



*We will lead the nation in improving student achievement.*

**DIVISIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES and SUPPORTS**

**MAY 2009 DL UPDATE**

***Spring Special Education Leadership Meeting Evaluation***

If you attended the Spring Special Education Meeting in Athens, please be on the lookout during the upcoming weeks for the electronic evaluation survey. We are very committed to reviewing your feedback as it plays a critical role in the planning of future meetings. Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us know "what worked" and "what could have worked better." Also, be sure to include suggestions for session format, time of year and other feedback you may have. Our goal continues to be providing local systems with the support needed to successfully improve the performance of students with disabilities.

***Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Portal Reporting Directions***

Districts that were required to provide Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) and districts that opted to provide CEIS during the 2008-2009 school year must enter student data into the CEIS portal application on the GaDOE website. The student entries are due by August 1, 2009. Attached you will find an electronic document with helpful screen shots for accessing the application; It will also be available on the GaDOE portal under Special Education Documents, DL Updates.

***Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Documentation***

Districts identified as having significant disproportionality for the identification, placement, and discipline of children who are children with disabilities must submit the Coordinated Early Intervening Services Documentation (CEIS) form to the State by August 1, 2009. Districts opting to use up to 15% of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds to provide CEIS for at-risk, struggling students must submit the CEIS documentation form to the State by August 1, as well. Please note that districts must use data to design appropriate services but are not required to complete the data analysis tab.

An electronic copy of the CEIS documentation form is included as an attachment and is available in the DL Update section under Special Education documents in the GaDOE portal. Remember to use the GaDOE Disproportionality Website as a resource to address disproportionality in your district.

[http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCDispro](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCDispro)

**Dispute Resolution Tip of the Month**

In this past year several complaints have been filed with the Division for Special Education Services and Supports alleging that the services determined by the IEP Team were not being implemented by the local system. In planning for summer training and reviewing your special education procedures, you may want to consider the processes your staff have in place to document the provision of services to students. Some suggestions of data that could be used to document the implementation of the IEP include: student data sheets, progress monitoring logs, individual student schedules, student communication notebooks, dated student work samples, documentation of communication with parents, service provider logs and personnel attendance records. Most of these suggestions are things your teachers may already have in place as an important part of the maintenance of student progress data. A reminder to your staff regarding the importance of routine and timely communication with parents is important. This is a strategy useful in identifying parental concerns quickly and working to resolve issues surrounding the implementation of the IEP. If you have other ideas to share, please send them to me and I will share in future updates.

Debbie Gay [dgay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dgay@doe.k12.ga.us)

**Illuminate LIVE! Special Education Professional Learning Series Reminder**

To support local school systems in providing training to teachers and administrators on various topics regarding special education, the Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports continue to conduct an ongoing series of on-line learning sessions through Illuminate LIVE! The sessions are recorded after each live session and are intended to provide current information on the issues that affect students with disabilities and their families. Many systems have developed PLU courses around these live and recorded sessions. The Illuminate sessions are also being used by systems in order to train new staff on various topics. The training is divided into sections (e.g., Transition, Co-teaching, Positive Behavior Supports, Compliance, IEPs, Access to GAA, Academic Performance, Family Engagement, Assistive Technology, etc.), therefore training and/or PLU courses can be designed around many different topics according to staff needs. *Please remember to share this information with all of your schools.* This month the following Illuminate LIVE! sessions will be live:

May 4, 2009  
May 12, 2009

Issues in OT and PT  
Assistive Technology for Transition to Post Secondary

In order to access these sessions please go to [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org), click on Elluminate Live under Announcements, click on date of session on calendar, click on session title at least 30 minutes before it begins, passwords are no longer required.

### **FY 10 IDEA Flow Through and Preschool Grants and FY 10 ARRA Flow Through and Preschool Grants**

The information below is duplicated from an April 23 email to special education directors from Nancy O'Hara, director of the Division for Special Education Services.

The ESTIMATED FY 2010 IDEA Flow through and Preschool grants and the IDEA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)/Preschool grants are posted in the GaDOE Portal. Once you log in to the portal, select View Documents, then click on the words Special Education, then select from the list of documents: FY10 Estimated Allocations for Portal.

Each grant is budgeted separately to show the 50% Stimulus amount available in May and October and the maximum 15% Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) amount. This is intended to assist the district in budgeting and tracking each grant's expenditures for ARRA reporting requirements. The State Board will meet on April 28th to approve the disbursement of the initial 50% of the ARRA funds. Even though these funds are considered FY10 and will be included in those budgets, they may be expended following the Board approval and submission and approval of required documents in the Consolidated Application. The regular IDEA grants will be presented to the State Board in June and the remaining 50% of the ARRA grants in late September when they are received by GaDOE.

In addition, the 50% reduction of local effort has been calculated in Column G for each district (the increase of funds from the initial FY09 allocation to the FY10 IDEA and Stimulus flow through only times 50%). This amount should be budgeted from your Stimulus grant. Those districts who were determined "Did Not Meet" target requirements and/or disproportionate cannot use the permissive use of the 50% reduction and are shown accordingly.

The last column in the spreadsheet indicates your per child average of the IDEA grant. This will enable you to calculate support for those students served through the GNETS programs. Remember, GNETS are not receiving other ARRA funds because they are a program and not a school system, therefore, they receive no flow through funds. Your students attend GNETS and we encourage you to consult with them to determine how stimulus funds can improve outcomes for students with disabilities served through GNETS.

Please feel free to contact either Nancy O'Hara ([nohara@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:nohara@doe.k12.ga.us)), Kim Hartsell ([khartsel@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:khartsel@doe.k12.ga.us)), your district liaison, or Harry Repsher ([hrepsher@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:hrepsher@doe.k12.ga.us)) if you have any questions.

### **Deafblind: Georgia Sensory Assistance Project Summer Institute**

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project 2009 Summer Institute will be held Wednesday, June 24 through Friday, June 26, 2009 at the Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon. The focus will be *Communication and Literacy for Children with Vision and Hearing Loss and Multiple Disabilities*. Lodging is free for those who stay on campus. There is no registration fee. Two PLUs are available for participants who attend each day. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Directors, please be sure to share this information with the appropriate teachers in your district.

### **Timelines Summary Report**

The FY09 Timelines Summary Report with directions is on the GaDOE portal at View Documents: Special Education (click on words not folder): Select Timeline Instruction or Timelines Summary Form (on the right). Timelines Summary Report data must cover fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The **Timelines Summary Report will be due July 31, 2009**. Reports will be accepted any time prior to this date. The instructions can assist the system in completing the form. The form has sections with automatic calculations based on the data entered. Red cells showing on the completed form indicate a problem with the data entered. Review the data to determine reason for red cell(s) and make corrections before submitting.

Note the following allowable exceptions that may be deducted from the number late for each timeline category and use professional judgment in making approved lateness decisions.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Exception</b>
Initial Eligibility	1. Parent repeatedly fails or refuses to produce the child for evaluation. 2. Extenuating circumstances, e.g. illness, unusual evaluation needs, or revocation of parent's consent for evaluation. 3. Child enrolls in a school from another system with the 60 day timeframe in process and the parents have agreed to a different timeline.
Redetermination Eligibility	4. Child enrolls from another school system with eligibility already outdated.
Babies Can't Wait	5. Parent refusal to provide consent caused delays in evaluation or initial services.

#### **Things to Remember about Timeline Reporting:**

1. Student failing vision or hearing screening is not an acceptable/excusable reason for delayed/late timelines. Systems should review policies and procedures to correct this problem.
2. Systems should not wait to compile the timeline information until the report due date. Monthly tracking is recommended to ensure accurate data and to identify areas for correction.

3. Timeline data are collected for all initial evaluations to determine eligibility for special education and all redeterminations of eligibilities. This includes speech/language and all other eligibilities, including those that do not require a psychological evaluation.
4. Referrals from BCW made no later than 90 days prior to the third birthday or as early as 9 months will be reported on the BCW timeline. Those referred less than 90 days should be reported on the initial timeline report instead of the BCW report.
5. There is not a 60 day timeline for re-evaluations. If the team recommends a comprehensive or partial evaluation for eligibility information, the evaluation must be completed and the new eligibility established before the previous eligibility expires.
6. If the team redetermines that the current eligibility stands, this determination must be done before the previous eligibility expires or the redetermination is considered late.
7. If you are a director and have given the timeline assignment to a staff member, please give them the instructions which are on the GaDOE portal with the report.
8. A power point from the Strategies for Improving Timelines presented at the Spring Meeting in Athens is on the GaDOE website under Conferences.
9. **Timelines Summary Report must be submitted to the department on time. This report is counted in the system's timely reporting and is used for determinations.**

The federal government has made some last minute changes to the reporting of timelines that the department can address after the system has submitted the report. This may result in minor changes to the system's percentages. If changes should occur, the system will be notified.

All questions regarding the completion of the timeline summary report, clarification of exceptions and reporting the timeline data should be directed to Kathy Giddens at 404-463-5280 or email at kgiddens@doe.k12.ga.us.

### **Illuminate Live: Issues in OT and PT.**

This is a reminder of the Illuminate Live! session on educationally relevant therapy and other issues in school based occupational and physical therapy being held Monday, May 4, 2009 from 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. We suggest that you login at least 30 minutes prior to the session, especially if you have no prior experience with Illuminate Live!. Follow the directions to ensure that the features work on your computer. Use the following steps to access the session:

1. To join go to the [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org), click on [georgiastandards.org](http://georgiastandards.org), click on Illuminate Live under Announcements on right side of the home page, go to date on calendar, and click on session, no password is required.

2. If you miss the session, you can access the recorded session by clicking on the blue bar marked "recording".

Please pass this information on to all providers who would like to participate in this event. We look forward to this lively discussion. Please submit your concerns and questions prior to the Elluminate session. Send them by April 30th to [Klynch@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:Klynch@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Camp Juliena 2009**

Come join us at Camp Juliena 2009! Camp Juliena is a program under Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. We provide opportunities for children and teens who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to interact with their peers in a safe, fun, and nurturing environment. Our volunteer staff is comprised of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing individuals who serve as role models for the campers. Teen campers enjoy activities like caving, kayaking, and high ropes. Youth campers have fun at the lake, play lots of games, make crafts, and learn about nature.

This will be our 18<sup>th</sup> year in operation. Teen Camp will be held June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 4<sup>th</sup> at Camp Lookout in Rising Fawn, GA, and Youth Camp will be July 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> at Camp Viola in LaGrange, GA. Both are sleep-away camps.

This year, we are limited to 40 youth campers and 20 teen campers, and spaces are filling up quickly! In order to reserve a spot for your camper(s), APPLY TODAY! Send a completed registration form and the \$20 registration fee to reserve your spot at camp as soon as possible. The remaining camp fees and full application packet are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A limited number of scholarships are available for those in need.

For more information, registration forms, and applications, go to our website at [www.gachi.org](http://www.gachi.org) and click on the link to Camp Juliena. You can also contact our Co-Directors, John and Bonna, at the email address below. Don't let your camper who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing miss this exciting opportunity!!

#### **Camp Juliena**

**GA Council for the Hearing Impaired, Inc., 4151 Memorial Dr., Suite 103-B  
Decatur, GA 30032 Phone: (404) 292-5312 Email: [campjuliena@gmail.com](mailto:campjuliena@gmail.com),  
Phone: Bonna (770) 856-2492 or John (678) 549-7063  
Fax: 404-299-3642**

### **Georgia PINES Recruiting Teachers, Audiologists, and Speech/Language Pathologists**

Georgia PINES needs teachers of the deaf and hard-of-hearing, audiologists and SLPs experienced with young deaf and hard-of-hearing children as parent advisors all over the state. *We have a great need for these professionals in the rural areas of Georgia.* Contracting with Georgia PINES is a part-time position

outside regular school hours. Compensation is \$45 per home visit. Most full-time working contractors limit themselves to two families. Retired contractors and stay-at-home contractors usually work with several families.

If you are interested in more information visit the Georgia PINES website at <http://www.gapines.info>. Training as a parent advisor gives you up-to-date information on hearing aids, cochlear implants, and collaboration with parents and professionals. Children with consistent Georgia PINES services make a difference in our classrooms! Language and education is our goal. At our website read the information under "Training." Complete the registration intent form on the home page and submit. You could make a difference in the life of a deaf or hard-of-hearing and their family.

**SKI-HI Training (both sessions required): July 7-10 and July 19-22, 2009**  
**Contact Alice Stanley, SKI-HI Coordinator, Georgia PINES, Clarkston, GA**  
**at 1-800-522-8652 or, in metro Atlanta, 404-298-4880 or [astanley@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:astanley@doe.k12.ga.us)**

**Autism Academy sponsored by GaDOE: SAVE THE DATES**

In response to system requests, the Autism Academy will provide an in-depth overview of autism spectrum disorders and an understanding of needs for students with autism to include the full ASD spectrum. Intended for educators who are in the classroom, attendees will be provided various strategies, educational practices and methodologies for students with autism, including classroom set up and district program design. Attendance is limited to two classroom professionals (preferably a teacher/SLP team), so selection should be based on staff dedicated to building capacity within your local system. Registration information will be forth-coming soon and for additional information you may contact Dr. Alice Murphy [mmurphy@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mmurphy@doe.k12.ga.us) or 404-657-9957. **Autism training sessions for special education directors will be held at a later date.**

Athens Area  
June 15 - 18, 2009  
8:30-4:30 daily

Perry  
June 23 - 26, 2009  
The Herman Ragin Center  
1100 Main Street  
Perry, Georgia 31069  
8:30 - 4:30 daily

**Dates to Remember:**

**May**

- 1 VI Consortium Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
- 4 Issues in OT and PT ElluminateLIVE! webinar
- 11 Focus Monitoring Applications Due for Parent and Peer Participants
- 11 Special Education Directors' Elluminate with Kim Hartsell and Nancy O'Hara
- 12 Assistive Technology for Transition to Post Secondary ElluminateLIVE! webinar
- 15-16, Georgia Vision Educators Lit-R-C Weekend at the Smokey Powell Center at the Georgia Academy for the Blind, Macon
- 29-30-31 Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Clarkston

**June**

- 15-18 GaDOE Autism Academy, Athens
- 20-21 Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), Valdosta State University, Valdosta
- 23-26 GaDOE Autism Academy, Perry
- 24-26 Georgia Sensory Assistance Project Summer Institute  
Communication and Literacy for Children with Vision and Hearing Loss and Multiple Disabilities, Georgia Academy for the Blind, Macon

**July**

- 31 Timeline Summary Reports Due