

October Friday Email Blasts

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Many of you are on break this week and I hope a short break gives you a time for some relaxation. Please continue to send your questions to the GaDOE through your DLs or directly to me. We will again have a Q&A section in the Directors webinar on October 24 at 1:00 PM. The Director's Forum will be held in Monroe County Schools Education Center in Forsyth, GA. on October 20 at 11:00 AM. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Debbie

Directions are included below:



Directions to MEC.doc

Autism Training for Capacity Building - ANCA Autism Assessment Project:

Please remember to register your Cohort 1 participants for the continuation of the ANCA Project. As a continuing training, ANCA is open to only those who participated in the project last year. Registration is open via our special education website.

We hope to begin a Cohort 2 this year which will be open to new participants.

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCANCA

Autism Training for Capacity Building - GATTAP Regional Team Meetings:

GATTAP Regional Team Meetings begin next week and registration is open with seats still available. This training is open to anyone and you may register via our special education website.

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCGATTAP

Preschool Exit Data Collection:

Here is the Preschool Exit Data Spreadsheet and the Jing tutorial for using the spreadsheet. Neither one are perfect but I think they are acceptable. Please remember that you are not required to use this format for collecting your preschool exit data.

The GaDOE preschool exit collection will change in the FY12 year. This collection will no longer be at the student level but will require only aggregate numbers. The Preschool Exit Data Spreadsheet provided in this email is an optional tool that has been developed for your use locally. The link will take you to a "Jing" tutorial for using the spreadsheet. Please remember that you are not required to use this format for collecting your preschool exit data, however it should assist you in tracking students and accurately completing the required exiting report next summer. If the link is not working - cut and paste into your browser.

<http://screencast.com/t/Y2RczgXDaxkv>



Preschool Exit Data Excel Template.xlsx

Annual Review Dates Clarification:

If an IEP date is May 4, 2011 then the annual review date must be no later than May 3, 2012. The next annual review must be held on or before May 3, 2012. If services change due to a significant grade level transition, the date ranges for a set of services can reflect when the services are delivered. (for example: services may change for students moving from elementary to middle school) This does not have an effect on the annual review date which must be calculated based on the annual review meeting date or the initial IEP initiation date.

GPAT Assistive Technology Consortium Registration

The Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT) is pleased to announce the continuation of the statewide Assistive Technology (AT) Consortium. These assistive technology consortiums will be locally facilitated, planned and conducted at regional sites throughout the state. We hope that your staff will be able to participate in this consortium to enhance your school district's capacity to provide assistive technology devices and services to students with disabilities.

Online registration for the 2011-2012 Statewide Assistive Technology Consortium will be **live by the middle of next week**. To register next week, please go to [Statewide AT Consortium Registration](#). For detailed information, please see the attached pdf document, **AT_Consortium_Info_2012.pdf**.



AT_Consortium_Info_2012.pdf

Course Number Follow-up:

The use of XX.8 course numbers is acceptable for students participating in the Georgia Alternative Assessment. This includes students in all grades and students eligibility for a regular high school diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The GAA Flag edit has been modified to allow the GAA Flag to report as yes (Y) for all high school grades.

Special Education Speech is a service, not a course or subject. As such, it does should not be reported with a course number. Speech pathologists and other related service providers may add their ID in one of the additional teacher ID fields on the content course record **or** use the 00.X to obtain access to LDS. The 00.X option is strictly for access to LDS. The content course record, in addition to providing access to LDS, may also let the district know which course to override for FTE funding. SIS vendor, scheduling and reporting process will determine the best practice for reporting FTE codes, such as speech (FTE Program Code = 3) that require an overwrite of the course number.

Friday, October 14, 2011



I know that you are moving forward full speed in the new school year by now. Please continue to let us know what you need and how the GaDOE can support the work you are doing each day. Many of us will be attending the GCASE conference in November and hope to see you there. Debbie

Reminder Special Director's Forum:

The Director's Forum will be held in Monroe County Schools Education Center in Forsyth, GA. on October 20 at 11:00 AM. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Directions are included below:



IDEA Funding:

There is a change in the IDEA Flowthru funding for FY12 based on the October 4th continuing Budget Resolution passed by Congress. Your IDEA Flowthru funds will be reduced by about 1.35%. Please plan on setting aside this amount of IDEA funds now. We are planning to go to the State Board with the new allocations in January with the revised FY12 Allocation. Estimated reduction amounts will be available at G-CASE - see Harry Repsher.

On September 21st, a letter was sent to States for requesting waivers of ESEA ARRA funds based on language within the ESEA regulations. IDEA regulations do not have this waiver language. Therefore, it is not applicable to IDEA ARRA grants.

NASDSE 2011-12 Professional Development Series:

The Division for Special Education Services and Supports is pleased to once again, make available free of charge the NASDSE 2011-12 Professional Development Series! This series is a fully accessible web delivery system that provides Georgia viewers with all related PowerPoint presentations and other resources to download. Beginning with the release dates the conferences will be available 24 hours/7days a week for the convenience of participants. Two conferences will be available on Oct 26 (fall release):

"We're Better Working Together: Recommendations for Improved Coordination Between Title I and the IDEA" and "Section 504 Issues for Students with Disabilities: Case Law and Implications for Practice".

The second two will be available on March 30 (spring release): **"Providing Education Assessments Appropriate for Every Student: Is It Possible?" and "It's 2012" Do You Know Where your RTI Is?"**

Prior to the first session you will be sent information about the presenters and the access code for Georgia in order to be able to access the series on-line.

Friday, October 21, 2011



You have made it past the first FTE count, which is one mark of the quickly passing time. I know that you are busy with all the work that you must do to keep the wheels turning in your school districts every day. I want to remind you that there will be a Directors Webinar at 1:00 PM on October 24. Debbie

<http://elluminate.gavirtualschool.org/dae/index.html>

GaDOE Staff Change:

Leah Tillery has resigned her position as the Speech and Language program specialist. We thank Leah for her contributions made the Division's work to support students during her tenure.

Paralegal Position for Dispute Resolution:

Please join us in welcoming Carol Cannon to the Division for Special Education Services and Supports. We have combined Mediation and Due Process Hearing Requests (formerly in the GaDOE Legal Services Division) with Formal Complaints in our division and Carol will now assist with all three areas. You can reach Carol at 404-656-6378 or ccannon@doe.k12.ga.us. Direct fax number 770-357-9340.

Dr. Barge's Bootstrap Power point:

I have included a copy of the power point Dr. Barge presented at the Bootstrap Conference this week. Much of the information presented in the power point will be reviewed in more detail during the GaDOE panel presentation at the upcoming GCASE conference.



Work Sampling Online Elluminate Session: Q & A

Date: Monday, October 31, 2011

Time: 2:00 -3:30 PM

Presenters: Jan Stevenson-GaDOE
Sherry Howard-Best Practices, GSU
Linda Snead-Sanders-Best Practices, GSU

Join Session:

http://elluminate.gavirtualschool.org:80/dae/join_meeting.html?meetingId=1258877193278

Add to Calendar:

http://elluminate.gavirtualschool.org:80/dae/build_calendar.event?meetingId=1258877193278&roleId=0

October 2011 CIA Monthly Update Newsletter:

Attached below is the October 2011 CIA Monthly Update Newsletter. In addition, there are two (2) other attachments that are referenced in the CIA October Newsletter. There is a total of three (3) attachments.



Preschool Exit Data Collection:

Here is the Preschool Exit Data Spreadsheet and the Jing tutorial for using the spreadsheet. Please remember that you are not required to use this format for collecting your preschool exit data.

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<http://screencast.com/t/Y2RczgXDaxkv>



GAA Webinar - A Review of Nonscorable Conditions and Strategies for Ensuring Scorable Portfolio Entries

This message serves to announce that the GaDOE Assessment Administration Division has scheduled a webinar related to the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) program entitled, *A Review of Nonscorable Conditions and Strategies for Ensuring Scorable Portfolio Entries*.

The webinar will be held on **Tuesday, November 1, 2011 from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**. This session will be recorded so that attendees, or those who are unable to attend, may access the session after this date.

The intended audience for this webinar includes Assessment Directors, Special Education Directors, local school administrators, Core Access Teachers, and others who are responsible for redelivering training to teachers who administer the GAA. The session will include a review of each nonscorable category and a discussion of the types of situations that result in a nonscorable code being assigned. Examples of the most common nonscorable situations will also be discussed. The session will conclude with strategies and suggestions for reviewing entries before submission for scoring. This webinar has been added to our original list of sessions again this year in response to requests from local systems and to assist with the ongoing process of portfolio peer review.

The *Illuminate Live!* website can be accessed through the link below; **no password is needed**. Assessment Directors are asked to attend this session during its live delivery (11/1/11).

<http://illuminate.gavirtualschool.org/testing>

A "Quick Start" guide for use in logging-in to *Illuminate Live!* is attached. **When logging in to the session, please make sure to include the name of your system next to your name so that we can record your system's attendance (i.e., Deborah Houston, Warren County).**

The presentation for the webinar will be available in the GAA Presentations portlet, on the GAA webpage, on Monday, October 31, 2011. The link to the GAA webpage is:

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_GAA

Thank you in advance for planning to attend this session. You may contact Deborah Houston at (404) 657-0251 or by email at dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us if you have any questions.

Friday, October 28, 2011

Hope you are enjoying some of the Fall weather and that you have a safe and happy Halloween! This season is always an exciting time in the schools! For those of you who tuned in to the Directors Webinar last Monday - my apologies for our technical issues.

We will be working to improve this communication process and are exploring some other options. We may have to discontinue the video feed as it has been suggested this creates a broadband issue. Debbie

Federal Register - notice of rule making -Medicaid Requirements :

I am sending you the link to the September 28th notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register for Part B related to parental consent to tap into Medicaid. Please note that comments are due by December 12th.

Here is the link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-28/pdf/2011-22784.pdf>

GNETS Program Operations Manual:

Below is an excerpt from the GNETS Program Operations Manual as a reminder about LEA responsibility for students placed in GNETS.

When a student receives services through a GNETS program, the responsibility for the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) remains with the LEA. All students served through a GNETS program must remain enrolled in the LEA where they reside; and the responsibility for providing any services outside of that IEP, such as Extended School Year Services, Summer School, Hospital/Homebound Services, Residential Services, or home-based instruction remains with the LEA.

The LEA representative must be present at IEP meetings and must participate in the development of the IEP, including the placement decision. Development and implementation of the IEP is still the responsibility of the LEA and, therefore, should be developed using the LEA forms and/or any electronic or web-based IEP programs.

The LEA and the GNETS program should work collaboratively to ensure that the therapeutic and educational services outlined in the IEP are provided to the student. The full continuum of placement options must be considered at IEP meetings (including part time placement in a GNETS program), and that decision must be based upon the student's needs and not the resources available in the LEA. If the IEP team determines that the GNETS placement is no longer appropriate or that a student requires a more restrictive setting such as residential placement or Hospital Homebound Services, the LEA is responsible for providing those services.

You can access the entire [GNETS Program Operations Manual](#) here. Please take a look and provide any feedback you have about the manual.

CEC Proposals:

Please remember that proposals for Georgia's 2012 CEC Conference are due no later than November 7th. It will be held on Feb. 24th and 25th in Macon. The link is <http://www.gacec.org/>.

Reminder: Special Education Topical Fact Sheets for Parents:

As a part of our collaboration with Parent to Parent of Georgia we have supported the development of Fact Sheets on varying topics that districts can share with families as well as teachers and administrative staff. These forms are available on the DOE website, on the [Parents' Rights webpage](#) as well as the P2P website, www.p2pga.org, in the following languages: Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Korean and Vietnamese. We have received

requests to consider adding additional translations in Farsi. If you have suggestions for other languages needed please let us know!

Other resources from Parent to Parent include:



Parent to Parent of Georgia_Kids in Crisis Service one pager.docx



October - December 2011at-a-glance.pdf

Also - please let your parents know about the Parent Rights videos in English and Spanish on the GaDOE website, [Parents' Rights webpage](#).

Updates on Longitudinal Data System:

As many of you are aware, Georgia has implemented the Longitudinal Data System (LDS) which houses valuable information about students in Georgia's public schools. The available data in LDS includes statewide assessments, enrollment, attendance, and other GTID linked information. This information can assist teachers, administrators, and other school personnel to make informed decisions regarding student learning. As School Improvement Specialists, this information will prove invaluable as you assist teachers and administrators in making data-driven educational decisions.

For additional information regarding LDS, please click on [Contact and Connect with LDS](#) to visit the webpage. On this page, you will find detailed information about LDS as well as a link to request training for your school or district. GaDOE has a team in place to train and assist districts in using LDS. The names of the team and the districts that they support can also be found on this page.

Please find attached the "2011-2012 Griffin RESA Professional Learning Catalog"



Georgia Nature Center:

Georgia Nature Center has extended through January offering field trip grants up to \$2,000 to schools in Georgia. Grants for Exceptional Students educators are being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 1-800-800-2786 ext. 3100 to speak with a field trip coordinator. View grant options here before calling: <http://Grants.NatureCenter.com>

Having trouble arranging buses for field trips? Grants can be applied toward discount charter bus packages: <http://Buses.NatureCenter.com>

Looking for something special for gifted students? Select a half-day or full-day EcoCamp program where students build solar toys and plant rare carnivorous plants: <http://www.EcoCamp.Org>

Reminder! 2011-2012 NASDSE Professional Development Series!

Two conferences became available on Oct 26th (fall release): "**We're Better Working Together: Recommendations for Improved Coordination Between Title I and the IDEA**" and "**Section 504 Issues for Students with Disabilities: Case Law and Implications for Practice**".

The second two will be available on March 30, 2012 (spring release): "**Providing Education Assessments Appropriate for Every Student: Is It Possible?**" and "**It's 2012! Do You Know Where your RTI Is?**"

The conference series will be accessible using a web-delivery system and all conferences in the 2011-2012 will be accessible to you by using the following directions:

- Open your web browser to <http://pd.nasdse.org/>

- Click on the conference you would like to view
- You will be taken to a screen that asks for an access code. The access code will not change throughout the series. All of the documents needed for participation will be directly available for download when participants log in.

Georgia's access code is: 1112GA55

Key features to note:

- The web-delivery system features full-text searchable knowledge base to allow you to search for key concepts throughout the conference
- All Power Points and background documents will be available for download on the conference page. You will no longer have to disseminate these via email.
- Both the web and DVD versions of the conference utilize verbatim transcription and captioning.

Career Pathway Seminars:

Dr. Bill Daggett, CEO of the International Center for Leadership in Education, is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move Prek-12 education systems towards more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. Dr. Daggett is the author of numerous books about learning and education, textbooks and research studies, reports, and journal articles. Dr. Daggett has spoken to hundreds of thousands of educators and education stakeholders in all 50 states. The GaDOE has hired Dr. Daggett to do several seminars across the State over the next several weeks. The plan is for RESAs to partner in hosting these workshops. There is no cost to you or your school system to attend this event.

This is a reminder about the Bill Daggett Career Pathway Seminars coming up soon. Attached you will find the most recent schedule with updated addresses.



System Test Coordinators:

This is a friendly reminder that the window for Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) High School Retest Option #1 **closes on November 11, 2011.**

Portfolios for high school students who are being retested, and shipped for scoring, as part of Retest Option #1 must be postmarked and shipped to Questar Assessment, Inc. **on or before November 11, 2011.** Please be sure to schedule your pick-up with United Parcel Service (UPS) at least 24 hours in advance.

If you have questions about the use of the retest return kit or need additional materials for GAA High School Retest Option #1, you may contact Questar's Customer Service Hotline at GA@QuestarAI.com or by telephone at 1-866-997-0698.

If you have questions about the administration of the GAA, you may contact Deborah Houston in the GaDOE Assessment Division at dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us or by telephone at (404) 657-0251. Thank you. Enjoy your weekend! Tony Eitel