

April Friday Email Blast

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Friday, April 7, 2017

There was no Friday Email Blast due to Spring Break!



Friday, April 14, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in on [April 21, 2017](#) for the next Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement webinar, which will focus on Improvement Planning. You may access the archived webinar from March 31st [Showcase the Alignment of the SSIP and Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement](#), as well. Thank you for tuning in for the [Directors' Webinar](#), and we look forward to engaging with you at the upcoming Directors' Forum (April 27th Monroe County Board of Education 25 Brooklyn Avenue Forsyth, Georgia 31029) @ 11:00 am.

The Georgia Department of Education will host the next regional public hearing to collect stakeholder comments as part of the rulemaking process for State Board of Education Rule [160-4-7-.15 GEORGIA NETWORK FOR EDUCATIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT \(GNETS\)](#) at the location below. We invite you to attend one of the following meetings.

Thomas County

Thomasville, GA

Date: April 19, 2017

Time: 3-6 p.m.

Location: Thomas County School (Professional Learning Center)
200 North Pinetree Blvd.
Thomasville, GA

Districts' 2015-2016 Annual Performance Report (APR) Summary is now publicly posted. You may access the APR by clicking on the orange rectangle **SCHOOL FINDER** on the GaDOE website. Navigate to the District Index, click on Special Education and toggle to the year 2015-2016. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us. As discussed during the Directors' Webinar, the Department has extended the deadline for the [Parent Survey](#) until May 15th. Please note the tips listed below to increase the survey response rate. Stakeholder feedback informs the work. Check out the new [GOSA Georgia Real Teachers' videos](#). We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfhine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#)

[GSAP Summer Institute](#)

[Statewide VI Consortia Meeting](#)

[Budget Information](#)

[Assistive Technology Tip](#)

[GVRA Webinar](#)

[Griffin RESA 2017-18 Drive-in Conference](#)

Old/Updated Items

[Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

[Parent Mentor Partnership Application](#)

2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute:

Mark your calendars and start making plans for [GELI 2017](#). We have some great plans for the upcoming [2017 Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#) at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta on September 17-19, 2017. GELI 2017 will feature timely information on the topics that matter most to Georgia Education Leaders. Mark your calendars, book your hotel room, and [register now!](#)

Calling all Presenters! The Georgia Education Leadership Institute is soliciting proposals for presentations promoting best practices and current research to best support Georgia Leaders. If selected to be a presenter, your institute registration fee is waived! This year's Conference Strands are Culture of Success, Educating Georgia's Future Workforce, School Climate & Safety, Teacher & Leader Development and Business & Operational Management. Please click here to find out more: [Call for Presenters](#).

The institute will begin on Sunday, September 17 with three highly informative Pre-Institute Sessions (included with price of registration) addressing important issues/topics facing Georgia leaders – Assessment & Accountability, Consolidating Funding and how CCRPI is impacted by Social, Emotional and Mental Health. We were excited to secure Mr. Ken Williams as the Keynote Luncheon Speaker. He is motivational and provides substantive information to support and challenge all districts! Finally, as in the past, Governor Nathan Deal has been invited to deliver remarks to the full group.

You may notice that we have moved [GELI 2017](#) to a new location – [Sheraton Atlanta Hotel](#). This will better accommodate our growth and provide better support by having all sessions in the same area.

We would like to thank Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa) for continuing its support of GELI as a Gold Sponsor! For many years, this community-minded health insurer has supported school-based programming through grants to organizations such as HealthMPowers and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta/Strong4Life, which focus on promoting healthy, active lifestyles for children. In addition, BCBSGa continues to support Camp Kudzu, which helps children with Type 1 diabetes learn to manage their condition while having fun at a Georgia "sleep away" camp, and the American Heart Association and its Hands Only CPR program. This initiative has reached more than 8,600 people in Georgia and has provided CPR in School kits to high schools throughout the state. Please visit the [conference website](#) and click on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia logo to learn more about how this great organization can better support you and your district.

Also, the room block is open at the [Sheraton Atlanta Hotel](#). The room block tends to fill quickly, so please reserve a room if you're planning to attend the institute and will need one! You can [click here](#) or follow the link in the "Accommodations" section on the institute webpage ([GELI 2017](#)) to the hotel's reservation system for the institute room block – a special low rate of just \$140 per night. This is a great opportunity to network with your colleagues from across the state!

GSAP Summer Institute 2017:

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project will offer a 2-day workshop focusing on students with combined vision and hearing loss who have significant delays in communication. The training will be on July 12-13, 2017 on the campus of UGA-Gwinnett in Lawrenceville. There is no fee for GSAP training. See the attached flyer for details and registration information.

Statewide VI Consortia Meeting:

Your staff, serving students with visual impairments, are invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming statewide VI Consortia meeting on May 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our presenters and topics will be:

- GIMC Updates for TVIs – Carson Cochran, Manager, GIMC
- Best Practices in Transition Planning for Students with Vision Impairments – Sandy MacDonald, State Success Coach for Transition
- The Expanded Core Curriculum: Assessing for Success - Christina Davis, Ph.D., TVI

Please see the attached list of meeting locations across the state and share with your VI staff. If there are any questions, please contact Elaine Thagard at ethagard@doe.k12.ga.us.

Budget Information:

Two grants in the Consolidated Application and in the Chart of Accounts now have different grant names. The “Residential and Reintegration Grant” in the Consolidated Application which was also called the “Multi-Handicapped Grant” in the Chart of Accounts is now called “Tuition for Multiple Disabilities Grant”.

Additionally, the “State Preschool Handicapped Grant” is now called the “Preschool Disability Services Grant”. Please communicate these changes to your Finance Directors. If you have any questions, you may contact your Special Education Budget Specialist.

Assistive Technology Tech Tip:

The use of 3D printing technology is emerging as a means of creating assistive technology to help support individuals with disabilities. ATMakers.org is an organization working to provide communities of Makers (for example, high-school robotics clubs or STEM classes) with descriptions and instructions to build customized solutions for use by Assistive Technology (AT) Professionals and/or individuals with disabilities.

ATMakers has developed files which can be downloaded to create and assemble switches to be used by students with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. These files can be shared with your STEM/Robotics instructors in order to create projects to, not only advance students’ knowledge of 3D printing and robotics but support individuals with disabilities. For more information on creating 3D printed AT switches, use the following link: <http://atmakers.org/2017/03/3d-printed-at-switches-mark-i/>.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Webinar (April 12, 2017) See Attachments:

Handouts from April 12, 2017 are attached. Recording link will be available soon.

WIOA Section 511 – Limitations on the Use of Subminimum Wage for Youth – Change in federal law through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act emphasizes the need for integrated, competitive employment for individuals with disabilities. There are new requirements for school districts when considering a referral to sheltered workshops and other sub-minimum wage settings. This webinar will provide an explanation of the changes and the required documentation that each LEA must have in place for the 2017-2018 school year.

Roosevelt Warm Springs – Founded by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1927, Roosevelt Warm Springs continues a tradition of compassion and quality care that spans over 80 years. Roosevelt Warm Springs remains a national treasure and Georgia "point-of-pride." Simply stated, Roosevelt Warm Springs is a residential campus where students learn life skills and

work towards professional certifications with the final goal being employment. Students are referred through their VR counselor. GVRA personnel provided an update of the referral process and the need for increased partnership with school districts for the efficient and effective transition of students to post-secondary training and ultimately employment.

Griffin RESA 2017-2018 Drive-In Conferences:

See the attachment to learn more about the upcoming drive-in conference.

Parent Satisfaction Survey:

The deadline for participation in the online Parent Survey has been extended to May 15, 2017! Special Education Directors may check their district's participation status in the dashboard and encourage your families to visit your website, the GaPMP website or the DOE website to complete the survey. <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx>

The Parent Satisfaction Survey helps the state to determine parents' perception of the success of parent engagement with the local schools. The information is gathered as a component of the State Performance Plan. The data collected are reported in the Annual Performance Report and on the system profile about each system. Each state is required to conduct a parent survey collection process to measure parent/family needs and perceptions.

Indicator 8: Percent of parents with a student receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving results for children with disabilities

Most importantly, partnering with families and asking for their input makes them feel welcome, valued, and connected to each other and school staff contributing to student success!

Suggestions from districts with good results:



- Create a QR code
- Post on a sign that is displayed in the school
- Print out on a bookmark and send home
- Display on school website
- Send out the direct link to the survey by email or text
- Have a tablet on hand at the front office, available in the carpool line, or at parent/teacher meetings (IEP or conferences)
- Include in your regular communication to families, notes home from teacher, school newsletters and social media reminders

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership FY18 Application for Participation:

The applications for participation in the FY18 Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) were due back to the GaDOE by March 31st. Both districts who currently have a parent mentor and districts who will be new to the partnership were required to return a signed application for participation. Please see the attached list to confirm that we received your application. If you have not done so already, please send the application right away to Tonya Moore at tmoore@doe.k12.ga.us. We're excited to have several new districts joining us for FY18!

Attachment titles that were included with the April 14 Email Blast.

-  GSAP Summer Institute 2017.docx (103 KB)
-  VI Consortia Meeting Location Contacts 2017.xlsx (20 KB)
-  Coversheet for Local Education Agency.pdf (64 KB)
-  Letter to School (3).pdf (69 KB)
-  Microsoft PowerPoint - GVRA Presentation to GA DOE on SECTION 511 YOUTHpdf (166 KB)
-  Microsoft PowerPoint - Roosevelt Warm Springs 4 10 2017 (2).pptx [Read-O....pdf (179 KB)
-  ROI for School Youth (3).pdf (65 KB)
-  2017-2018 Drive-in Conferences - Registration now Available & Room Bloc....pdf (139 KB)
-  AppsRecieved4.12.17.docx (16 KB)
-  April 11th Directors' Webinar.pptx (1 MB)
-  2017 Conference Save the Date.pdf (189 KB)
-  Friday, April 14th Email Blast.pdf (533 KB)

Friday, April 21, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the [April 21, 2017](#) Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement webinar, which will focus on Improvement Planning. We look forward to engaging with you at the upcoming Directors' Forum (April 27th Monroe County Board of Education 25 Brooklyn Avenue Forsyth, Georgia 31029) @ 11:00 am. Carol Seay (Part B Data Manager) will be our special guest and follow up on the content shared during the Directors' Webinar.

We have updated the [Sp Ed Federal Programs Conference webpage](#) with the conference information and remember to register as quickly as possible. We would like to announce the upcoming TASH 2017 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia during December 13th – 15th; a save the date flyer is attached. We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families.

Partnering in Student Success, Zelfine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[IDEAS Conference Update](#)

[GIMC Update \(Understanding Parent Consent\)](#)

[Assistive Technology FAQ](#)

Old/Updated Items

[GVRA Webinar](#)

[Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

IDEAS Conference Update:

The IDEAS Concurrent Sessions web-based Program is live and available through the IDEAS website [Program Link](#).

We hope by now you have your hotel reservations confirmed. Stay alert for the next update on [the mobile program apps](#) that will be available within the next couple of weeks. The platforms supported on mobile apps are: Google Play, App Store, Black Berry World, and Windows Store. It will be extremely important for all our participants to install and start the app before arriving to the conference. Once the mobile app is installed, it will be available and functional with or without internet access.

GIMC Update (Understanding Parent Consent):

Thank you all so much for all your work in obtaining the information for the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) 2017 registration. I know this has not been an easy task but rest assured that all of your efforts are greatly appreciated. There have been a couple of instances where there has been confusion regarding students who are graduating in 2017 and their eligibility to be registered for APH. I wanted to take a moment of time of your time to clarify.

There are only two criteria for registration with the (APH) for quota funds

1. The student is blind and
2. The student is registered in a district on the first Monday in January.

If a student is graduating or aging out of special education services during the year of the count, every effort should be made to acquire the Parent Consent for registration so that student is registered with APH. Quota funds are pooled to be used for all legally blind students.

Therefore, funds collected for a graduating student can be used for new students who enroll in a district later in the year. During the 2018 census count those students who graduated in the previous year will be removed from the APH rolls.

There is still time to submit parent consent forms for this year's APH registration. However, if submission of parent consents miss the deadline please continue to submit the forms for your students at any time throughout the year. Remember only those students with parent consents are eligible for purchase of *new* materials (equipment and supplies) from APH.

Assistive Technology Frequently Asked Question (FAQ):

- Q. Can our district/school require a student to bring an assistive technology (AT) device to school that was purchased privately?
- A. Districts/schools cannot require a student to use a family-owned device at school. Districts/schools must provide the AT device(s) as included in the IEP team at no cost.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Webinar:

Handouts from April 12, 2017 webinar are attached. Unfortunately, the recording cannot be retrieved at this time despite our best efforts. The content will be offered for three sessions during the IDEAS Conference and one session during the Federal Programs Conference. A recording will be secured during the IDEAS Conference and made available by mid-June.

WIOA Section 511 – Limitations on the Use of Subminimum Wage for Youth – Change in federal law through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act emphasizes the need for integrated, competitive employment for individuals with disabilities. There are new requirements for school districts when considering a referral to sheltered workshops and other sub-minimum wage settings. This webinar will provide an explanation of the changes and the required documentation that each LEA must have in place for the 2017-2018 school year. Presenter: Crystal Perry, Senior Attorney, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Parent Satisfaction Survey:

The deadline for participation in the online Parent Survey has been extended to May 15, 2017! Special Education Directors may check their district's participation status in the dashboard and encourage your families to visit your website, the GaPMP website or the DOE website to complete the survey. <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx>

The Parent Satisfaction Survey helps the state to determine parents' perception of the success of parent engagement with the local schools. The information is gathered as a component of the State Performance Plan. The data collected are reported in the Annual Performance Report and on the system profile about each system. Each state is required to conduct a parent survey collection process to measure parent/family needs and perceptions.

Indicator 8: Percent of parents with a student receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving results for children with disabilities

Most importantly, partnering with families and asking for their input makes them feel welcome, valued, and connected to each other and school staff contributing to student success!

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-  Letter to School (3).pdf (69 KB)
-  Microsoft PowerPoint - GVRA Presentation to GA DOE on SECTION 511 YOUTHpdf (166 KB)
-  Microsoft PowerPoint - Roosevelt Warm Springs 4 10 2017 (2).pptx [Read-O....pdf (179 KB)
-  ROI for School Youth (3).pdf (65 KB)
-  2017 Conference Save the Date.pdf (189 KB)
-  Friday, April 21st Email Blast.pdf (265 KB)

Friday, April 28, 2017

Directors,

Please tune in for the [April 28, 2017](#) Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement webinar, which will focus on Planning and Budgeting. We have updated the [Sp Ed Federal Programs Conference webpage](#) with the conference information and remember to register as quickly as possible. Thank you for participating in the final Directors' Forum on yesterday; it is always a pleasure to chat about the work and get feedback.

As you may know, GaDOE joined other states and organizations across the country in celebrating April as the Month of the Military Child. This is a time to honor the strength and sacrifices of military children. On last Friday, the Department expressed its gratitude to these students and their families by wearing purple for military children.

The deadline for participation in the online Parent Survey has been extended to May 15, 2017! Special Education Directors may check their district's participation status in the dashboard and encourage your families to visit your website, the GaPMP website or the DOE website to complete the survey. <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx> We appreciate what you do for students, teachers, and families.

Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[Coordinated Early Intervening Services \(CEIS\) FY18 Planning Process](#)

[Fall 2017 FBA/BIP Train-the-Trainer Sessions](#)

[GVRA Public Hearing](#)

[Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices](#)

Old/Updated Items

[IDEAS Conference](#)

[Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#)

Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) FY18 Planning Process:

Districts required to provide CEIS during the FY18 school year should follow up with your local Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) and District Liaison (DL) for technical assistance. FY18 planning tools and templates are available on the [CEIS webpage](#). Please note that we plan to release the FY18 CEIS Portal application by the end of May, and the portal application will include a CEIS Planning tab with the same questions from the CEIS planning template. Contact Donna Ann Flaherty (dflaherty@doe.k12.ga.us) to ask questions.

Fall 2017 Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) Train-the-Trainer Sessions (18 hours, three-six hour sessions):

Georgia State University and GaDOE will conduct regional FBA/BIP train-the-trainer sessions during the fall of 2017. The train-the-trainer sessions will be open to Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Supports (GNETS) and school system personnel. Participation will be based on recommendations from GNETS and school system leaders. While it is our intent to accommodate as many participants as possible, due to space limitations we may need to limit the number of participants from each GNETS and school system. Training locations, by RESA

regions, will be provided for selected participants. Training dates will be scheduled after the first cadre of trainers are selected.

In order to participate in the train-the-trainer sessions, participants must:

1. Complete the online registration form ([Click here for online registration](#))
2. Commit to the full eighteen hours of professional learning
3. Provide evidence of completing the FBA/BIP online learning module (e.g. a copy of your completed post-test and print the certificate of completion from the my progress tab)
4. Submit a sample FBA/BIP that you completed independently or with a team.

Please email the **required documents listed in numbers 3 and 4 above** to Julie James at jjames@doe.k12.ga.us by August 1, 2017. Your sample FBAs/BIPs will need to have been completed within the last 2 years. Please ensure that **all documents emailed are de-identified of student information**. GaDOE, appreciates your participation in this professional learning opportunity. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Nakeba Rahming at Nrahming@doe.k12.ga.us.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) Public Hearings:

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) in collaboration with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is holding public hearings around the state in May on proposed changes to vocational rehabilitation (VR) policies. Please see the attached flyers with the locations, dates, and times for the eight (8) different cities.

Here's the link to the proposed VR policy: <https://gvs.georgia.gov/webform/provide-comment-proposed-policy-changes>.

Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices (Challenging All Learners with High Impact Strategies):

Griffin RESA is pleased to announce that Dr. Zaretta Hammond, best-selling author and expert on culturally responsive teaching will be a keynote speaker at the Culturally Responsive Teaching Drive-in Conference on December 6, 2017. This first annual drive-in conference is entitled "***Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices: Challenging All Learners with High Impact Strategies***". Dr. Hammond is the author of Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain and is a passionate literacy advocate and national presenter on empowering educators with the knowledge and tools to be culturally responsive.

Date: December 6, 2017 (8:30 am to 3:30pm)

Cost: \$75.00 (*includes continental breakfast, lunch, keynote, and numerous breakout sessions*)

IDEAS Conference Update:

The IDEAS Concurrent Sessions web-based Program is live and available through the IDEAS website [Program Link](#).

We hope by now you have your hotel reservations confirmed. Stay alert for the next update on [the mobile program apps](#) that will be available within the next couple of weeks. The platforms supported on mobile apps are: Google Play, App Store, Black Berry World, and Windows Store. It will be extremely important for all our participants to install and start the app before arriving to the conference. Once the mobile app is installed, it will be available and functional with or without internet access.

Georgia Education Leadership Institute:

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The [institute](#) will begin on Sunday, September 17 with three highly informative Pre-Institute Sessions (included with price of registration) addressing important issues/topics facing Georgia leaders – Assessment & Accountability, Consolidating Funding and how CCRPI is impacted by Social, Emotional and Mental Health. Mr. Ken Williams will be the Keynote Luncheon Speaker. He is motivational and provides substantive information to support and challenge all districts! Finally, as in the past, Governor Nathan Deal has been invited to speak to the conference attendees.

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Attachment titles that were included with the April 28 Email Blast.

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|---|---|
|  Albany Flier.pdf (314 KB) |  Athens Flier.pdf (314 KB) |
|  Atlanta Flier.pdf (315 KB) |  Columbus Flier.pdf (312 KB) |
|  Dalton Flier.pdf (313 KB) |  Macon Flier.pdf (313 KB) |
|  Savannah Flier Final.pdf (313 KB) |  Valdosta Flier.pdf (313 KB) |
|  Dr. Zaretta Hammond Flyer - Dec 2017.pdf (211 KB) |  Friday, April 28th Email Blast.pdf (584 KB) |