

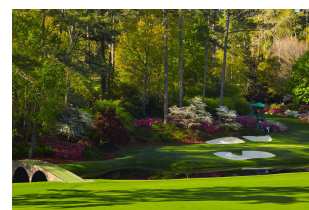


April 14, 2023 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

The 85th Masters Tournament at Augusta National was eventful with the weather challenges. Friday and Saturday storms led to cancellations and longer play time to complete the tournament on Sunday yet, as always, the tournament provided numerous stories of heartbreak and success. Although allowing Tiger Woods to tie Gary Player (52 starts) with the number of starts for the championship, the weather and lengthened play did not work in Tiger's favor due to his injured leg from a car accident in 2021. We all agree that Tiger Woods' successes are remarkable but having to withdraw from play was understandably not how he wished to finish. On the other hand, Jon Rahm found his place in history by winning the legendary Masters Tournament, earning the green jacket that symbolizes manners, civility and tradition. It is one of the most recognizable symbols of the game. The tournament, the people behind the stories, the rich tradition and legacy are all part of the magic of Augusta each spring. Celebrate the majesty and honor the time-tested traditions.



Amen Corner from Augusta National (Image Copyright: yourgolftour.com)

The district highlight this week is Marietta City Schools. Learn about their "Marietta Promoting Opportunities for Work in the Real World" program (MPower) and how it helps prepare students for employability.



Pink azaleas

On May 5, 2023, the Awards of Excellence for students with disabilities representing each GLRS region will be held. Our time-honored tradition may not have the history of the Masters but we certainly all agree the significance should not be underestimated. Please join the awards ceremony virtually in regional groups to celebrate each student. The student, their family and school family will have an opportunity to participate.

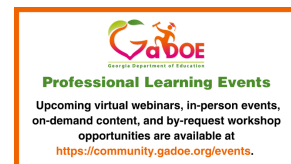
Thank you for all you do to supports students with disabilities. You are all champions to me!

In honor of a real champion, it is with a mixture of sadness and pride that I announce Amber McCollum is leaving GaDOE to accept a leadership position with the American Institutes of Research (AIR). Amber has served in an exemplary manner for nine years with GaDOE. Her leadership and contribution will be greatly missed. Amber's talent is well known at the national level as well as throughout Georgia. This opportunity is an excellent move for her personally and professionally. We wish Amber the best-now and always.

Keeping Students First,
Wina

Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.



*Professional Learning
Events*

Professional Learning Events

April 19 at 10:00 a.m. – SESBAA: Student Record for Special Education

April 19 at 3:00 p.m. – GVRA: Wrapping Up the Year, Looking to the Future

April 25 at 3:00 p.m. – Continuum of Decisions at Age of Majority

Reminders

The FY23 Parent Survey is OPEN.

May 31 Parent Survey Closes (APR Indicator 8)

Visit GaDOE Community for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.



Marietta
city schools
A Georgia Charter System

District Spotlight: Marietta City Schools

Marietta City Schools logo

As part of their program for 18-22-year-old students, Marietta City Schools is proud to partner with Apto Solutions to provide students the opportunity to develop the technical ability to disassemble computers for recycling. They are calling this program MPower, which stands for “Marietta Promoting Opportunities for Work in the Real World.” Their student interns are developing “hard skills” by learning to work with new tools; learning how to follow a step-by-step process; learning how to sort materials to prepare them to be recycled; learning how to follow safety rules; and learning a whole new vocabulary. Students who demonstrate an aptitude and interest in these tasks can pursue employment in this industry and further develop these technical skills. This program is modeled after the partnership between **Blue Star Recyclers** and the Cherry Creek School District in Denver, Colorado (MEAF BSR Case Study).

The goal of MPower is to prepare students for employability. In addition to their computer recycling program, interns are acting as leaders in their MHS Coffee Cart, completing jobs in the school, and exploring careers in the Marietta community. As Marietta City Schools prepares their students with disabilities for the workplace, helping students sharpen their soft skills is essential to their success. While hard skills are related to training for a specific job, soft skills are those interpersonal skills that everyone needs to succeed. Some soft skills include communication, taking the initiative, teamwork, networking, problem-solving, time management, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills. No matter what students’ individual post-secondary employment goals are, soft skills will define their success and ability to maintain a job. Marietta City Schools is committed to providing their students with as many resources as possible to develop, support, and transfer these “hard skills” and “soft skills” to their lives after graduation!





Arrows

Practice Pointers – Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 Eligibility Criteria

The creation of this State-defined Alternate Diploma addresses the issues identified by the U.S. Department of Education during federal monitoring, allows for better inclusion of students with significant cognitive disabilities assessed via the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 in graduation rates, and creates a tighter alignment between the instruction received, assessment taken, and diploma for which a student is eligible.

Prior to reviewing the eligibility criteria for GAA 2.0, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team must understand all assessment options, including the characteristics of each assessment and the potential implications of each assessment choice. The GAA 2.0 is intended for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Instruction for these students is based on alternate academic achievement standards, which are aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) at a reduced depth, breadth, and complexity. Beginning with students who enroll in ninth grade for the first time on or after the 2020-2021 school year, students who participate in the GAA 2.0 will be eligible for the state-defined alternate diploma rather than the regular high school diploma.

The decision to assess using the GAA 2.0 is made by the IEP Team after considering, responding, and providing rationale to the following eligibility questions: 1) Does the student require intensive, individualized instruction in a variety of instructional settings?; 2) Does the student have a significant cognitive disability?; 3) Does the student require specialized supports to access and participate in the grade-level GSE that require modifications based on the student's Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)?; and 4) Does the student require specialized supports to demonstrate age-appropriate adaptive behavior?

For more information, please see our recent [Statewide Technical Assistance Meeting 1% Participation Presentation](#) and our website at [Eligibility Criteria for GAA 2.0 and Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 \(GAA 2.0\)](#).



Resources You Can Use Today!

GaDOE recently created a resource to share with district and school leaders, special education personnel and any other stakeholder as needed. The one-pager is a concise and to the point explanation of the new discipline guidance from OSEP. Contact information is listed on the document for easy reference.

[Discipline and Disproportionality in Special Education One Pager](#)



OSEP Releases Fast Facts on Traumatic Brain Injury for Students Served Under IDEA

From the Council for Exceptional Children

In its most recent OSEP Fast Facts, issued on March 30, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) provided information about students with traumatic brain injury (TBI) who are served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B.

Less than .5% of all students with disabilities are identified with TBI, showing a slight decline from .43% in 2014 to .38% in 2021. According to the fact sheet, younger students with TBI are less likely to be served than all students with disabilities whereas older students are more likely to be served than the overall population of students with disabilities.

Other comparisons between the overall group of students served under IDEA and those with traumatic brain injury highlight the fact that students with TBI spend less time inside the regular classroom and are more likely to attend a separate school. However, they are more likely to graduate and less likely to drop out than all students with disabilities. OSEP Fast Facts visually present data from the 12 data collections authorized under IDEA Section 618 so that

users are able to quickly consume information.

View the latest OSEP Fast Facts [here](#).



Georgia Sensory Assistance Project logo

GSAP BOOT CAMP

Join GSAP for a three-day in-person conference to dig deep into the Communication Matrix. Conference fees will be sponsored by GSAP and all team members are encouraged to participate! Register by June 12. For more information, please review the [Boot Camp flier](#) or email Carol Darrah at cdarrah@uga.edu.

[GSAP Boot Camp Registration](#)

School Psychologists Multi-lingual Learners Workshop: Pre-referral and Evaluation of Multi-Lingual Learners

GaDOE's Division for Special Education Services and Supports is hosting a two-day in-person Technical Assistance Workshop for School Psychologists titled, Pre-referral and Evaluation of Multi-Lingual Learners. Seating is Limited. Lunch will be on your own.

Dates: May 10 - 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Sign In & Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.)

Location: 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

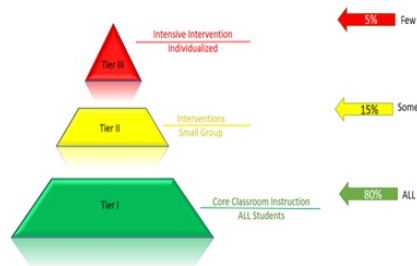
[School Psych. Multi-lingual Learners Workshop Registration](#)

Our workshop speaker/facilitator will be Samuel Ortiz, Ph.D. The intended audience for this workshop is School Psychologists involved in the education, instruction, intervention, and assessment process of multilingual learners. Dr. Ortiz will provide participants with current research on the relationship between language, cognitive, and academic development and how it may be used to

guide the activities of pre-referral and post-referral assessment teams. Additionally, participants will be provided with practical instruction and training in the use and application of rigorous theoretical and psychometric assessment principles within a practical, systematic framework for conducting valid and defensible evaluations of culturally and linguistically diverse children, particularly multilingual learners.

Please forward this information to your region, other School Psychologists, diagnosticians and/or appropriate personnel in your Local Educational Agency (LEA).

For more information, please contact Alicia Mercer by email at amercer@doe.k12.ga.us.



MTSS Snapshot: Why is ongoing professional learning essential in impacting the effectiveness of evidence-based interventions?

As the end of the second semester draws near, consider reflecting on the fidelity of the implementation of interventions at Tiers 2 and 3. As interventions are selected to support students at Tiers 2 and 3, it is essential that professional learning is considered a part of the package, Professional Learning Fact Sheet.pdf (gadoe.org). A critical component of implementation of evidence-based interventions is ensuring that ongoing professional learning is provided for leaders and school staff to support effective implementation. Ongoing professional learning is essential when helping to ensure that the 20% of students, who may need these more intensive interventions, receive the maximum benefit of these additional supports.

To further maximize the effectiveness of tiered supports, consider these critical actions:

- Establish an implementation team to analyze data to problem-solve barriers with implementation of the intervention.
- Monitor ongoing implementation by collecting and analyzing student and staff data to determine next steps, Implementing with Fidelity.

-Provide initial and ongoing professional learning and support for the implementation of the intervention, based on data.

This data should be used to determine differentiated professional learning needs for leaders, teachers and/or paras who are supporting and/or implementing the intervention. Continue to reiterate the importance of effective professional learning. Lack of professional learning significantly impacts the reliability of progress monitoring data and may negatively impact the academic and/or behavioral progress of students. Therefore, an intervention cannot be considered ineffective if ongoing professional learning to support effective implementation was not provided.

For additional information, feel free to reach out to the MTSS regional coaches or Karen Suddeth, ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us to learn more.

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Atlanta, Georgia

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April 21, 2023 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education



Never let go of your dreams

Directors,

The end of April and beginning of May provide an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments, challenges and moving forward. As we celebrate students with the traditional honors' night ceremonies, you can see the pride among the students, families, teachers and administrators. In just a few weeks, graduation will punctuate the ultimate goal we have for all students no matter the path taken. Many students will take the interstate from one point to the next while many others will take some of the rambling side roads to graduation. Other students may take an even longer route and require support along the way. Reaching the destination is important but it is essential to ensure all students leave our care with the skills and knowledge to reach their goals and dreams. Educators, in partnership with families, are so fortunate to have a front row seat in supporting students to attain their goals. There may be challenges along the way - maybe a speeding ticket, a lost path, or the need for a jumpstart -but reaching the destination changes lives. Make the most of the journey and never let go of your dreams.

Please join the **Awards of Excellence** honoring a student from each GLRS region for their outstanding accomplishments. Students, families and educators will have an opportunity to participate in the virtual celebration. We

will be celebrating 17 students from across the state of Georgia to celebrate and congratulate them for their outstanding accomplishments. These 17 students represent 16 GLRS regions, one state school and a public charter school. We will be hosting the virtual ceremony on Friday, May 5, 2022, between 1 and 3:00 pm.

We are excited to offer a two-day professional learning opportunity for school psychologists featuring Dr. Samuel Ortiz, a well-known expert in the assessment process for multilingual learners. Please share with your school psychologists. Registration is limited so register soon! [School Psych. Multilingual Learners Workshop Registration](#)

Dates: May 10 - 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Sign In & Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.)

Location: 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

State Board of Education rules for Child Find (160-4-7-.03), GLRS (160-4-7-.16) and Grants for Services (160-4-7-.18) have been fully approved and are now in effect. Please share this information with your staff. The Child Find Rule will be of the most significance at the local educational agency level. Please ensure professional learning is provided to general and special education professionals to ensure the rights of the child are protected. [State Education Rules](#)

Our district highlight this week is from Jefferson County Schools. Learn more about their plans for Passport to Paris. Way to go Jefferson County!

A special shoutout to Bleckley County Schools for participating in the I CAN Conference. This annual event sponsored by Heart of Georgia RESA/GLRS is always a highlight of the year.

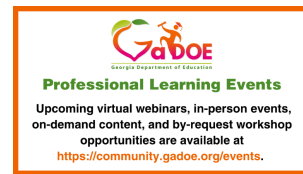
What an honor to be a part of a child's journey in school. We have an opportunity to support and encourage dreams. Dreams can become reality so never give up!

Thank you for all you do each day for students with disabilities. Enjoy the next few weeks and celebrate every moment!

Keeping Students First,
Wina

Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the [Due Dates Calendar](#) for deadlines and key dates.



Professional Learning Events

April 25 at 3:00 p.m. – Continuum of Decisions at Age of Majority

Professional Learning Events

Reminders

The FY23 Parent Survey is OPEN.

May 31 Parent Survey Closes (APR Indicator 8)

July 30 Budget Completion Reports Deadline for all State Grants for FY23

July 31 CCEIS/CEIS FY23 Student Events Data Upload Due

July 31 CCEIS/CEIS Plan for FY23 Due

July 31 Preschool Exit Data (FY23 Data)

July 31 Timelines Data (FY23 Data) - Child Find and Early Childhood Transition Deadline

July 31 Post-School Outcomes (for FY22-23 Exiters)

Visit [GaDOE Community](#) for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.



District Spotlight: Jefferson County Schools

Warrior Nation ESY Summer 2023: "Passport to Paris"

Jefferson County School System remains dedicated to excellence in education for all children regardless of ability or confidence level. They realize that all students have the ability to succeed and their staff is

here to ensure they do.

As required by Georgia's Special Education Rules and Regulations, the IEP Team reviews students' progress and determines whether or not ESY is warranted. If the answer is yes, it is with this in mind that the team collectively develops a course of action that prescribes what each student needs to be successful within that yearly time period. As a committee, goals and expectations, along with a plan of action, are developed. These goals and expectations are a customized roadmap tailored specifically for the student in

question. They ensure that students with disabilities do not lose two-thirds of the skills learned during the school year that would take six-to-nine weeks of the next school year to regain.

Jefferson County School System is committed to enhancing its ESY practices to help bridge the gap caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Recently, they reviewed the program guidelines and developed a three-week program that addresses educating students in all areas. Their ESY is centrally-located on one campus within the county and addresses the needs of all students from those who are medically fragile to GNETS. Additionally, it is more of a STEAM camp that allows practicing educators, the community, Board Directors, civic and community organizations, and retired educators to continue to shape young minds and aid students with disabilities in continuing to knock down barriers intended to limit their future.

Phrashunda J. Hudson, Jefferson County Special Education Director, and the ESY staff have worked tirelessly to develop a powerful, multi-week schedule that includes a robust agenda sure to engage every young mind. Below are a few examples of what will be offered.

- Cooking school with the Special Education Director (chef for the day)
- STEAM Activities
- Science Experiments with an Augusta University Scientist
- Literacy Activity with the Assistant Superintendent
- Numeracy with the Director of Teaching and Learning
- Other Extension Activities (e.g., making nitrogen ice cream with a professor from the local college and weekly on-campus field experiences)
- Community Carnival honoring parents and students for their hard work and support

Jefferson County School System invites you to follow their progress, as they continue supporting and developing their students into productive citizens of tomorrow!

Shoutout: Bleckley County

A few of Bleckley's wonderful students and dedicated staff members recently attended the annual I CAN Conference in Dublin, Ga. The I CAN Conference provides information and support to students with disabilities in the Heart of Georgia Region involved in transitioning from high school to post-secondary



Bleckley County Students and Staff

options. 10th - 12th-grade students had the opportunity to tour the Oconee Fall Line Technical College, talk to college and career counselors, explore different career fields, learn about interview and banking skills, and learn the importance of self-determination in developing an I CAN attitude!



Lauren Bruce

The keynote was delivered by Lauren Bruce. Lauren is a self-employed entrepreneur and owner of Lauren's Love 'Em & Leave 'Em. Her experiences and participation in ASPIRE led her on a journey to independence. Lauren's rise to success includes her ability to brand and market her own business and knowing what does and doesn't work. Her Can Do talk inspired students to never give up on their dreams!

Practice Pointers – Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Amendment: State-defined Alternate Diploma FAQs



Arrows

In Fall 2018, the U.S. Department of Education did regular monitoring and gave Georgia a finding for including students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who earned a Regular Diploma in the cohort graduation rate. Due to that finding, Georgia applied for an Alternate Diploma, which would allow students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to be included in the cohort graduation rate. Students receiving this Alternate Diploma would count toward the four-year cohort graduation rate, regardless of the year they received their diploma – provided they graduated within the time period for which the state ensures the availability of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities (age 22).

The Alternate Diploma is the document awarded to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who were assessed using the alternate assessment aligned to alternate academic achievement standards. While this diploma is standards-based and aligned with the state requirements for the Regular High School Diploma, it is not a Regular High School Diploma. Therefore, an Alternate Diploma does not terminate the provision of a FAPE for

students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). For postsecondary and transition opportunities, many of those institutions will still allow it for transition opportunities and like with the Regular Diploma, there would be admissions criteria for postsecondary institutions.

For more information, please see our recent [Statewide Technical Assistance Meeting 1% Participation Presentation](#) and our website at [ESSA Alternate Diploma – Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 \(GAA 2.0\)](#).



Latest news

Important Announcement: Annual Performance Summary for 2021-2022 LEA Data

Special Education Directors: Your LEA's Annual Performance Summary is available in the Special Education Applications portal. Please review this data no later than April 28, 2023, and verify its accuracy. It will be added to the public site at the close of the day on April 28, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following individuals:
Linda Castellanos at lcastellanos@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-719-8045
Dawn Kemp at dkemp@doe.k12.ga.us, 678-340-6738
Dominique Donaldson at dominique.donaldson@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-796-4589

Science Instructional Resources

The GaDOE Science Team is excited to share our newest instructional resources! We have literacy-based science tasks for elementary and science phenomenon tasks for High School Physics. We have also created two types of formative assessment resources Science Formative Assessment Choice Boards and Science Formative Assessment Tasks. These choice boards and tasks are available for 8th Grade, High School Physical Science, Physics, and Chemistry. Links to these resources can be found in our latest [GaDOE Science Updates April 2023](#) as well as in our latest [GaDOE Science Newsletter](#). Information for signing up for the [GaDOE science newsletter](#) to receive future resource



Students doing a science experiment

updates is on the GaDOE science webpage.

School Psychologists Multi-lingual Learners Workshop: Pre-referral and Evaluation of Multi-Lingual Learners

GaDOE's Division for Special Education Services and Supports is hosting a two-day in-person Technical Assistance Workshop for School Psychologists titled, Pre-referral and Evaluation of Multi-Lingual Learners. Seating is Limited. Lunch will be on your own.

Dates: May 10 - 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Sign In & Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.)

Location: 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

[School Psych. Multi-lingual Learners Workshop Registration](#)

Our workshop speaker/facilitator will be Samuel Ortiz, Ph.D. The intended audience for this workshop is School Psychologists Speech-Language Pathologists, EL Specialists, district staff, and program specialists involved in the education, instruction, intervention, and assessment process of multilingual learners. Dr. Ortiz will provide participants with current research on the relationship between language, cognitive, and academic development and how it may be used to guide the activities of pre-referral and post-referral assessment teams. Additionally, participants will be provided with practical instruction and training in the use and application of rigorous theoretical and psychometric assessment principles within a practical, systematic framework for conducting valid and defensible evaluations of culturally and linguistically diverse children, particularly multilingual learners.

Please forward this information to your region, other School Psychologists, diagnosticians and/or appropriate personnel in your Local Educational Agency (LEA).

For more information, please contact Alicia Mercer by email at amercer@doe.k12.ga.us.



*Parent to Parent of
Georgia logo*

Parent to Parent Trainings for April

Webinar: Dream Bigger, Aim Higher

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Webinar: Suena en grande, apunta mas alto

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Webinar: Dream Bigger, Aim Higher

Date: Friday, April 28, 2023

Time: 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership

FY23 Revision: Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Grant The Georgia Department of Education Board of Directors approved a \$4,000.00 increase to the FY23 Parent Mentor Grant. The increase was approved to assist LEAs with retaining and recruiting parent mentors.

Open Office Hours with Texthelp

On Friday May 5 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Texthelp is holding open office hours designed for you to get your questions answered about the texthelp software and any other questions you may have specific to read and write and equatio. Anyone can log in from leadership and IT staff, to classroom teachers. Texthelp wants to be sure to answer those questions that may be difficult to find an answer and empower students and classroom teachers to feel confident in their use and understanding of the product.

[Texthelp Office Hours Link](#)

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April 28, 2023 Email Blast

Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to share the work of our State Advisory Panel with other states during a community of practice sponsored by OSEP. Georgia and Oregon were the featured states to share procedures for receiving public comment. As I listened to the discussion, all states appear to struggle with the solicitation of public comment. I don't believe it is okay to just think everyone is completely satisfied. As you know, communication is one of our priorities. Winston Churchill said, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." Such wise advice that clearly has stood the test of time. Maybe it is time to sit down and listen. Yes, we may need courage to listen, but we need to hear the feedback.

A big shoutout to our State Advisory Panel for providing ongoing feedback. The advisory panel members volunteer their time and expertise to support services and supports for students with disabilities. Thank you for making a difference!

Our district highlight this week is from Cobb County School District. Read about their annual collaboration between sponsors from the community and Cobb County School District's Adapted P.E. Specialist to put on an amazing dance for 400 middle and high school students across the district.



Courage

Just a reminder of the professional learning opportunity for school psychologists on May 10-11 at Twin Towers. Registration is still open, but we only have 75 seats left. The two-day professional learning opportunity for school psychologists featuring Dr. Samuel Ortiz, a well-known expert in the assessment process for multilingual learners, will be a great opportunity for your school psychologists.

School Psych. Multi-lingual Learners Workshop Registration

Dates: May 10 - 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Sign In & Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.)

Location: 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

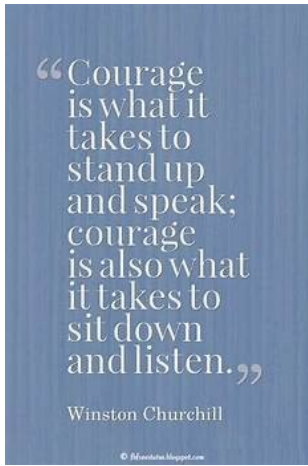
The Expect, Engage, Empower initiative is an opportunity to bring together various stakeholders to explore potential strategies and innovative approaches to address transition for children and youth with disabilities. Improving how we address transition services for youth with disabilities and their families is a critical need that will only be improved through prioritized and collaborative efforts. The 3E initiative will provide an opportunity for the field to join OSEP in the challenge to raise expectations, engage families earlier, and fully empower all who support transition services to improve postschool outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and their families. OSEP believes that every part of education, from instructional practices to related services to curricular standards and beyond, is critical to the seamless delivery of high-quality IDEA transition programming that leads, connects, and builds toward the purpose of readying youth with disabilities for lifelong success. Such seamless delivery relies on the collaboration between educators, vocational rehabilitation, and other service providers with authentic engagement of youth and families. The virtual kickoff event will be held on May 10, 2023, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET.

Expect, Engage, Empower: Successful Transitions for All! Registration

Additional updates on important resources, event, and information will be continue to be posted on [OSEP's Expect, Engage, Empower: Successful Transition for All homepage](#).

As a leader, your courage is on display each day. It doesn't mean that we have all the answers or even a solution but we do have the courage to keep going. John Wayne is credited with saying, "Courage is being scared to death ... and saddling up anyway."

You are courageous advocates for students with disabilities. Thank you for all you do each day. You



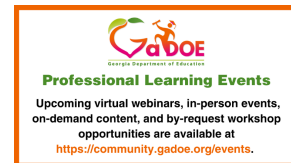
are making a difference! I am proud of each of you.

Keeping Students First,
Wina

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. - Winston Churchill

Special Education Events & Due Dates

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.



*Professional Learning
Events*

Professional Learning Events

May 9 at 1:00 p.m. – Special Education Directors’
Webinar

May 10 or 11 at 9:00 a.m. – School Psych. Multi-lingual Learners Workshop

May 10 at 12:00 p.m. – Exiting Fully Proficient ELs and EL/SWD

Reminders

The FY23 Parent Survey is OPEN.

May 31 Parent Survey Closes (APR Indicator 8)

July 30 Budget Completion Reports Deadline for all State Grants for FY23

July 31 CCEIS/CEIS FY23 Student Events Data Upload Due

July 31 CCEIS/CEIS Plan for FY23 Due

July 31 Preschool Exit Data (FY23 Data)

July 31 Timelines Data (FY23 Data) - Child Find and Early Childhood Transition
Deadline

July 31 Post-School Outcomes (for FY22-23 Exiters)

Visit GaDOE Community for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.



Cobb County School District logo

District Spotlight: Cobb County School District

Every year since 2001, student volunteers at Kennesaw Mountain, sponsors from the community, and Cobb County School District's Adapted P.E. Specialist collaborate to host a dance for students with disabilities receiving ADPE services. On Tuesday, March 6, 2023, the Kennesaw Mountain gym was transformed into a page out of a fairy tale, and approximately 400 students from all middle and high schools across Cobb County School District came to partake in this magical day. Elementary students were able to attend via a live stream. Student volunteers at Kennesaw Mountain High School with district-level support began planning in August to make sure that every detail from transportation through decorations are in place to provide this special day to our students who have mobility limitations, sensory needs, or other needs that prevent them from accessing physical education without the support of ADPE specialists. This year, the dance consisted of fairytale characters such as Pinocchio, Snow White, Tinker Bell, Pocahontas, and other fairytale characters. The dance ended with a balloon drop and many smiling faces from students and other stakeholders who helped make this remarkable event possible.



Arrows

Practice Pointers – Child Find Procedures and Public Announcements

The local educational agency (LEA) may employ a variety of strategies to ensure that children who may need special education and related services are identified and evaluated. Some frequently used **Child Find** procedures include public announcements through local media (newspaper, television, radio), meetings with private and home school representatives, community service

fairs, parent mentors, and collaboration with other public agencies such as the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Family & Children Services | Georgia Department of Human Services, and Georgia Department of Public Health and their local partners or offices. LEAs may also utilize their websites as a means for disseminating Child Find information. Regardless of the methods employed, LEAs must conduct comprehensive Child Find activities. In addition, during the annual timely and meaningful consultation with representatives from private and home schools, LEAs are required to inform them of the LEA's Child Find procedures. See 34 C.F.R. § 300.134(a).

For more information, please see the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Evaluation Process and Additional Procedures for Identifying Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

District Participation Announcement

The Instruction and Systemic Improvement Unit is excited to announce, the following LEAs have been selected to participate in FY24s Specially Designed Instruction Project.

Burke County

-Burke County High School

Clayton County

-Michelle Obama STEM Elementary Academy

-Eddie White Middle School

Early County

-Early County Elementary School

-Early County Middle School

Seminole County

-Seminole County Elementary School

-Seminole County Middle School

Academy for Classical Education

Systemic Improvement planning meetings will start this summer. Please stay tuned for updates as the project gets underway in August. For additional questions regarding the project or future participation, please contact Yyanisha Bass Bonner at Yyanisha.Bass@doe.k12.ga.us.

Special Education Rural Grant

The Office of Special Education Services and Supports in partnership with the

Office of Rural Education recently awarded 115 rural local educational agencies (LEAs) with a grant to support the teaching and learning outcomes of students with disabilities. Each LEA received a \$50,000 grant- \$26,000 from IDEA funds and \$24,000 from ESSER funds. In the Consolidated Application (Con App), the IDEA funds are loaded under Special Education Programs in the IDEA – Special Education Rural Grant, and the ESSER funds are loaded under Title Programs in the ESSER III – ARP – LL Special Education Rural Grant.

In addition, please note that the **IDEA – Special Education Rural Grant** follows the same allowability principles as the IDEA 611 Grant. The IDEA funds must be spent by September 30, 2023. Unexpended funds will not carry over to fiscal year 2024.

For questions about the IDEA – Special Education Rural Grant, please contact Nicole Croom at ncroom@doe.k12.ga.us. For questions about the ESSER – Special Education Rural Grant, please contact Dr. Kermit Gilliard, Jr. at kermit.gilliard@doe.k12.ga.us.

Budget Update – Additional IDEA 611 and 619 Allocations

All local educational agencies (LEAs) received additional IDEA 611 and 619 allocations. LEAs must spend the additional IDEA 611 funds by the end of the grant period, September 30, 2023. However, LEAs may carry over the unspent additional IDEA 619 funds.

Please contact your Budget Liaison with questions.

School Psychologists Multi-lingual Learners Workshop: Pre-referral and Evaluation of Multi-Lingual Learners

GaDOE's Division for Special Education Services and Supports is hosting a two-day in-person Technical Assistance Workshop for School Psychologists titled, Pre-referral and Evaluation of Multi-Lingual Learners. Seating is Limited. Lunch will be on your own.

Dates: May 10 - 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Sign In & Registration is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.)

Location: 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

School Psych. Multi-lingual Learners Workshop Registration

Our workshop speaker/facilitator will be Samuel Ortiz, Ph.D. The intended audience for this workshop is School Psychologists Speech-Language Pathologists, EL Specialists, district staff, and program specialists involved in the education, instruction, intervention, and assessment process of multilingual learners. Dr. Ortiz will provide participants with current research on the relationship between language, cognitive, and academic development and how it may be used to guide the activities of pre-referral and post-referral assessment teams. Additionally, participants will be provided with practical instruction and training in the use and application of rigorous theoretical and psychometric assessment principles within a practical, systematic framework for conducting valid and defensible evaluations of culturally and linguistically diverse children, particularly multilingual learners.

Please forward this information to your region, other School Psychologists, diagnosticians and/or appropriate personnel in your Local Educational Agency (LEA).

For more information, please contact Alicia Mercer by email at amercer@doe.k12.ga.us.

Open Office Hours with Texthelp

On Friday May 5 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Texthelp is holding open office hours designed for you to get your questions answered about the texthelp software and any other questions you may have specific to read and write and equatio. Anyone can log in from leadership and IT staff, to classroom teachers. Texthelp wants to be sure to answer those questions that may be difficult to find an answer and empower students and classroom teachers to feel confident in their use and understanding of the product.

[Texthelp Office Hours Link](#)

Mathematics Manipulatives and Materials Grant

The Mathematics Manipulatives and Materials Grant provides an opportunity for schools across Georgia to receive funding to purchase manipulatives and materials to assist with the implementation of the newly adopted mathematics standards. The mathematics learning plans and units developed by the Georgia Department of Education include **manipulatives and materials** that can be used as inspiration for what may be needed in the classroom to implement the newly

adopted mathematics standards. These lists are not all inclusive, and ultimately, resource selection decisions are made at the local district and/or school level.

This grant will support quality mathematics instruction during the school day through the provision of manipulatives and materials. A maximum of \$1,600,000.00 will be awarded in Mathematics Manipulatives and Materials for the 2023-2024 (FY24) school year, up to \$4,000 per grantee. Only one grant will be allowed per school.

If you have any questions during the application process, please send an email to mathematics@doe.k12.ga.us.

Apply Today!

Mathematics Manipulatives and Materials Grant

Proposal Applications Due: May 10, 2023

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