



DIVISION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES and SUPPORTS

NOVEMBER 2010 DL UPDATE

Directors Elluminate November 3, 2010

Please mark your calendars for the Special Education Directors' Monthly Elluminate session that is held the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am.

Statewide LRE Initiative

The 2010-2011 LRE Initiative that began in August 2010 provides training and support to targeted districts not meeting the LRE State Target of 63% for 2009. The LRE Initiative focuses on 19 districts where the percentage of students with disabilities spending 80% of the day in general education fell 50% or below. GLRS Consultants, Janet Peeler and Steve White, provided system training, support, and technical assistance for administrators and teachers.

Training materials are available on the GaDOE websites for systems with new staff or staff new to Co-Teaching and Collaboration. Training manuals can be downloaded; webinars are available on related topics; FAQs are also available for review as is a CD-ROM entitled "Co-Teaching Practices in Georgia". To access these resources, please go to gadoe.org/curriculum/special_education/, click on LRE under available resources. Questions about the materials or requests for the CD-ROM can be addressed to Susan Brozovic at sbrozovic@doe.k12.ga.us.

Grant Update

The FY2011 Applications for the following grants are posted on the Special Education Website under Budgets, Grants, Data Collection and Reporting:

- Grant for Residential and Reintegration Services
- Grant for High Cost Funds

2010-11 Special Education Teacher Induction Pilot

Five districts (Berrien, Carroll, Henry, Lowndes and Savannah-Chatham) are collaborating with the Division for Special Education in the launch of its Special Education Teacher Induction Pilot. Beginning teachers, induction coaches, and site administrators participated in a day of professional development on October 22nd in Forsyth, Georgia. Topics included using present levels of performance to write measurable IEP goals based on the SMART goals format; progress monitoring; and developing professional growth plans. With feedback from the districts, illuminate sessions, modules, and support materials are being developed that can be used by districts statewide. If you have questions, or would like to share resources, contact Dr. Cynde Snider, csnider@doe.k12.ga.us.

Parent to Parent Announcement

Parent to Parent of Georgia has announced that their website has been translated into Spanish. The website is designed to provide information and support for families in Georgia who support children with disabilities or who make health care choices for their children. Families can now visit the website and learn about extensive free services. Families can also call 1-800-229-2038 to speak directly with a bilingual coordinator to:

- Identify providers and services in their local communities
- Match families for emotional support based on their child's disability, health care issues, educational issues, or other factors
- Connect to bilingual training classes in their community
- Access relevant reading materials in Spanish

Parent to Parent of Georgia is a "not for profit" agency funded, in part, by grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Special Education Programs of the US Department of Education. Their mission is to support Georgia families and individuals from birth to 26 affected by disabilities or special health care needs. For more information concerning Parent to Parent of Georgia, please visit www.esp.p2pga.org or www.p2pga.org

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP) 2010 Annual Leadership Kick-Off Conference

Over 160 administrators, parents, and educators attended GaDOE's Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership's (GaPMP) 2010 Annual Leadership Kick-Off Conference "*Effective Leaders Discovering a New World in Education*" held at the UGA Continuing Education Conference Center in Athens, Georgia on October 12-14, 2010.

In addition to the many informative sessions at the conference, the *Phil Pickens Leadership Award* was presented to Dr. Suzanne Carter, Special Education Director, Walton County School System and Ms Tracy Barber, Parent Mentor, Seminole County School System. Congratulations to these winners who were recognized for their leadership and commitment to engaging families not only within their system, but statewide!

Next year's 2011 conference is tentatively scheduled in Athens on Thursday, September 22, 2011 and Friday, September 23, 2011 with a pre-session date of Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

For additional information about the GaPMP, visit our website at www.parentmentors.org.

Communities of Practice in Transition Institutes

In conjunction with the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC), the Georgia Department of Education will present the first Communities of Practice in Transition Institutes. These sessions will include an overview of transition assessment and its requirements. Participants will spend time gaining a hands-on knowledge of various assessment instruments, reviewing reports from assessment instruments for different students, and then develop postsecondary goals (and the rest of the IEP) from those documents. The entire day will focus on the essential elements of transition assessment which is the cornerstone of quality transition planning and services. All systems are invited to send representatives to this one day, drive-in professional learning opportunity. There is no registration fee and districts will be responsible for substitutes and participants' travel expenses. It is important to note that participants will be responsible for their own snacks and lunch and should plan accordingly.

Dates and Locations are:

January 11, 2011 TBA North Atlanta area

January 12, 2011 Macon, GA

January 25, 2011 Lenox, GA

Infinitec Assistive Technology Grant

Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT) is collaborating with United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago (UCPGC) and their technology program, Infinitec, in a grant that will allow all staff of selected school districts the opportunity to access the Infinitec website, www.myinfinitec.org, at a greatly reduced fee. As this grant allows for limited participation, districts will be selected based on an application process.

The myinfinitec.org website consists of multimedia training tools to help teachers implement technology for student achievement. The most distinctive feature of the website allows teachers unlimited access to professional learning opportunities with nearly 200 video presentations and other resources from experts in a variety of fields including assistive technology, special education, autism, and literacy with just the click of a mouse.

Additional information as well as the application for participating in this exciting opportunity will be forthcoming. Please contact Gina Gelinias at ggelinias@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-5288 if you have any questions.

Georgia Project for Assistive Technology 2011 Summer Institute Survey

Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT) is considering whether to offer a 2011 Assistive Technology Summer Institute. In the past, this institute has consisted of approximately seventy presentations covering a variety of assistive technology topics within a two and half day time period. Before making a final decision about offering the institute, GPAT would like input from special education directors regarding district abilities to send school staff to the training, support for staff who might be asked to present at the institute, and the location.

Within the next two weeks, you will receive a short survey about summer institute. Please take a few moments to complete the survey so that we may make the best decision about meeting the assistive technology needs of your staff. If you have any questions please contact Gina Gelinias at ggelinias@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-463-5288.

Georgia Council for Exceptional Children

The Georgia Council for Exceptional Children (GCEC) is proud to host its Annual Conference at the Classic Center in Athens, on Friday and Saturday, February 25-26, 2011. The conference will include sessions that include a variety of speakers; subdivision meetings; and student events. This year's theme will be "Celebrating Diversity." As the roles of Special Education professionals change and evolve, it is the goal of GCEC to continue to provide timely information and resources that ensure an appropriate education for all students.

Please consider sharing your knowledge and expertise with educators, related-services professionals, parents, students and administrators from across Georgia by submitting a proposal. Presentations may be in the form of a workshop, panel, lecture/discussion, poster, or demonstration. Presenters may request either single or double sessions. Please use the attached form to submit your presentation proposal(s) no later than November 18, 2010. Please note that all presenters must register for the conference. If you have any questions, please contact one of the convention chairpersons: Dr. Julie Reffel at 229-259-5132 or email her at jreffel@valdosta.edu or Dr. Rebecca C. McMullen at rebecca.mcmullen@gcsu.edu.

Causes of Conflict in Special Education

In the October DOE Update, a model developed by Feinberg et al. (2002) was presented as a continuum of conflict resolution options with five stages along the continuum. This month we explore the major causes of conflict in special education that can be categorized according to three broad areas: design, delivery, and relationships. Design conflicts can surface when people have different ideas and/or understanding about special education services. Eligibility for services, methodology of intervention, perception about student needs, the scope of IDEA entitlement, and placement recommendations are often at the core of disagreements over design. The second most frequently cited area of disagreement is the delivery of services. Issues of provider competence, scheduling, transportation, coordination of services, procedural requirements, privacy, and/or confidentiality may form the basis of disputes regarding delivery of services.

While very elusive in nature, relationships are cited as a third major area of conflict in special education. Relationship conflicts may stem from loss of trust, breakdowns in communication, and cultural differences.

Training can be an important first stage prevention strategy in addressing the three major areas of conflict: design, delivery, and relationships. Parents, general educators, and special educators trained in prevention strategies focused around these categories can enhance their abilities to avoid, and/or successfully resolve, future conflicts. State and local school districts are using both in-person and multi-media on-line training options for stakeholders. Topics range from the technical aspects of IDEA to information on understanding conflict, managing conflict in meetings, active listening, interest-based problem solving, meeting-closing strategies, and post-meeting considerations.

An analysis of the nature of conflict in special education and where conflicts arise, i.e. around design, delivery, and/or relationships can help determine where preventative training efforts should be initially focused. In the area of dispute resolution, an ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure. If you have tips to share or questions to ask please email Mike Blake mblake@doe.k12.ga.us.

Feinberg, E, Beyer, J.D. & Moses, P. (2002). Beyond Mediation: Strategies for Appropriate Early Dispute Resolution in Special Education. A briefing paper from The Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE).

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP)

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP) has developed a vision screening protocol for students who are deaf and hard of hearing that includes screening for Usher Syndrome. For more information on screening for Usher Syndrome and training on the protocol, please see the attachment and contact Martha Veto at GSAP – mveto@gsu.edu, or 404-413-8312.

Upcoming Events for Vision Educators

Georgia Vision Educators Week-End with the Experts (WWE)- Intellibraille

Bruce McClanahan, Assistive Technology Specialist, Washington State School for the Blind
Georgia Academy for the Blind
November 12-13, 2010

Friday, 6-9, Saturday, 9-3 - 1 PLU Available with prior approval

Cost: \$35- Includes Intellibraille Product valued at \$120 and snacks, continental breakfast and lunch.

Contact Melinda Bush- 478-751-4407

Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Consortia/ Georgia National Agenda Taskforce

Meetings at Educational Technology Centers

February 17, 2011- Dalton State - Host Site

May 5, 2011- Kennesaw State Host Site

For more information contact Kathy Segers 478-751-6208-ksegers@doe.k12.ga.uswww.gimc.org

2010-2011 Parent Survey Update

For those districts participating in this year's Parent Surveys, please be advised that there has been a printing delay. It is anticipated that surveys will be mailed later this month. If you have questions please contact Patricia Solomon, psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us.

Calendar of Events

November

3 Elluminate: Special Education Directors

4-5 Autism Regional Team Meeting - Macon

10-12 Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education Fall Conference - Savannah, GA

10 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA)

December

1 Elluminate: Special Education Directors

2 Special Education Directors Forum – Macon

January 2011

27 Georgia Regional Braille Challenge - Georgia Academy for the Blind