



# State Advisory Panel

## For Special Education

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### Minutes Summary

#### State Advisory Panel Meeting

#### September 23 & 24, 2010

#### Partridge Inn

#### Augusta, GA

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010

Time	Events	
8:00 - 9:00	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
9:00 - 10:00	Welcome - Panel Member Introductions and Update	Radha Vettrano opened the meeting and welcomed members. Panel members provided updates and announcements.
10:00 - 10:30	GaDOE, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports Update	<p>Debbie Gay presented updates from the Division for Special Education Services and Supports.</p> <p>Mrs. Gay thanked members for serving on the panel and discussed the purpose of the panel to advise the Division for Special Education Services and Supports. The role of the Director of the Division of Special Education Services and Supports on the panel was discussed.</p> <p>A new sample form of parent rights has been posted on the Division's website. The form was changed in order to create a more user friendly form. The content of the parent rights was not changed, but the complexity of the language, readability was changed to approximately an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. The new form was reviewed by attorneys in order to make certain the content was not changed and contained all necessary elements. Districts have a choice on whether they want to use the new form.</p> <p>Mrs. Gay discussed the roll out of the 2% modified assessment this year (CRCT-M). This assessment can be used to provide a different format of the CRCT for students who require a range of very significant instructional modifications. The differences will be in the presentation of the material, not in the standards measured or the content. The roll-out is a pilot and districts are not required to use this assessment, it will be a local decision. Information on the CRCT-M is being disseminated via webinars.</p> <p>The State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) is in its fourth year. Results are showing increased student performance, increased attendance rates and decreased dropout rates.</p> <p>A new project has been initiated to assist districts that did not meet their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) target. Model classrooms have been developed in Bibb and Cobb counties to provide training and support for teachers working with students with disabilities in the</p>

		<p>general education setting.</p> <p>Mrs. Gay provided information on the New Teacher Induction program. The goal of this project is to help retain new special education teachers by looking at the kinds of supports that need to be put in place to keep teachers.</p> <p>Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has continued to expand with over 200 schools participating in the program. They are partnering with Safe and Drug Free Schools Division to develop a model for training that promotes a total school program, rather than a special education initiative.</p>
10:30 - 11:30	DOE Website Review	Sally Kempf reviewed the structure of the DOE website, including navigation between pages and the organizational structure of the special education webpage. She answered questions from panel members.
11:30 - 12:00	Public Comment Session	No public comments were submitted during this panel meeting.
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH	
1:00 - 2:00 2:00 - 2:45	Special Education Determinations and Focused Monitoring	<p>Julie Moilanen provided an update on the Focused Monitoring process. She reviewed the indicators selected for focused monitoring based on input from the State Advisory Panel last spring. These indicators deal with increased performance of students with disabilities and increased percentage of students being served in the least restrictive environment (LRE). She discussed how systems were selected for monitoring and System Technical Assistance Reviews (STAR).</p> <p>Mrs. Moilanen discussed the Determinations process. This year Georgia was determined to “meet requirements” with regards to state determinations. She discussed how the DOE conducts the determination process for each district. Work groups were provided with guiding questions on determinations and input was received from the panel work groups. Questions from the panel on the Focused Monitoring process and Determinations were answered.</p>
2:45 - 3:00	BREAK	
3:00 - 4:30	Georgia Special Education Teacher Retention Project	Cynde Snider reviewed the Georgia Special Education Teacher Induction program. She discussed the need for the program, what the program is, what is hoped to be achieved by the program and how goals will be measured. Questions from the panel members were answered.
4:30 - 5:00	SAP Standing Committees	State Advisory Panel standing committee members were reviewed and new members were placed on committees.
6:00	DINNER	

**Friday, Sept 24, 2010**

Time	Events	
7:00 - 8:00	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:00 - 9:15	Committee Meetings	All committees met to review current activities and recommendations.
9:15 - 10:00	Committee Reports	<p>Committees reported on current activities and recommendations.</p> <p><u>Dispute resolution:</u> The scope and purpose of the committee was reviewed. 1 case went to due process since the last SAP meeting. The committee noted a trend of an increasing number of complaints filed.</p> <p><u>Policies/Procedures:</u> The committee addressed the following items: recording meetings and companion attendance. Policies for these items will be placed in the Policies and Procedures manual.  <i>Recording meetings:</i> Panel members may record meetings after notification to the panel. Recordings should be turned off at the request of another panel member when making comments.  <i>Companion Attendance:</i> Panel members are welcome to bring companion to assist the panel member. It is not the role of the companion to participate in the panel discussions or committees.</p> <p><u>Family Engagement:</u> The committee reviewed the recommendations from last year. The following items were discussed by the committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for more current data with regards to parent attendance at IEPs</li> <li>• parent notification</li> <li>• parent meetings that occur during Focused Monitoring</li> <li>• the need for data regarding the use of advocates.</li> </ul> <p><u>Public Comment:</u> The committee discussed ways to get the word out regarding panel meetings in order to get more public comment.</p>
10:00 - 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 - 11:15	Disproportionality	Debbie Gay presented on the historical perspective of disproportionality and the 3 areas of measurement: identification of students, placement of students and discipline of students. Comments and questions were taken from panel members.
11:15 - 12:00	Guiding Questions related to Disproportionality	Small groups worked on developing guiding questions related to disproportionality. Groups reported on suggestions for the guiding questions provided to the panel.
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH	
1:00 - 2:30	State Advisory Panel Planning for Future Meetings	Panel members provided input on topics for future meetings.