

January Friday Email Blast

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Friday, January 5, 2018

Directors,

The Georgia Department of Education will be closed on Monday, January 8, 2018 due to inclement weather. If the weather allows, we look forward to tuning in for the Directors' Webinar on Tuesday, January 9th @ 1 pm. Use the following link to register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3294737553206716162>. Attached to the email blast, you will find the current transition webinar series schedule. Take advantage of this great content, which will help students.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to DeKalb County for its implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) has recognized these thirteen DeKalb County Schools for their progress toward the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Two sites, Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy and Toney Elementary School began the implementation process in the 2014-2015 school year by identifying a school team and participating in PBIS trainings with the GADOE throughout that school year. Ten of the additional sites began their school training during the 2015-2016 school year, the year that each of the thirteen schools reached the 'Installing' level of PBIS implementation as defined by the Georgia Department of Education. And Eagle Woods Academy, a school that has been successfully implementing PBIS for the past several years was recognized as 'Operational' during the 2015-2016 school year. <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/dekalb-pbis-newsletter-january-2017.pdf> Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things.](#)

Refueling for the Work Ahead,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[SSIP Targeted Student Data Submission](#)

[GIMC Updates](#)

Old/Updated Items

[IDEAS 2018](#)

SSIP Targeted Student Data Submission:

Just a friendly reminder for the SSIP 50 intensive districts: Targeted student data were due by January 5, 2018. Please contact Wina Low at wlow@doe.k12.ga.us or Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us with questions. The SSIP data collection user guide is attached.

GIMC Updates:

Annual APH Registration opened 1/2/2018. The criteria for registering a student and qualified for using quota funds is: 1) The student must be enrolled in an education program on the first Monday of the year, 2) be legally blind or functioning at the definition of blind, and 3) have consent on file at the GIMC to release registration information. Registration will be open through mid-February.

Districts may register students enrolled in a private school or those who are home schooled. These students will be registered in a separate account and be eligible for one annual quota amount/student (usually around \$270.00). Materials can be ordered by the District if the student

receives vision services; otherwise the parent or private school contact can order from [the parent order link](#) on the GIMC.org parent ordering page.

IDEAS 2018:

Proposals for the IDEAS 2018 (June 5 – 8, 2018) conference will be accepted from January 8, 2018 to March 16, 2018. Please encourage ANY of your district's staff to submit a proposal to share the great things they are doing in their classrooms that engage ALL students. Presentations addressing the topics below are highly encouraged.

- Teaching cognitive and metacognitive strategies
- Scaffolding supports
- Using technology
- Active student engagement
- Providing positive feedback
- Using explicit and intensive instruction
- Adapting curriculum

Conference registration is scheduled to begin February 5, 2018.

Attachment titles that were included with the January 5 Email Blast.

 SSIP User guide.pdf (2 MB)

 Transition Webinar Series.docx (18 KB)

 Friday, January 5th Email Blast.pdf (277 KB)

Friday, January 12, 2018

Directors,

The Georgia Department of Education will be closed on **Monday, January 15, 2018** for a state holiday.

Thank you for tuning in for the Directors' Webinar on Tuesday, January 9th @ 1 pm. Use the following link to access the archived recording:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3294737553206716162>. I would like to share a resource with you that was developed by Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the CEEDAR Center entitled **High Leverage Practices in Special Education**. A pdf of the book is attached to the email blast; however, you may access the resource online using the following link: <http://ceedar.education.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CEC-HLP-Web.pdf>. I believe this tool will prove invaluable as we prepare professional learning for this summer and beyond.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Kim Gibson a Parent Mentor** who has led several initiatives in her RESA. She facilitates the Okefenokee Regional Transition Alliance, a group of individuals from diverse agencies, to plan for transition of high school students. Each year, a Transition Fair is held at Coastal Pines Technical College, and students from the entire region attend the event. She organizes the annual Autism Awareness Day hosted in Ware County but again impacts students and families throughout the region with over 500 individuals attending last spring. Kim provides leadership for the ASPIRE initiative in her county and supports teachers and students as this work is implemented. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

Refueling for the Work Ahead,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[**The 2018 G-CASE Spring Conference**](#)

[**Budget Updates**](#)

[**IDEA Parent Survey**](#)

[**Winter GATTAP**](#)

Old/Updated Items

[**GO-IEP**](#)

[The 2018 G-CASE Spring Conference \(A Special Education Legal Forum\) See Attachment:](#)

Monday – Wednesday March 5, 6 and 7, 2018

Classic Center

300 N. Thomas Street

Athens, GA 30601

Budget Updates:

The High Cost Grant and Residential and Reintegration Grant submission windows are pen. Please see the online resources for application information of both grants [here](#) at the bottom of the page. The High Cost Grant applications should be submitted at <https://www.gahcf.org/> and

the Residential and Reintegration Grants should be uploaded to your budget specialist in the **portal email**. Please do not submit the Residential and Reintegration Grants via any other email platform to be in compliance with FERPA. Both grants must be submitted by the due date of **March 1st**. Please contact your budget specialist with questions.

The FY17 Maintenance of Effort Compliance Calculations are now available in the portal. Please log in to the Consolidated Application using the following thread to see your results: Consolidated Application > Special Education MOE > FY17. If you did not maintain your effort, please contact your budget specialist to reconcile MOE compliance.

IDEA Parent Survey:

The Parent Satisfaction Survey helps the state to determine parents' perception of the success of parent engagement between the local school and themselves. The information is gathered as a component of the State Performance Plan, **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. The data collected is 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.

2018 Parent Survey

Based on input from stakeholders statewide and the State Advisory Panel, in 2017 the parent survey was shortened to 10 questions and was made available through an online link. This year the link will open on **January 15, 2018** and will remain open until **May 15, 2018**. The survey link will be posted in the following locations:

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx; www.parentmentors.org; or www.p2pga.org

Direct link to the 2018 Parent Survey:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx>

- A limited number of paper surveys will be available and should be used to fill requests from parents. Paper surveys are not intended as an alternative distribution method for districts. To request a paper survey form, email Lisa Ward, Georgia Center for Assessment at lisaward@uga.edu.
- Both the online survey and the paper survey forms are available in Spanish.

Questions

- If you have problems with the online survey? Submit a dticket@doe.k12.ga.us or call 800-869-1011.
- If you have questions about the Parent Survey? Contact Anne Ladd at aladd@doe.k12.ga.us
- If you have questions about the Parent Survey Dashboard data? Contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us

The survey will close on May 15, 2018. Paper copies will be due to the Georgia Center for Assessment on or before May 15, 2017.

Winter GATTAP:

Winter GATTAP sessions begin in TWO WEEKS! On Thursday, January 25th topics include **WORKING WITH HIGH FUNCTIONING STUDENTS WITH AUTISM -and- SELF-**

MONITORING. On Friday, January 26th the focus will be **PARTNERING WITH PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH AUTISM.** Encourage your teachers/therapists who work with students with autism to register as quickly as possible! See the attached flyer for locations and registration links.

Reminder from the GaDOE GO-IEP Team:

If your district is considering the move to GO-IEP for next school year (FY19), the application deadline is quickly approaching. The deadline for submitting an application for your system to join the GO-IEP team for FY19 is **February 23, 2018.** The application is available on the GO-IEP page of the GADOE website <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Georgia-Online-IEP.aspx>.

GO-IEP has many new features that are helping school systems to ensure data reported are both timely and accurate. Users of GO-IEP have access to a FTE submission report that includes most of the data fields collected for special education FTE and Federal Special Education reporting. There are also reports that help systems to accurately track and report Timelines, as well as, a Student Records extract that systems can use for Special Education Student Record submission. If you have not looked at GO-IEP lately and are interested, a video demonstration is available that describes all of the benefits and features that GO-IEP has to offer your system <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Georgia-Online-IEP.aspx>. Contact Linda Castellanos if you have questions or would like more information.

Attachment titles that were included with the January 12 Email Blast.

 WINTER GATTAP 2018.docx (30 KB)

 2018 parent survey flyer.pdf (168 KB)

 GO-IEP FTE REPORT Guidance_.pdf (236 KB)

 GO-IEP Release Notes 20170615 Timelines Report.pdf (504 KB)

 The 2018 GCASE.docx (19 KB)

 Friday, January 12th Email Blast.pdf (402 KB)

 Survey QA-2018.1.18 (002).pdf (574 KB)

 2018 parent survey flyer (003)_Spanish_Final.pdf (161 KB)

 Application for GO IEP Oct 17.docx (28 KB)

 January Directors' Webinar.pptx (1 MB)

 CEC-HLP-Web.pdf (2 MB)

Friday, January 19, 2018

Directors,

We trust that you were safe during inclement weather throughout the state. We apologize for canceling the Directors' Forum on last week and will work quickly to reschedule this event.

We are excited to announce that the Special Education State Advisory Panel FY19 membership application is currently available on the [SAP public webpage](#); a Spanish version of the application will be available, as well. Interested applicants must submit applications by March 19th.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Wendy Harrison** a **Speech/Language Pathologist for Oconee County**. Oconee County sponsored AAC Training with AAC & the Autism Center. The training was called Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) Extended Course: Highlighting Local Clients Language Acquisition. Wendy Harrison took the lead to organize the training for teachers, parents, and therapists.

Knowledge is power, and Oconee County continues to offer teachers and therapists the professional development needed to adequately serve students. Wendy is leading the district in AAC advancement via quality trainings and strong partnerships. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

Refueling for the Work Ahead,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[SSIP Leadership Launch Recording](#)

[Georgia's Best Practices](#)

Old/Updated Items

[IDEA Parent Survey](#)

[High Leverage Practices in Special Education](#)

[SSIP Leadership Launch –December 5, 2017 Recording Link:](#)

The Leadership Launch recording link is available. The What Works Clearinghouse document, ***Preventing Dropout in Secondary Schools***, referenced during the recording is attached.

Recording Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3066096313429911042>

[Georgia's Best Practices:](#)

Registration is currently open to all school districts. As part of the Georgia Department of Education's ongoing technical assistance to districts, you are invited to participate in "Georgia's Best Practices: A Parade of Stars" on February 5th at the Cobb Galleria. The forum will utilize the educator's practice guide from the What Works Clearinghouse, "Preventing Dropout in Secondary Schools." The document is attached.

The professional learning opportunity will showcase districts that have successfully implemented data-driven practices. District teams will also have time to apply information within their own team structures. As a culminating activity, each district will be asked to highlight one

specific practice that has helped to increase graduation and decrease dropout. Each district may register up to five persons. Please register your team members using this link:

Registration Link: [Georgia's Best Practices: A Parade of Stars Mtg. February 5, 2018](#)

The forum on February 5th will be from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Cobb Galleria Center, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA, 30339. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions, contact Lynn Holland at lholland@doe.k12.ga.us or (404)657-9956.

IDEA Parent Survey:

Based on input from stakeholders statewide and the State Advisory Panel, the parent survey was shortened to 10 questions and made available through an online link. This year, the link opened on **January 15, 2018** until **May 15, 2018**. The survey link will be posted in the following locations:

Direct link to the 2018 Parent Survey Friendly (Short) URL: www.gadoe.org/Parent-Survey

GaDOE Website Information for Parents webpage (Under Parent Information section): <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Information-for-Parents.aspx>

Special Education Services and Supports (Under Resources section): http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx

Ga Parent Mentor Partnership website: www.parentmentors.org

Parent to Parent of Ga: www.p2pqa.org

Additional Information

- A **limited** number of paper surveys will be available and should be used **if requested** by family. Paper surveys are not intended as an alternative distribution method for districts. To request a paper survey form, email Lisa Ward, Georgia Center for Assessment at lisaward@uga.edu.
- Both the online survey and the paper survey forms are available in Spanish.

Questions

- If you have problems with the online survey, submit a dticket@doe.k12.ga.us or call 800-869-1011.
- If you have questions about the Parent Survey, contact Anne Ladd at aladd@doe.k12.ga.us.
- If you have questions about the Parent Survey Dashboard data, contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

The survey will close on May 15, 2018. Paper copies will be due to the Georgia Center for Assessment on or before May 15, 2017.

*****Attachments are updated with the Friendly (Short) URL: www.gadoe.org/Parent-Survey*****

High Leverage Practices in Special Education:

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the CEEDAR Center entitled **High Leverage Practices in Special Education**. A pdf of the book is attached to the email blast; however, you may access the resource online using the following link: <http://cedar.education.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CEC-HLP-Web.pdf>.

Attachment titles that were included with the January 19 Email Blast.

 WWC Dropout September 2017 (003).pdf (4 MB)

 2018 parent survey flyer.doc (470 KB)

 SAP Letter and Application 2018-19.pdf (217 KB)

 2018 parent survey flyer (003)_Spanish_Final.doc (465 KB)

 Georgia Congressional Districts.pdf (1 MB)

 Friday, January 19th Email Blast.pdf (370 KB)

Friday, January 26, 2018

Directors,

I would like to extend an invitation for two local directors from each GLRS region to participate in a rescheduled Directors' Forum during the 2018 G-CASE Spring Conference in Athens. The Directors' Forum will take place from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. This opportunity will minimize travel and allow us to obtain feedback concerning several topics. I look forward to engaging with all directors at some point during the conference.

We are excited to announce that the Special Education State Advisory Panel FY19 membership application is currently available on the [SAP public webpage](#); a Spanish version of the application will be available, as well. Interested applicants must submit applications by March 19th.

Attached to the email blast, you will find the Transition Webinar Series. We encourage you to take advantage of the ongoing professional learning that will support outcomes for students.

This week's "Extra" recognition goes to **Mrs. Kaiwen Hardy** who has served as a school psychologist with **Rome City Schools (RCS)** for over 20 years. Mrs. Hardy has been instrumental in supporting the development of new processes and procedures to ensure that students referred for special education evaluations have received every opportunity to show progress through interventions implemented with fidelity. Mrs. Hardy has worked diligently to ensure that all students receive the services and accommodations necessary to be successful in the Least Restrictive Environment. RCS is very thankful to have her on the team. Let's share these exemplary examples by using the following web link throughout the school year: [The "Extra" Award: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things](#).

Refueling for the Work Ahead,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

EMAIL BLAST

New Items

[***Beyond Barriers***](#)

Old/Updated Items

[***Georgia's Best Practices***](#)

Beyond Barriers (Navigating disparities faced by marginalized youth and young adults):

This webinar explores how to provide young people with developmentally appropriate supports and guidance, as well as, steps and strategies for making organizations and service agencies more accessible to those most marginalized.

Thursday, February 8

2 - 3 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT

[Register](#)

Georgia's Best Practices:

Registration is currently open to all school districts. As part of the Georgia Department of Education's ongoing technical assistance to districts, you are invited to participate in "Georgia's Best Practices: A Parade of Stars" on February 5th at the Cobb Galleria. The forum will utilize

the educator’s practice guide from the What Works Clearinghouse, “Preventing Dropout in Secondary Schools.” The document is attached.

The professional learning opportunity will showcase districts that have successfully implemented data-driven practices. District teams will also have time to apply information within their own team structures. As a culminating activity, each district will be asked to highlight one specific practice that has helped to increase graduation and decrease dropout. Each district may register up to five persons. Please register your team members using this link:

Registration Link: [Georgia's Best Practices: A Parade of Stars Mtg. February 5, 2018](#)

The forum on February 5th will be from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Cobb Galleria Center, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA, 30339. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions, contact Lynn Holland at lholland@doe.k12.ga.us or (404)657-9956.

Attachment titles that were included with the January 26 Email Blast.

 WWC Dropout September 2017 (003).pdf (4 MB)

 Spring 2018 Flyer.docx (19 KB)

 1_24_18 Email Blast Submission Transition Webinars.docx (19 KB)

 Friday, January 26th Email Blast.pdf (559 KB)