



## September Friday Email Blast

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**Friday, September 6, 2019**

Directors,

The Implementation Manual Webpage has been updated with Vision and Hearing Screening Best Practices. We will discuss this content further during the upcoming General Supervision and IDEA Implementation Trainings on September 18 and 25. The agenda topics will be Vision and Hearing Screenings, Young Children, Specially Designed Instruction, IEP Process and the 2020 Vision.

**FY20 General Supervision and IDEA Implementation Training  
September 18, 2019 (Anderson Center, Macon)**

OR

**September 25, 2019 (GaDOE West Tower 20<sup>th</sup> Floor Floyd Room, Atlanta)**  
[General Supervision and IDEA Implementation Training – September 25, 2019](#)

The next Directors' Webinar will be **Tuesday, September 10 @ 1:00 pm**. You may register using the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6282121657088215052>.

At the end of the 2019 school year, we shared a survey in the email blast, which was administered by University of North Georgia and Valdosta State University to identify Special Education teachers' feelings of preparedness for utilizing High Leverage Practices. The researchers would like to collect additional responses. Please distribute the information below to P-12 special educators (both general curriculum and adapted curriculum).

The researchers will use the data to look at program improvement measures across both the University of North Georgia and Valdosta State University. The project has received Institutional Review Board approval from UNG. If teachers have completed the survey per the distribution last school year, then they should disregard this notice. The survey will take approximately 9 minutes and will only be available for approximately a month:

[https://ung.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eDnbjthqDFpnUuF](https://ung.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDnbjthqDFpnUuF).

Please note the updates for the Transition Webinar Series and Other Reminders attached to this email blast.

**Email Blast Items**

[Parent to Parent of Georgia \(P2P\) Trainings](#)

[Verification for Indicators 11 and 12](#)

[Cross Functional Monitoring](#)

[Georgia Autism and Behavior Support Initiative \(GABSI\)](#)

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[September 2019 Newsletter: Georgia's Tiered Connection](#)

[September 2019 Newsletter: Teacher Tools](#)

[FY20 Transition Planning](#)

[Opportunity for Families from DBHDD](#)

**[Parent to Parent of Georgia \(P2P\) Trainings on \(September 10 and 11\):](#)**

GA Medicaid Basics and an Overview of Home and Community Based Services  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019  
Dougherty/Calhoun/Lee/Baker

Georgia's Home and Community-Based Waivers (NOW/COMP)  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019  
Whitfield/Catoosa/Walker/Murray

Georgia's Home and Community-Based Waivers (NOW/COMP)  
Wednesday, September 11, 2019  
Paulding/Cobb/Douglas/Polk

**Verification for Indicators 11 and 12 (September 13 Due Date):**

LEAs were required to report to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) their performance in meeting timelines for Indicator 11 (Initial Eligibility/Child Find) and Indicator 12 (Early Childhood Transition) for FY19. LEAs were randomly selected to complete a verification process. The LEAs that were selected were notified by portal email on August 20, 2019 with instructions. LEAs must submit the list of all students that were evaluated July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 to the portal application by September 13, 2019.

For questions or concerns, please contact Laurie Ponsell at [lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us).

**Cross Functional Monitoring (Submit Survey by 9-16-19):**

As a reminder, LEAs are still able to request consideration for a technical assistance visit as a component of their Cross Functional Monitoring. This visit will be scheduled **after** the date of the student records review which will take place in conjunction with the other Federal Programs.

For the onsite technical assistance visits, ONLY those LEAs on the FY19 **or** FY20 monitoring cycle will be considered. LEAs will not be required to submit any additional data and the visit is strictly to provide technical assistance. Since only two LEAs from each size group will be selected, we will use Annual Performance Summary data to make our selection in the event that we have more than two requests from each size group. Please use this link to send your requests for the onsite technical assistance visit:

[Cross-Functional Monitoring On-Site Technical Assistance](#)

Please make your request for technical assistance visits by **September 16, 2019**. Selection will be made by the end of September. After the LEA has been notified of their selection, LEAs will be contacted to schedule a date for the onsite visit. Typically, the technical assistance team will consist of the District Liaison and one or two additional members of the Division for Special Education.

In addition, one item we would like to clarify for the CFM process is the order of the rules outline. The rules outline has changed to reflect the order of the actual state rules. **There is no need to reorganize your LEA policies and procedures to match the revised outline.** As long as the required components are included in the LEA documents, the actual order of the components do not have to be identical to the checklist posted on the website. If you have additional questions, please contact your District Liaison.

**Georgia Autism and Behavior Support Initiative (GABSI) (Beginning October Attachment):**

Please invite your teachers and therapists who work with students with Autism to participate in the 2019-2020 GABSI meetings. Trainings are FREE and provide a powerful opportunity for job-alike peers to collaborate, share best-practice strategies, and problem-solve. Dates and topics for the 2019-2020 meetings included in the email blast attachment.

### **FY19 Timelines (Notification by October):**

LEAs that did not demonstrate 100% compliance on indicator 11 or 12 or both 11 & 12, thank you for submitting the data required for Prong 1. LEAs will be notified through portal email in October when Prong 2 data submission is available. Instructions for submitting will be provided. For questions or concerns, please contact Laurie Ponsell at [lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **GIMC (Attachment):**

There are several instances in which districts are unable to recover GIMC materials requested from the State to provide accessibility for students. If needed, you may use the sample verbiage to address this concern (Overdue Materials Letter Template).

Please notify the GIMC if you are unable to recover the GIMC materials after sending written correspondence. These items will be marked “purged” or “lost” in our inventory, and districts will not be responsible for such items.

The document is also available on the Educator tab of the GIMC.org web page. Contact Carson Cochran, [ccochran@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ccochran@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

### **September 2019 Newsletter: Georgia’s Tiered Connection (Attachment):**

September's newsletter features resources and materials for implementing Evidence-Based Practices at Tier I and Evidence-Based Interventions at Tiers II & III, plus tips for eliminating barriers that schools and districts often encounter when implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). [Georgia's Tiered Connection](#).

### **September 2019 Newsletter: Teacher Tools (Attachment):**

September's newsletter features the latest video in the Division of Special Education Services and Supports' **2020 Vision: Keeping Students First video series**. The video explains our commitment to help teachers and local education agencies understand what role each member of the division plays in supporting your work. Plus, learn more about Georgia's Mobile Audiology Program (MAP) and professional learning for **Effective Instruction for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**. [Teacher Tools](#).

### **FY20 Transition Planning (Repeat):**

The Transition Planning Survey will no longer be used for monitoring transition plans. Beginning with the FY20 Cross Functional Monitoring (CFM) cycle, the results from the 10 transition plan items reviewed during this monitoring will be reported for Indicator 13 compliance. All other districts who aren't being monitored will receive an N/A on their District Determination after FY20 until they go through CFM. Additional information and resources for Transition Planning will be provided as the CFM cycle begins. For questions or comments, please contact your District Liaison or Laurie Ponsell [lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lponsell@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **Opportunity for Families from DBHDD's Division of Developmental Disabilities (Beginning 9-11-19):**

DBHDD's Division of Developmental Disabilities is hosting a series of five public forums to collect feedback from families on services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities(I/DD).

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the DBHDD division director, Mr. Ron Wakefield, and his team and participate in a focused discussion on the direction of services for individuals with

I/DD in Georgia.

At this meeting you will:

- Receive updates from DBHDD on services such as: New I/DD Connects portal, NOW/COMP waiver services and planning list, supported employment, participant-direction service delivery model, crisis services, support coordination, and DBHDD regional field office operations.
- Participate in a focused discussion with other families and provide feedback on current I/DD services.
- Network with other families who share your experiences and concerns.
- Use your lived experience to impact the future of I/DD services provided in Georgia.

Who should attend:

- Self-Advocates
- Family members of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are currently receiving I/DD services or are on the planning list.

Dates:

September 11, Mansour Center - Marietta 6:30pm-8:30pm

September 17, Busbee Conference Center at Gwinnett Tech, Lawrenceville 6:30pm-8:30pm

September 23, Anderson Conference Center, Macon 6:30pm-8:30pm

September 25, Armstrong Conference Center, Savannah 6:30pm-8:30pm

October 11, Virtual Forum Noon-1:00pm

Please register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-forums-dbhdd-division-of-developmental-disabilities-tickets-68176258023>

Venue address is listed on the registration ticket. Details for the online virtual forums will be sent upon registration.

For planning purposes, accommodations requests must be made when registering for the events.

If you need further assistance, need to request accommodations, or have questions, contact the organizer at 888-512-5736 or [rita@ritayoungassociates.com](mailto:rita@ritayoungassociates.com)

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

 9.10.2019.GA Medicaid Basics and an overview of HCBS.LJ.Albany

 9.10.2019.GA Medicaid NOW-COMP.DB.Dalton

 9.11.2019.GA Medicaid NOW-COMP.DB.Paulding

 GABSI Trainings

 Georgia\_s\_Tiered\_Connection\_-\_September\_2019

 Overdue Materials Letter Template

 September 6 Email Blast

 Teacher\_Tools\_-\_September\_2019

 Transition Webinar Series and Other Reminders

**Friday, September 13, 2019**

**There wasn't an email blast on September 13 Email Blast.**

**Friday, September 20, 2019**

Directors,

The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2019-2020 Leadership Council is proud to announce the 2019 Phil Pickens Leadership Award winners. Each year the Leadership Council recognizes a special education director and parent mentor who demonstrate outstanding leadership in the collaborative work among home, school and community to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, outstanding contributions to the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership program, and outstanding leadership accomplishments in special education.

Join us in celebrating both **Julie Hardeman, parent mentor for Chatham County Schools,** and **Audrey Walters, Special Education Director for Montgomery Schools.**

Each year, parent mentors collaborate within their districts, as well as, with community partners to impact student outcomes through family engagement. Parent mentors **plan, implement and evaluate** their initiatives and **build capacity by sharing** what's working. The GaPMP Family Engagement Framework utilizes the Evidence to Practice (E2P) process for data collection and has provided content for the Best Practice Summaries (attached). The contents of the Best Practice documents are derived from the annual reports submitted by parent mentors on their target work with families. The data collection with target families is only a part of the great work that the parent mentors do every day; but collectively, it assists us with measuring and sharing the **impact of family engagement** on positive student outcomes. On **Monday, September 30, 2019**, we will offer a webinar for parent mentors, special education directors and others who would like a walk-through of the GaPMP Family Engagement Framework toolkit.

Learning targets for this webinar:

I can explain where to locate the GaPMP Family Engagement Framework toolkit.

I can identify at least two tools found in the toolkit that would be helpful for planning, implementing, or evaluating target work with families.

Please register for *A Walk-through of the GaPMP Family Engagement Framework Toolkit* on Sep 30, 2019 1:00 PM EDT at:

**Link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4691762752408395789>

#### **Email Blast Items**

[ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> - Coaching Model and Train the Trainer](#)

[Special Education Directors' Forum \(October 10<sup>th</sup>\)](#)

[Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students \(October and 10\)](#)

[GVEST \(October 16-18, 2019\)](#)

[Increasing Postsecondary Opportunities and Success for Students with Disabilities](#)

[IEP Service \(Consultative\)](#)

[Dismissal from Related Services](#)

[GABSI](#)

### **ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> - Coaching Model and Train the Trainer for the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (October 2 and 3):**

This training will provide participants with the skills and materials needed to train others to implement the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI). The districts that wish to implement SDLMI in the ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> initiative should send a representative to one of the training days listed to learn to be a trainer. They will be considered the “expert” for training in the SDLMI. Any district that is not in ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> and wishes to implement the SDLMI can also send a representative. GLRS directors and/or designees are encouraged to participate. **The materials and structure will be different from previous trainings so anyone in ASPIRE<sup>Plus</sup> who has been trained previously needs to attend to receive additional information.**

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

**Dates:** October 2, 2019 or October 3, 2019 or

**Time:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Location:** GaDOE, West Tower, Training Rooms A, B, and C  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30334

**Registration Link:** [ASPIRE \(Plus\) Coaching Model Training October 2, 2019](#)

OR

**Registration Link:** [ASPIRE \(Plus\) Coaching Model Training October 3, 2019](#)

### **Special Education Directors' Forum (October 10):**

The Directors' Forum (September 26) **has been rescheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>**. As a reminder, there should be representation from each GLRS region, as appropriate. The meeting location will be Monroe County Schools' Board Room (25 Brooklyn Avenue Forsyth, Georgia). The time will be 11 am – 1 pm.

### **Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students Updates (October 8 and 10):**

#### **2019-2020 MTSS Professional Learning Calendar**

The 2019-2020 Professional Learning Calendar for Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students is accessible on [www.gadoe.org/MTSS](http://www.gadoe.org/MTSS). The next trainings will take a look at identifying student needs through Screening on **October 8 and 10, 2019**. We are offering the one-day trainings in Macon and Kennesaw. Participants only need to choose one day to attend. Here is the link to view topics, dates, locations, and registration details.

Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/5521679626477044493>

#### **MTSS Infrastructure Webinar**

Schools are complex organizations that are influenced by major interconnected systems. Together, these parts impact the whole child. Listen to the latest MTSS Infrastructure webinar for tips to help ensure effective implementation.

Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/5521679626477044493>

#### **New MTSS/SST Online Application**

We are pleased to announce that the MTSS/SST Online Application is scheduled to be released statewide January **2020** for implementation for 2020-2021 school year. The newly developed MTSS/SST Online application is intended to help districts and schools to facilitate data-based decision making within a tiered system of supports for students. This application is a tool that districts and schools may use to create and maintain a record of a student's response to intervention.

## General Features

Georgia's Online MTSS/SST application is

- Accessible to all Georgia districts and web based
- Provides real-time data
- Allows transfer of student data if a student moves anywhere in Georgia
- Fully integrated with the Student Longitudinal Data System, or SLDS.
- Aligns with Georgia's Online IEP (GO-IEP) application which is also a part of SLDS

If you have any questions about the application or the available resources, please feel free to contact Rondalyn Pinckney ([rpinckney@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:rpinckney@doe.k12.ga.us)) or Karen Suddeth ([ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ksuddeth@doe.k12.ga.us)).

### **GVEST (October 16-18, 2019):**

We are looking forward to seeing as many of our Teachers of the Visually Impaired/Orientation and Mobility Specialists as possible at this year's Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training.

The registration is open and will close October 6<sup>th</sup>. We are working in collaboration with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency with a focus on transition for students with visual impairments.

Please [Click here](#) if you would like register to attend the GVEST Conference.

### **Increasing Postsecondary Opportunities and Success for Students and Youth with Disabilities:**

The United States Department of Education issued a questions and answers document (Q&A), with an accompanying Appendix, on the dual enrollment of students with disabilities in secondary school and postsecondary education institutions, including comprehensive transition programs. The Q&A and Appendix describe how State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies may coordinate to assist students and youth with disabilities, including students and youth with intellectual disabilities, at postsecondary education institutions through appropriate supports funded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The following topics are addressed:

- The opportunity for students with disabilities to enroll in postsecondary education programs while still in high school;
- The opportunity for students and youth with disabilities to enroll in comprehensive transition and other postsecondary programs for individuals with disabilities after leaving high school;
- The coordination of transition-related services that students with disabilities may receive under the IDEA and under the VR program; and
- The financial aid available to students with disabilities enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual disabilities offered at Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

Link: [Increasing Postsecondary Opportunities and Success for Students and Youth with Disabilities \(PDF, 400KB\)](#)

### **IEP Service (Consultative):**

Consultation is a direct service for a student that can only be provided in the regular classroom or general ed environment. IDEA does not define an amount of time for Consultative Services and the IEP committee can determine the appropriate amount of time. However, in order to report a Consultative Service for FTE, the services must be provided for at least 60 minutes per month and at least the majority of a segment on FTE Count Day.

Often, services for a small amount of time provided outside of the general ed environment are incorrectly reported as consultative. Those services should be designated in the IEP and reported in FTE as individual or small group instruction outside of the regular classroom or general ed environment.

In our Implementation Manual, the services grid will be updated to aligned with this guidance.

### **Dismissal from Related Services:**

If a student is currently receiving a related service, such as OT, and the team believes the student no longer needs that service, this this decision would not be a dismissal. It is an IEP decision about the services that a student needs much like a decision about whether a student continues to need a math or social skills service.

If the IEP team feels that they have the information they need to make a decision regarding a change in any service, there is no need to reevaluate.

If the IEP team feels that they need additional information before they make a decision regarding a change in any service, they will need to reevaluate and document the results of the reevaluation in an IEP.

### **Georgia Autism and Behavior Support Initiative (GABSI):**

Please invite your teachers and therapists who work with students with autism to participate in regional Georgia Autism and Behavior Support Initiative (GABSI) sessions. Sessions are facilitated by regional experts in the field of Autism. Topics will include Best Practices in Classroom Set-Up, Levels of Communication, Data Collection, Academic Access to the Georgia Standards (all levels), and Sensory Integration. Participants are welcome to attend one or both days of the Fall and Winter sessions.

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://georgiaautism.net/conference-registration/>

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

-  DSC\_0185
-  DSC\_0245
-  FY19-Graduation-BP-Summary
-  FY19-Partnerships-BP-Summary (1)
-  FY19-Postsecondary-BP-Summary (1)
-  FY19-SDetermination-BP-Summary (2)
-  FY20 Division for Special Education Save the Dates\_Email Blast
-  Walters PPA press release
-  USED Sept 17 2019 Postsecondary Opportunities and Success for SWD
-  September 20th Email Blast
-  Hardeman PPA press release
-  FY20 GABSI FLYER