



## December Friday Email Blast

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Friday, December 6, 2019

Directors,

I would like to share an instructional tool “Equity Instructional Planning Look Fors” to assist in evaluating lessons for practices that promote equity in the classroom. Please note the attachment in today’s email blast.

On Tuesday, December 10, we will host the Directors’ Monthly Webinar @ 1 pm. If needed, you may register for the series using the following link: [FY20 Special Education Directors’ Monthly Webinars](#). We plan to feature Zelma Murray to discuss a few Vision Screening FAQs.

We will NOT host the Directors’ Forum on Thursday, December 12 but plan to reschedule the Forum during the new year.

As a gentle reminder, the Division canceled the General Supervision Training dates for January.

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports is seeking to recognize high school seniors with disabilities who have had outstanding academic, employment, and/or extracurricular accomplishments, as shown by:

- Earning or planning to earn a Regular Education Diploma
- Demonstrating outstanding academic achievement
- Demonstrating successful transition to career education **and/or** employment **and/or**
- Extracurricular involvement in school/community **and/or**
- Earning a scholarship to a four-year, two-year, technical college, **and/or**
- Acceptance into the United States Military

One outstanding senior from each GLRS district will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in Atlanta on **Wednesday, February 12, 2020**. All nominee winners will receive a certificate of excellence signed by Mr. Richard Woods, Georgia’s Superintendent of Schools. Nominations are due Friday, December 20, 2019. The application is here: [Awards of Excellence 2020](#).

### **Georgia High Leverage Practices (HLP) Induction Professional Learning Series:**

A new professional learning resource to support induction phase teachers and their mentors has just been released. This resource was created by the East P-20 Induction Collaborative in conjunction with the Center for Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR). To access, please follow the link at <http://cedar.education.ufl.edu/ta-map/georgia-intensive-ta/>

1. Scroll down to Georgia Resources
2. Click Induction Professional Development Series Focused on High-Leverage Practices. (<http://cedar.education.ufl.edu/georgia-hlp-pls/>)

### **Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP):**

#### **Annual Child Count of Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss**

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP) at the University of Georgia, is funded by a federal grant awarded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide consultation and training to school personnel and families in topics related to children with combined vision and hearing loss. GSAP is required to submit an annual count of students with combined vision and hearing loss to the Office of Special Education Programs.

It is time to review and update records for students currently on our registry. We have begun sending emails this week to the designated contact person with a request to log into the secure

database to update records, and the Special Education Directors are included in that communication. Everyone should receive an email by mid-December.

It's also a good time to register newly identified students with combined vision and hearing loss. Please see the attachment about the GSAP Child Count for more detailed information.

For additional information please see the attachment, [GSAP student identification 2019](#)

### **[Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: 2019 Comprehensive State Needs Assessment:](#)**

The Research and Evaluation Unit (REU) at Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD) at University of Georgia (UGA) is conducting a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) on behalf of the **Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)** and the **State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)** and we are seeking input from all stakeholders regarding competitive, integrated employment for Georgian's with disabilities.

The [CSNA web page](#) below has **four** different surveys. You can select a survey based on what you identify with the most. You may also complete multiple surveys based on your identities. Surveys can be found by clicking on the link below or copying and pasting the URL in your web browser: Once you are on the page, please click on the big red icons to select the survey you want to complete.

<https://www.fcs.uga.edu/ihdd/csna>

Individual surveys can also be found at:

Individuals with disabilities in

Georgia: [https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_esNxdZiiCfkdSLz](https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_esNxdZiiCfkdSLz)

Family members and other stakeholders:

[https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eqVyJazo9xqgphpH](https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eqVyJazo9xqgphpH)

***Teachers, Administrators and other school personnel would complete this survey.***

Employment service providers:

[https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cZ6uAQqcynXXIBj](https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZ6uAQqcynXXIBj)

Employers in Georgia: [https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cZ6uAQqcynXXIBj](https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZ6uAQqcynXXIBj)

The information you provide will inform GVRA's portion of Georgia's Unified State Plan, as well as influence decision making and delivery of vocational services to individuals with disabilities. Each survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and your participation is completely voluntary. There are no right or wrong answers, and you are free to answer only the questions you are comfortable with answering. Your responses will be kept confidential, and you will not be asked to provide your name or the name of your organization. Should you need accommodations or would like this survey in an alternate format, please send an email to [paige@uga.edu](mailto:paige@uga.edu) or call (706) 542-3457.

*(Note: For the purpose of this survey, an "individual with a disability" is a person who has a physical, mental, sensory or cognitive impairment that impacts their ability to prepare for, obtain or maintain gainful employment).*

### **Attachment titles that were included with the December 6 Email Blast.**

-  December 6 Email Blast
-  GSAP student identification 2019
-  Look Fors Student Supports final
-  Q-A Vision Screenings (Directors' Webinar)

Friday, December 13, 2019

Directors,

The FY20 Disproportionality data will be available for review in the Special Education Dashboard by **Monday, December 16, 2019**. Official notification of your Disproportionality Determination will be sent to each LEA by **December 19, 2019**.

Georgia is required to make determinations for Significant Disproportionality (Identification, Placement and Discipline), Disproportionate Representation (Indicators 9 and 10) and Significant Discrepancy (Indicators 4a and 4b). Per the 2016 Federal Disproportionality Regulations, GaDOE updated calculation methodologies for the FY19 Disproportionality Determinations (Identification and Placement). As a reminder, your Determinations in these areas (Identification and Placement) will use three years of a 3.0 Risk Ratio: (a) FY20 data using the new methodology; (b) FY19 data using the new methodology, and (c) FY18 data using the old methodology.

There were additional criteria to consider for Discipline to align with the new regulations; the FY20 Significant Disproportionality (Discipline) will change to reflect **discreet calculations** for **in-school-suspension and out-of-school suspension**: (a) ISS  $\leq$  10 days, (b) OSS  $\leq$  10 days, (c) ISS  $>$  10 days and (d) OSS  $>$  10 days. Significant Disproportionality Determinations will be made based on three years of a Risk Ratio of 3.0: (a) FY19 data using the new methodology and (b) FY17 and FY18 data using previous duration and type methodology in the same area.

Disproportionate Representation Determinations align with Significant Disproportionality for Identification-except **two years** of a Risk Ratio of 3.0 are used to make the determination in this area. Both FY20 and FY19 data will use the new methodology. This Determination area does not inform using 15% of your IDEA funds.

The State reviewed methodology used to calculate 2018 discipline data used for Indicator 4b Significant Discrepancy and updated the methodology to align with IDEA data reporting requirements. The FY20 Determinations will reflect these changes for both data reporting years (FY18 and FY19). This Determination does not inform using 15% of your IDEA funds.

I recognize that that Disproportionality Determinations can be very complex to follow comprehensive updates and changes. I would like to invite you to tune in for a special edition webinar on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm. You may register using the following link: [FY20 Disproportionality Determinations \(Special Edition Webinar\)](#). The webinar will be recorded, and the link will be shared in next Friday's email blast.

Public Reports of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for each LEA will be available soon. Prior to posting the APR publicly, we ask that Special Education Directors review their data. This link will navigate you to UAT portal (test site) where you may view your data *prior to public posting*. <https://uat.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services> **This is the test site, not the actual Special Education webpage.** Click on "Special Education Annual Reports" under the Resource Links on the right side of the page. Enter your LEA Name or a zip code in your LEA. Please take time to review the data in your APR and contact your District Liaison if you see any data you believe to be inaccurate. The public link will be posted in approximately 1 week.

In the top right corner of your public report, a new grey button will show allowing you to export the information to a printable pdf. If the entire content of the page is not printing, then in the Print Window, Open Settings or expand More Settings. Set the "Scale" property as "**Fit** to page" and then continue printing.

Thank you for tuning in for the **Directors' Webinar** on Tuesday. You may access the archived recording using the following link: [December Webinar Recording](#).

Child Find Indicator 11: As discussed during the webinar, we will update data reporting and collection procedures for Indicator 11 (Timelines). These changes are being made to improve accuracy regarding ALL consents received for initial evaluations.

Fields will be added to the report to allow you to remove those consents received but the parent revoked consent to evaluate before the evaluation was completed as well as to remove the students who moved before the evaluation could be completed. If you are not using the GO-IEP Timelines report, please keep these 2 groups of students (with names and GTIDs) in the logs you are maintaining locally.

Additionally, revisions will be made to the Timelines Report to allow you to inform us of those students for whom consent was received but the evaluation was not completed and not due until July 1 or later.

For those students who are already late, but not yet completed by June 30, we will be asking for you to identify those students by name and GTID. These students will be counted late for the year in which the evaluation was DUE and will not be counted again in the calculation for the following school year even when completed the following school year.

For those LEAs using the timelines report within GO-IEP, GO-IEP will be making the necessary changes to the Timelines Report in GO.

### **Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Carryover:**

If your LEA did not expend 100% of FY19 required CEIS funds, the unexpended amount will be carryover for FY20. An approved CEIS plan is required for carryover funds.

If your LEA is required to expend CCEIS funds for FY20, the current CCEIS plan must be revised to include FY19 carryover funds.

For LEAs **not** required to expend CCEIS for FY20, they will only have CEIS carryover from FY19. A CEIS plan for those carryover funds must be developed. All plans are due to your District Liaison and GLRS Director by **January 3, 2020**. The plans will be reviewed, and LEAs will be notified of required revisions or approval. The approved plan must be uploaded in the portal application by **January 10, 2020**. Please contact your District Liaison with any questions.

### **Awards of Excellence (2-12-20):**

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports is seeking to recognize high school seniors with disabilities who have had outstanding academic, employment, and/or extracurricular accomplishments, as shown by:

- Earning or planning to earn a Regular Education Diploma
- Demonstrating outstanding academic achievement
- Demonstrating successful transition to career education **and/or** employment **and/or**
- Extracurricular involvement in school/community **and/or**
- Earning a scholarship to a four-year, two-year, technical college, **and/or**
- Acceptance into the United States Military

One outstanding senior from each GLRS district will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in Atlanta on **Wednesday, February 12, 2020**. All nominee winners will receive a certificate of excellence signed by Mr. Richard Woods, Georgia's Superintendent of Schools. Nominations are due Friday, December 20, 2019. The application is here: [Awards of Excellence 2020](#).

### **Important Budget Announcement:**

The Special Education Budgets and Grants Unit have created Professional Learning Modules; High Cost Grant, and the Residential & Reintegration Grant. The Professional Learning Modules are accessible on **Georgia's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)** under the **Professional Learning Opportunities (PLO)** Index and [here](#). If you have any additional questions, please contact your budget liaison.

### **Budget Reminder: (High Cost Grant and Reintegration Grant)**

The High Cost Grant and Residential and Reintegration Grant submission period opens on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please visit our webpage to review webinar recordings and other resources posted concerning these grants [here](#). The deadline for the submission of these grants is March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any additional questions, please contact your budget liaison.

### **Important Budget Update: (Excess Cost Calculation Submission)**

The 2019 Excess Cost Calculation Portal is now open for submissions. Our Financial Review Division has notified all finance directors. The updated **Excess Cost Handbook** and **Excess Cost Template** can be accessed online [here](#). The deadline for the **complete** excess cost calculation (including RESULTS and BASE) is **January 31, 2020**. Directors please don't forget that the Excess Cost Calculation reporting is an indicator used for Local District Determinations for Timely and Accurate Data Submissions. If you have any additional questions, please contact your budget liaison.

### **Dyslexia Professional Learning Opportunities:**

The GaDOE ELA team is committed to providing professional learning opportunities that are customized to the needs of the teachers and leaders in our state. In an effort to increase our knowledge regarding dyslexia in Georgia, we have compiled a number of opportunities for educators to engage in professional learning in varying formats.

Please click [here](#) for the current offerings. If you have difficulty accessing the document, please contact Franeka Colley at [franeka.colley@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:franeka.colley@doe.k12.ga.us).

We are excited to share that the Dyslexia Handbook has been uploaded to the webpage: [www.gadoe.org/dyslexia](http://www.gadoe.org/dyslexia).

### **Recording Links to the ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> Follow-Up Webinars:**

Below are the links to the recorded sessions held this week for the ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> research groups. If you were not able to participate in the live sessions and need to listen to the recorded session, please contact Elise James at [ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us) or call 404-326-0421 with any questions you may have. The powerpoints for the sessions are attached.

ASPIREPlus Follow-Up Recording Links

- ASPIRE only: ([2019-12-091500ASPIREPlusFollow-Up\\_ASPIREONLY.mp4](#))
- ASPIRE with SDLMI: ([2019-12-101459ASPIREPlusFollow-Up\\_SDLMIONLY.mp4](#))
- ASPIRE with SDLMI: ([2019-12-111459ASPIREPlusFollow-Up\\_ASPIREwithSDLMI.mp4](#))

### **Regional Follow-Up for Technical Assistance for Developing a Statewide Transition Planning Process:**

The purpose of these trainings is to follow-up with districts who have requested additional support to implement select initiatives in their transition programs for students with disabilities.

Participants will be provided with hands on actions to address their district's needs specific to the following topics:

- Evaluation of Transition Programming (Quality Indicators of Exemplary Transition Programs)
- Transition Interagency Councils: Collaboration and Partnerships
- Career Technical and Agriculture Education (CTAE) Career Technical Instruction (CTI) and Dual Enrollment

Special education directors, transition specialists and personnel, teachers, counselors and GLRS directors are encouraged to participate (preferably as teams). Training dates, locations and registration links are listed below. Choose only one date.

**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2020: 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Location:** Department of Exceptional Education  
East DeKalb Campus  
5839 Memorial Dr  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2020: 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Location:** South Georgia GLRS  
245 North Robinson Street  
Lenox, Ga. 31637

**Date:** Friday, January 31, 2020: 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Location:** Georgia Department of Education  
Twin Towers West, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Rooms  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Registration:** <https://form.jotform.com/93226158976166>

If you have any questions, contact Elise James ([ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us)).

### **[Making Health Care Transition Work for Youth with Autism:](#)**

The National Institute of Mental Health is sponsoring a webinar about transitioning from pediatric to adult health care for youth with autism. This information is important and necessary to our goal for transitioning students to adulthood. Topics include:

- What information and help from your health care provider would be most useful,
- Concerns about making the shift to adult care, and
- Suggestions for health care providers for pediatric and adult patients to make the transition successful for youth and young adults with autism and their caregivers.

This webinar will also provide new and useful resources available at Got Transition, the national resource center on health care transition supported by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Registration is not necessary. Use the information below to join the webinar.

**Date:** Friday, December 13, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**[Join Webex meeting](#)**

Meeting number (access code): 627 388 524

Meeting password: AutismServices

### **Join from a video system or application**

Dial: [627388524@nih.webex.com](mailto:627388524@nih.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter the meeting number.

### **Join by phone**

Call-in toll number (US and Canada): 1-650-479-3208

### **December 2019 Newsletter: Georgia's Tiered Connection:**

Happy Holidays! In this month's Georgia's Tiered Connection, we're recognizing **Douglas County School District** as the District of the Month, plus **Carroll County School** leaders discuss how MTSS is impacting gifted students. Also, we tell you how Georgia's Numeracy Project aligns with the framework. Click the link for details: [Georgia's Tiered Connection](#).

December 2019 Newsletter: [Teacher Tools](#):

**Keeping Teachers First!** Get ready for a special edition of Teacher Tools coming in January. We have been receiving your questions and comments through our [Share Your Feedback form](#) and we will answer your questions in depth next month. December's newsletter includes a huge announcement about Georgia's latest partnership with **CEEDAR**, accessibility and tech tools, and a recap of the inspirational 2019 One Team, One Dream G-CASE Conference. Read more here: [Teacher Tools](#).

### **Family Engagement Updates:**

The 2020 Parent Survey link will open on January 15, 2020.

The FY21 Ga Parent Mentor Partnership Application for Participation will be available in January and due back to the GaDOE by March 1, 2020. The GaPMP Winter Newsletter is attached.

### **Attachment titles that were included with the December 13 Email Blast.**

-  ASPIREPlus Follow-UP\_ASPIRE ONLY
-  ASPIREPlus Follow-UP\_SDLMI ONLY
-  ASPIREPlus Follow-UP\_SDLMIandASPIRE
-  December 13th Email Blast
-  Newsletter winter editon 2019
-  Q-A Vision Screenings (Directors' Webinar)

Friday, December 20, 2019

Directors,

First and foremost, we hope that you are intentional to spend time relaxing with family and friends. We are excited about the current progress and look forward to seeing each of you next year. Attached to the email blast, you will find a Department of Early Care and Learning FAQ about Support Centers, which may be helpful.

On Thursday, we hosted an awareness webinar to offer technical assistance to support the FY20 Disproportionality Determinations. You may access the archived recording using the following link: [FY20 Dispro Recording](#).

As a reminder, the Public Reports of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for each LEA will be available on **Monday, December 23, 2019**. Prior to posting the APR publicly, we ask that Special Education Directors review their data. This link will navigate you to UAT portal (test site) where you may view your data *prior to public posting*. <https://uat.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services> **This is the test site, not the actual Special Education webpage**. Click on "Special Education Annual Reports" under the Resource Links on the right side of the page. Enter your LEA Name or a zip code in your LEA.

### **GIMC Updates:**

The annual APH census will begin 1/6/2020. There are only three criteria for students to qualify for quota funding; 1. Blind or Functioning at the Definition of Blind, 2. Enrolled in a school, and 3. Consent to release PII on file with the GIMC. It is important that all eligible students are counted because districts rely on the consolidated funds to help support the education of the blind. Instructions for authorizing district representatives, updating and adding student records are available at this [GIMC/educator page link](#).

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Special education directors, transition specialists and personnel, teachers, counselors and GLRS directors are encouraged to participate (preferably as teams). Training dates, locations and registration links are listed below. Choose only one date.

<p>Friday, January 24, 2020 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Department of Exceptional Education East DeKalb Campus 5839 Memorial Dr Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 29, 2020 9:00 am – 1:00 pm South Georgia GLRS 245 North Robinson Street Lenox, Georgia 31637</p>	<p>Friday, January 31, 2020 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Georgia Department of Education Twin Towers West, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Rooms Atlanta, GA 30334</p>
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**Registration:** <https://form.jotform.com/93226158976166>

If you have any questions, contact Elise James ([ejames@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ejames@doe.k12.ga.us)).

**Attachment titles that were included with the December 20 Email Blast.**

-  ASPIREPlus\_ASPIREOnly
-  ASPIREPlus\_SDLMI and ASPIRE
-  ASPIREPlus\_SDLMI Only
-  December 20 Email Blast
-  FAQSupportCentersLEAsDOE