

# July Friday Email Blasts

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Friday, July 1, 2011



It is hard to believe we are already at the July 4th mark! Summer is moving fast and I know that your pace has not slowed down much with retests, planning and summer programs. Remember to take some time for yourself and Happy 4th of July. Debbie

### **Parent Mentor Partnership Update:**

The State Board of Education recently approved funding for the Parent Mentor Partnership for the 2011-2012 school year. This successful GaDOE initiative will begin its 10<sup>th</sup> year in August with 95 parents working in 85 school districts covering almost 80 percent of Georgia families with students on IEPs. Parent mentors work to improve collaboration between home, school and the community as well as partner with their school districts in the improvement work on several IDEA performance goal indicators. The major qualification to be hired as a parent mentor is to be the mom or dad of a child with a disability. Returning districts and new districts to the partnership should check on the funding on the IDEA allocation sheet.

SAVE THE DATES: Orientation for new districts in the Parent Mentor Partnership, as well as districts that hired a mentor after January 1, 2011, will be Sept. 7, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The training location will be announced in July.

The annual Parent Mentor Partnership Kick Off Conference will be Sept. 21-23, 2011 in Athens. Registration information will be available at the end of July.

### **State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) GraduateFirst Institute:**

Interested in increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the dropout rate for students with disabilities? Hold the date for the **State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) GraduateFirst Institute** for schools not currently participating in the Project:

September 26-27, 2011 Forsyth

Registration information to be available in July!

### **SAMPLE IEP REVISED:**

Thanks to those of you who helped in the development and revisions of the assessment determination section of the IEP model form. Below is the form which will be posted on the DOE website after the July 4th holiday.



IEP Sample Form July 2011.doc

### **Free Assistive Technology Resources from *The Family Center on Technology and Disability* (<http://www.fctd.info/>):**

#### **FCTD Family Information Guide to Assistive Technology & Transition Planning:**

Individuals may order **one free** print copy of this 50 page guide at [http://www.fctd.info/show/order\\_guides](http://www.fctd.info/show/order_guides). Additional copies are available for \$10.00. A discount is available for bulk orders. The pdf version of the guide is also available for download as well as the fully accessible html version at [http://www.fctd.info/show/fig\\_summary](http://www.fctd.info/show/fig_summary). Individuals may also

order **free** copies of the **2011 FCTD AT Resources CD-Rom** at [http://www.fctd.info/show/order\\_form](http://www.fctd.info/show/order_form) .

**National Longitudinal Transition Study 2012:**

Directors may be receiving a request in the near future to participate in **The National Longitudinal Transition Study 2012 (NLTS 2012)**. Funded as part of the National Assessment of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), NLTS 2012 will provide information about the experiences of students and their postsecondary outcomes, which is necessary for the ongoing improvement of programs and policies. We encourage districts who receive a request to participate in this study so that the best data possible may be collected to help understand transition services and outcomes for youth with disabilities. Please keep in mind that under the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR, Title 34 CFR §75.591), Federal grantees are required to cooperate in an evaluation on behalf of the Secretary of Education. Thank you in advance for cooperating with this important study.

Friday, July 8, 2011



I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday weekend! The email blast this week is very short. Have a great weekend. Debbie

**Budget / CLIP Reminder:**

After your district submits the CLIP, remember to have the Consolidated Application administrator to configure or add all 3 special education budgets - IDEA Flowthrough, IDEA Preschool and State Preschool unless you belong to a preschool consortium. In addition, a few districts or RESAs act as fiscal agents for GNETS, GLRS and/or Rule 10 grants which must have the programs configured or added. In January 2012, some districts will need to add the Residential and/or High Cost grants but we will remind you again at that time.

**Race to the Top:**

Several of you have asked about activities and work groups associated with the Race to the Top Grant. (RT3) I have included a link below to the RT3 website which contains newsletters, webinars and other useful information. I hope this will answer some of your questions.

<http://www.gadoe.org/RT3.aspx>

Friday, July 15, 2011



This is a slow week for the email blast - just a few announcements. Have a good week - Debbie

**CCGPS:**

There is a great deal of information available at the web link below related to the Common Core Standards. I have also attached a copy of the brochure with the content training schedule for FY12; printable version is available on the webpage.



CCGPS Standards Training.pdf <http://www.gadoe.org/CCGPS.aspx>

**ARRA Funds:**

Please remember that you must expend your IDEA ARRA funds by September 30, 2011

Friday, July 22, 2011

Here are the announcements for the week. Have a great weekend! Debbie

**Upcoming Due Dates:**

Just a reminder that Time line Summary Forms are due to Kathy Giddens by Monday, August 1 (since the original due date of July 31 is on a Sunday). Only half of the districts, charter schools and/or state schools have emailed the forms at this time. Please send your form in on time so you will not be counted late on the Indicator for Timely and Accurate Data.

Reminder CLIPS are due July 31 and budgets by Oct. 1.

**System Test Coordinators:**

The memorandums listed below have been posted to the GaDOE website at this link:

[http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_testing\\_educators.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing_educators.aspx)

- 2011 System Test Coordinator Conferences
- 2011-2012 Assessment Webinars via Elluminate Live!

These memorandums provide you important webinar dates for the 2011 - 2012 school year. The memo regarding the 2011 System Test Coordinator Conferences includes a link to use in registering for the fall conferences. We ask that registrations be completed no later than Monday, August 1, 2011.

**RACE to the TOP Updates:**



Gael Presentation FINAL FINAL 071211.pdf

**Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA):**

Announcing the 2011-2012 G-CASE/GADOE Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA) for new special education directors + 1 coordinator.

Registration at the link below:

<https://em.eboardsolutions.com/gael/emembership/getRegistrant.asp?E=15145>

Save the following dates:

| <b>Date</b>            | <b>Location</b>   |
|------------------------|---|
| August 19, 2011        | Athens  |
| September 8-9, 2011    | Macon Marriott City Center  |
| November 16, 2011      | Savannah Riverfront Marriott (Preceding the G-CASE Fall Conference)               |
| February 16 & 17, 2012 | Macon Marriott City Center  |
| March 19, 2012         | Classic Center Athens (Preceding the Spring Special Education Leadership Meeting) |

**GNETS Information:**

State Board Rule 160-4-7-.15 GEORGIA NETWORK FOR EDUCATIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT (GNETS) requires GNETS classes to operate a minimum of 180 days each fiscal year. Similar to last year, the State Board of Education has approved a blanket waiver so that each GNETS program can, in collaboration with their respective school

districts, provide alternatives to the 180 day minimum requirement for GNETS classes to operate this fiscal year.

**Approved by the State Board of Education - July 21, 2011**

**"It is recommended that the State Board of Education (SBOE) exercise its authority under O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-168(c)(2) to recognize a continuing emergency and critical shortage in state revenue as documented below and authorize Georgia Network for Educational & Therapeutic Support (GNETS) local boards of control for the 2011-2012 school year to depart from the requirement to provide a minimum of 180 days of service as provided in SBOE Rule 160-4-7-.15 Georgia Network for Educational & Therapeutic Support (GNETS) (3)(g)1(i) and be allowed to provide service for a minimum of 180 days or its equivalent.**

Under no circumstance should a GNETS student receive less than their required number of instructional minutes as provided in State Board Rule 160-5-1-.02 SCHOOL DAY AND SCHOOL YEAR FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES.

### **Revisions to the SPP and APR Summary:**

The SPP and APR Summary has recently been revised with the new targets for 2011-2012. The document can be located at

[http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci\\_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCAA](http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCAA)

### **Budgets:**

1. At the March Athens meeting, it was indicated that the 2100 or preferably 2210 function codes could be used for special education administration personnel rather than 2300. In May district financial personnel were informed that a new 2230 function code would be available to reduce administration costs showing up in the 2300 function code. The 2230 function code is not currently available in the Consolidated Application FY12 budgets. If your district prefers that you use the new 2230 function code, please wait a week for it to be added. Function code 2300 should be used for indirect and/or audit costs only.
2. Prior to closing books, it would be advisable to check your FY 11 MOE against your FY10 expenditures. If there is a problem, use the Exceptions to MOE form to check possible reductions of the FY10 amount through personnel or students who departed from special education after FY10. If a problem still exists, local funds may need to be added in FY11 before the books are closed.
3. Please remember that the MOE Eligibility form **MUST** be uploaded to qualify for the FY12 IDEA grants. Note that the FY12 projected budget or per pupil amount **MUST** be greater than your FY10 state and local special education expenditures or per pupil amount.

Friday, July 29, 2011



Many of you will be starting your school year next week. I hope that things go smoothly for your school opening. Please let us know if there is help we can provide!

I will be conducting a Director's Elluminate on Thursday, August 11 at 10:00 AM. We will be hoping to provide you with information and gather your input on the revision of the Graduation Rule, as well as, input on the district meetings in the upcoming year. I hope you will be able to tune in - the webinar will be recorded. Debbie

### **GADOE Staff Announcements:**

I am pleased to announce that Debbie (Coggins) Reagin and Linda Castellanos will be joining the Special Education Division on August 1, 2011. In addition, Kachelle White has changed positions and is the new Program Manager for the Compliance Unit.

### **ITEMS DUE: July 31:**

Timeline Reports and Post Secondary Survey Information is due on the portal by Monday, August 1 (since the original due date of July 31 is on a Sunday) to avoid being counted late on the Indicator for Timely and Accurate Data.

Consolidated Application Submission

### **ACCESS COURSES - Updated Information:**

Special education directors should review the changes (effective August 10, 2011) of Board Rule 160-4-2-.20 LIST OF STATE-FUNDED K-8 SUBJECTS AND 9-12 COURSES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE IN 2008 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS. There have been some changes that affect school system flexibility in determining Access Courses for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The portion of the rule that addresses Access Courses specifies:

**"A 5 is used in the fourth numerical digit to designate coursework for students who participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment.**

These "Access" courses align to approved state-funded courses but provide access to the standards established for the approved course. In order to meet the IEP or local system requirements for students with significant cognitive disabilities any approved state-funded course may be designated as an Access course by utilizing a 5 in the fourth numerical digit. Access courses must align to the approved course and all instruction (utilizing assistive technology as needed) should embed the mastery of IEP goals and objectives. Instruction should occur in community based settings in addition to the classroom setting. Related skills for independent living, employment, and self-determination are developed within the course content."

The entire rule may be reviewed at

<http://gadoe.org/documents/doe/legalservices/160-4-2-.20.pdf>



Previously approved designated access courses continue to be listed on pages 11-13 of the rule. If you have questions, please contact Kayse Harshaw ([kharshaw@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kharshaw@doe.k12.ga.us)) or Lynn Holland ([lholland@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:lholland@doe.k12.ga.us)).

### **GAA Training:**

The fall training sessions for the 2011-2012 **Administration of the Georgia Alternate Assessment** will be presented via webinar on ElluminateLive! by representatives from GaDOE and Questar Assessment.

These webinars will provide information to guide the appropriate system-level and school-level staff in the development of portfolios that showcase the achievement and progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Please collaborate with your Assessment Director to determine staff attendance keeping in mind that **the focus is redelivery of training** in your local system.

Topics will also include ethics and portfolio validation, peer review, and guidance regarding redelivery in your local system.

**Pre-Administration Training** Dates and times will be **August 11-17** and **Introduction to the GAA for teachers new to the GAA** will be **August 23**. See the table for exact dates and times.

Please note that The Elluminate Live! website for the testing department is different from the Special Education site, and can be accessed through the following link:

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

All sessions will be recorded and accessible to staff after the presentation. No password is required.

Please collaborate with your Assessment Director to determine staff attendance keeping in mind that the focus is redelivery of training in your local system.

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>TIME</b>   |
|-------------|---|
| August 11   | 1:00pm – 4:00pm   |
| August 12   | 1:00pm – 4:00pm   |
| August 15   | 1:00pm – 4:00pm   |
| August 16   | 1:00pm – 4:00pm   |
| August 17   | 1:00pm – 4:00pm   |
| August 23   | 1:00pm – 4:00pm<br><i>Introduction to the GAA (for new examiners)</i> |

### **District Liaisons FY12:**

The practice of monthly meetings with local districts attended by GaDOE District Liaisons (DLs) has been a long standing tradition in this State. The role of the DL in providing a consistent contact at the Department for local districts has proven to be of great value to the Department as well as to the districts. In order to provide a consolidated approach to supporting local districts, GNETS programs and state schools with a consistent contact and flow of information from the GaDOE, we have organized the format for district meetings around the GLRS districts. (The accompanying document provides that information.)

In the upcoming year, it is our hope that GLRS Directors and DLs can form a strong unit to provide support to the districts, GNETS programs and state schools in their cluster. Over the past two years, the GLRS Directors have worked with districts and developed improvement activities based on district data that are aligned with the State Performance Plan (SPP). In addition, they have assisted the Department with a review of CEIS plans for FY12. This

focused effort can be complimented by the support of the DLs in the efforts to continue improving student performance.

On August 11 at 10:00 AM Special Education Directors, GLRS Directors and GNETS Directors are invited to participate in a webinar to provide additional input as we move forward with a more focused and strategic approach.



District liaisons.doc