analysis of 2011-2012 GAA results, the implementation of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) in English Language Arts and Mathematics, the high school retest option, and feedback from school and system personnel. Each webinar is scheduled to begin at 1:00pm and end at 4:00pm. During each three hour block of time, two distinct modules will be presented. The presentation for each module will run approximately one hour with a 15-20 minute break before the start of the next module. Time for questions will be allotted during the three hour period.   The link to each live session is active for both Modules A and B. The same is true of the links for the recordings. The "module" format for this year's training is a new approach and is intended to provide time for more in-depth discussions on specific aspects of the GAA program and its administration.

A targeted audience is defined for each session based upon the topics. However, System Test Coordinators are expected to collaborate with their Special Education Coordinator to determine the appropriate attendees for your district. The fact that each session will be available through both a live delivery and a recording (that can be viewed at any time) will allow systems to schedule the viewing of each session as local schedules may require.

Thank you in advance for arranging to attend these important webinars. Should you have any questions regarding this training, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Houston via email dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us or phone 404-657-0251.

cc: System Superintendents
          Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
          Dr. Mike Buck, Chief Academic Officer
          Martha Reichrath, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
          Melissa Fincher, Associate Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability
          Deborah Gay, Director of Special Education Services
          GNETS Testing Directors
          RESA Directors
          State Schools Testing Coordinators

GAA 2012-2013 Pre-Administration Training Dates, Times, and Topics

Date/Time	Topics	Target Audience
August 13th 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Module A** Changes/Updates for 2012-2013 • Transition to CCGPS • SDIFs • Validation Form • Entry Sheets **Module B** High School Retest • Retest Opportunities and Procedures • SDIF for Retesters • Blueprint • Entry Sheet	• System Test Coordinators • System Special Education Coordinators • All teachers who will administer the GAA (Session A only) • All high school GAA teachers who will administer one or more retests in 2012-2013 (Session B)
August 14th 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Module A** The Basics of the GAA – Part One • Overview • Portfolio Components • Types of Evidence **Module B** The Basics of the GAA – Part Two • Alignment • Documentation • Organization	• System Test Coordinators • System Special Education Coordinators • All teachers **new** to the GAA
August 21st 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Module A** Documentation is Key • The How To: Specific, Clear, Concise **Module B** A Review of Scoring • Scoring Dimensions • How They Work Together: Accuracy, Complexity, Level of Independence	• System Test Coordinators • System Special Education Coordinators • All teachers who will administer the GAA
August 27th 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Module A** Preparing Students for Assessment • Modes of Communication: Differentiated Response • Instruction vs. Assessment **Module B** Aligning Assessment Tasks to the CCGPS • Prerequisite Skills • Selecting the Target Skill for Assessment	• System Test Coordinators • System Special Education Coordinators • All teachers who will administer the GAA

GAA 2012-2013 Pre-Administration Webinar Links

August 13th 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Live Session:** https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.A77D6C86D5D93CCDBD6FBC8B2873D0&sid=2012003 **Recording:** https://sas.elluminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.8ECA4429E05771C2C134CE8A89386D&sid=2012003
August 14th 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Live Session:** https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.B373F6840A81910F700A931A6BA6CD&sid=2012003 **Recording:** https://sas.elluminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.E5470F2F1E1F19FF696DDF46B8DAE9&sid=2012003
August 21st 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Live Session:** https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.40A9B8D0A12FEBBD6D612DD344A74B&sid=2012003 **Recording:** https://sas.elluminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.6D8142F242FA2BBD442D0817A7BFB2&sid=2012003
August 27th 1:00pm – 4:00pm	**Live Session:** https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.6DEC6E1CE2F36EDF6ED95F790271B0&sid=2012003 **Recording:** https://sas.elluminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.886B7382A724A671C8DAA64A5D0E91&sid=2012003