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**DIVISIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES and SUPPORTS**

**SEPTEMBER 2009 DL UPDATE**

**Compliance: Timelines Summary Report**

**FY09 Timeline Data**

For FY 09, the percentage of initial eligibilities completed on time was 94.15% which was an increase from 89.13%.

For FY 09, the percentage of preschool transitions (BCW) was 97.85% which was an increase from 96.78%.

This was great work by all of you. We have seen significant improvement over the last several years and this data will help our overall determination by the Office of Special Education Programs (US DOE). Thank you for your hard work.

**Technical Assistance Data**

During FY 09, Systems who were at 85% or below for two consecutive years received technical assistance. Technical assistance was provided to 9 systems for one to three timeline issues. Of those systems, 7 improved to 95% or above, and 2 made substantial progress from the previous year.

**Requirements for Noncompliance**

According to IDEA, the state must notify LEAs, in writing, of any areas of noncompliance. Systems below 95% will receive a letter of notification of noncompliance including the specific area of the timeline issue(s). These letters will be sent to Superintendents and Special Education Directors by early October.

**All systems with less than 95% timeline data must have improvement activities written into their system CLIP. The Division will be conducting verification checks for CLIP improvement activities and some systems will be requested to submit their timeline logs to verify their FY 09 data. Data verifications will be completed for systems that met the 100% target as well as systems that did not meet the target. You will be contacted by the Compliance Review Unit if you need to submit your timeline logs.**

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

1. Students failing vision or hearing screening is not an acceptable/excusable reason for delayed/late timelines. Systems must review policies, practices, and procedures to correct this problem.
2. Systems should not wait to compile the timeline information until the report due date. Monthly tracking is a must to ensure accurate data and to identify areas for correction. It is important to track the data for allowable exceptions for lateness, number of days late, and reasons for lateness according to the categories listed on the report. Sample monthly tracking logs and individual student tracking logs are available in the attachments and will be available on the GaDOE portal to assist you tracking your timeline data.
3. Timeline data are collected for all initial evaluations to determine eligibility for special education and for all eligibility redeterminations. This includes speech/language and all other eligibilities, including those that do not require a psychological evaluation.

Please note, the state has received notice of changes in timeline calculations. Those changes and additional information related to timelines for FY 10 are included as the attachment to this update. If you have any questions related to Timelines you may contact Kathy Giddens at kgiddens@doe.k12.ga.us or 404 463-5280. The attachments and information will be posted on the documents section of the GaDOE portal.

### **Dispute Resolution Tip**

At the beginning of each school year new opportunities for training are scheduled as local systems prepare to update staff with new information, skill sets, and reminders of critical procedures. Working with the parents of special education students to effectively communicate and resolve conflicts as they arise is of utmost importance.

One resource available to provide you with **no cost materials** for staff training and "conversation starters" is the Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE). CADRE is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs at the US Department of Education to serve as the National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education.

The "CADRE Caucus" (an email distribution) periodically updates you on new features and resources found at the CADRE web site and in the world of special education conflict resolution. You can subscribe to the CADRE Caucus at <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/>.

Listed below are some examples of current printable materials and videos clips on a variety of topics related to effective communication and positive conflict resolution skills:

#### **1) Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School**

This resource offers specific communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school.

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/success.cfm>

## 2) Listening

This new flash video introduces the critical skill of listening and helps viewers recognize its importance and value. Viewers will better understand the skills involved in effective listening and its role in communication and problem solving.

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/listening.cfm>

CADRE's video on Understanding "Positions" and "Interests"

[http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/understanding\\_pos.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/understanding_pos.cfm)

## 3) Educating Our Children Together: A Sourcebook for Effective Family-School-Community Partnerships

This comprehensive publication offers a variety of practical ideas that families and schools can use to enhance and support family, school and community partnerships. The sourcebook includes guiding principles for family-school-community involvement, tips for getting started, a self-assessment tool to determine current practices, and program descriptions that have been organized around eight interrelated.

[http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/EducatingOurChildren\\_01.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/EducatingOurChildren_01.cfm)

## 4) Effective IEP Meetings: Tested Tips

This brief document offers suggestions for convening successful IEP meetings. It includes preparation tips for parents and educators.

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/testedtips.cfm>

## **Georgia Deaf Education Achievement Forum 2010**

GDEAF 2010 is a consortium series presented via the Educational Technology Centers for teachers, educational interpreters, parents, related services providers, and others who work with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Meetings will be broadcast to the Educational Technology Centers ([www.ga-edtech.org](http://www.ga-edtech.org)) on four Friday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. Sessions are scheduled on September 18, and November 20, 2009 and January 22, and March 19, 2010. These meetings are free of charge and one professional learning unit (PLU) may be earned. Please RSVP to Dr. Frank Nesbit at 404-657-9976 or [fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us) to reserve space and address accommodations in advance.

## **The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)**

Educational Interpreters who hold an EIPA score of 3.5 or higher meet the credential requirement as defined in State Board Rule 160-4-7-.14. Assessments are being offered around the state at a discounted rate (\$125) for Georgia residents and school system employees. Any candidate may register for the assessment, but professional training and experience are highly recommended. If you were recently assessed with this instrument, you may be subject to a wait period of 6 to 12 months. See [www.task12.org](http://www.task12.org). Click on "EIPA Registration", and then select the date and location desired to access the registration form. For information about the EIPA, go to [www.classroominterpreting.org](http://www.classroominterpreting.org). For questions about the assessments in Georgia, please contact Dr. Frank Nesbit at 404-657-9976 or [fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us).

EIPA Sites and Dates: October 24-25	Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Clarkston
November 7-8	Site TBA
January 16-17	Site TBA
March 6-7	Site TBA
June 9-10-11	Valdosta State University, Valdosta

**H1N1 (Swine Flu) Guidance**

The recent reports of H1N1 (Swine Flu), continue to create some questions and concerns in our school districts. Georgia's Division of Public Health reports that our state continues to have cases of H1N1 and that the current high levels of H1N1 in the southern hemisphere indicate that the virus may become more widespread in our state during the fall and winter. However, current data indicates that the severity of the illness caused by the H1N1 virus is NOT increasing.

The Georgia Department of Education is working very closely with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), particularly Dr. Pat O'Neal, the State Director of Emergency Preparedness, Dr. Susan Lance, the State Epidemiologist, and Michelle Conner, the Director of the Public Health Immunization Program. In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations, DCH will start a broad campaign soon to encourage Georgia citizens in high risk groups, such as school-age children to get vaccinated.

Please refer to the attached flyer for information and recommendations to share with superintendents and public health officers. It includes information on symptoms, vaccinations, strategies for preventing or reducing the spread of flu, reporting, consideration of school closure, and resources for information or assistance.

**Deafblind: Support Service Provider Basic Training**

**Support Service Provider (SSP) BASIC TRAINING** is being presented by Georgia Association of the Deaf Blind.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Individuals who are interested in training to become Certified Support Service Providers (SSP) for Deaf-Blind. Interpreters; ITP Students (Advanced); Teachers of Deaf-Blind students; and Individuals in other related professions. Please refer to the attached form for registration information.

**DESCRIPTION:** This 6 HOUR training will cover the basic requirements and training needed to be an effective SSP, and will cover the practice of SSP and working with Deaf-Blind individuals.

**\*\* Participants are encouraged to make a commitment to participate the Deaf-Blind Access of the South Camp 2009\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 19th, 2009. From 9am-4pm  
Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for sign in and registration

**WHERE:** GACHI Building, 4151 Memorial Drive. (In the back) Decatur, GA 30032

**COST:** \$30 (Includes Snack, Materials, SSP Certificate, GADB membership)

**\*\* Training is limited to 20 attendees, so register soon! \*\***

Training will be presented in ASL ONLY. Prior Registration is required for all attendees.\* Please see the attached flyer for registration information Cancellation Policy: If a participant decides to cancel within 48 hours prior to the scheduled start of the training, credit will be issued toward a future training.

### **CEC Division on Career Development and Transition: 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference**

The Division on Career Development and Transition (CEC) is having their 15th International Conference on October 29-31, 2009 at the Westin Savannah Harbor in Savannah, Georgia. Revitalizing Transition Outcomes is the theme of this International Transition Conference. Attached to the DL Update is the registration information for this important transition conference.

### **2009-2010 NASDSE Professional Development Series**

The Georgia Department of Education, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports, once again is pleased to provide the 2009-2010 NASDSE Professional Development (Satellite) Series! As you are aware this series is an excellent source of professional learning for you and your staff and will hopefully provide another valuable resource to assist you in meeting your schools' training needs. Topics include ***Seclusion and Restraint: The Impact of Federal and State Policy on the Classroom; Healthy, Physically Fit and Ready for Action: Addressing the Physical Education and Activity Needs of Individuals with Disabilities; Connecting Educational Standards to Student Learning Plans; and Policy to the Classroom.***

The dates and details on each topic for this school year are listed on the attached flyer. All access information for conference participation will be sent to you a few days before each conference to be distributed by you to your staff according to your needs. The online version of the conference will be available the same date as the satellite broadcast listed in this brochure and will remain online throughout the series.

### **Transition Contacts: Please Update**

If you are a new director or have a new transition contact person/transition specialist in your district, please send your updated contact information to Lu Nations-Miller (bnations@doe.k12.ga.us) so that you may be kept in the transition "loop" about all the important transition information.

### **Special Education Elluminate Professional Development Series:**

To support local systems in providing training to teachers and administrators on various topics regarding Special Education, the Georgia Department of Education, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports, are conducting an ongoing series of Elluminate sessions. These sessions are intended to provide current information on the issues that affect students with disabilities and their families. The broad topics include transition, IEP development, IDEA compliance, and positive behavior supports. Please refer to attached flyer for the specific topics, dates/times, and login instructions for both current and archived sessions. Remember that passwords are not required. Previous sessions can be viewed in the recorded archives. This list will be updated monthly.

Many systems have developed courses around these sessions and are providing PLUs at the system level. The Elluminate sessions are also being used by systems in order to train new faculty and 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 faculty and staff needs. *Please remember to share this information with all of your schools.*

This month the following sessions will be live starting at various times (see below); you may join thirty minutes before the sessions begin:

September 3, 2009	1:00 p.m.	A Proactive Approach to Case Management for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
September 9, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Special Education Directors On-line Meeting
September 15, 2009	8:30 a.m.	FTE 1: Reporting/Preschool Exit Survey
September 17, 2009	3:30 p.m.	Compliance and Transition
September 23, 2009	10:00 a.m.	The Use of Manipulatives and Graphing Calculators
September 24, 2009	8:00 a.m.	SLP Practice in the Schools-Program Update-Guidelines for SLP Supervision of Graduate Students

In order to access these sessions please go to [gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org)>[georgiastandards.org](http://georgiastandards.org)>click on Elluminate Live! Webinars (current) under announcements OR <http://elluminate.gavirtualschool.org/doe/index.html>. Passwords are no longer required.

### **Autism Regional Team Meetings:**

Thank you for helping to make our First Annual Autism Academy in Perry this summer a huge success. We trained over 200 teachers during the academy on a series of major topics pertaining to successfully teaching students with autism spectrum disorders. The Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports are conducting Regional Autism Team Meetings this year in follow up to our Autism Academy. The regional meetings will be available at four regions in Georgia to include Bibb County, Pickens County, Dougherty County and Liberty County.

We are suggesting two representatives from each school district attend the regional meetings which are most convenient. The teams may be the same staff who attended the autism academy such as a teacher and SLP capable of assisting with training for school systems. The regional teams will be conducted as consortia meetings planned and facilitated by our division and will focus on building capacity for working with students with autism spectrum disorders.

Two meetings are scheduled for the 2009-2010 school year. During these meetings, members will have the opportunity to share concerns and effective strategies with each other as well as staff from the Divisions of Special Education Services and Supports. The local system is responsible for funding and providing a substitute teacher as needed for each of the two, one-day meetings.

The dates and locations for the fall meetings are listed below.

October 1 - Savannah Region - Liberty County Board of Education, 200 Bradville Street, Hinesville, Ga. 31313

October 15 - Albany Region - SW Georgia GLRS, 9155 McKinley Street, Albany, Ga. 31701

October 19 - Pickens Region - Pickens County Board of Education, 159 Stegall Drive, Jasper, Ga. 30143

October 28 - Macon Region -2260 Vineville Avenue, Macon, Ga. 31204

Please register for the meeting at:

<http://admin.doe.k12.ga.us/gadoe/trngadmin2.nsf/frnCourseSchedule?OpenForm&CourseName=Autism+Academy&parentunid=EF5AE7C12BBADD348525760F004A186C>

All Team Meetings will be from 8:30 - 4:30.

Thank you for our collaboration in developing our teams across the state. For questions or additional information please contact Dr. Alice Murphy at 404-657-9957 or mmurphy2doe.k12.ga.us.

### **Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training- (GVEST)**

The keynote speaker will be Estelle Condra , author, actress, and motivational speaker from South Africa who is blind as a result of Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). GVEST will be held October 8-9, 2009 at the Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon, GA. Please contact Kathy Segers for more information (ksegers@doe.k12.ga.us 478-751-6208.) Go to [www.gimc.org](http://www.gimc.org) to download registration and other forms.

### **Access to the GPS for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**

In efforts to provide ongoing support for teachers of students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, the Georgia Department of Education, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports in collaboration with the Division of Academic Standards, will conduct a series of Elluminate sessions focused on **Access to the Georgia Performance Standards for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**. These sessions will be live and interactive. Each Elluminate training will be recorded and archived so teachers may access them at a later time if they are unable to view the live sessions or want to review the session again at a later date. Please see the attached flyer for details.

## Dates to Remember:

### September 2009

- 1-2 Focused Monitoring Team Member Training, Lake Blackshear
- 9 Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session  
Kim Hartsell and Nancy O'Hara 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
**(Note date change: rescheduled from Sept. 14)**
- 10-11 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (GCASE/GaDOE)  
(formerly New Directors' Academy) Macon
- 15-16 SSTAGE/GAESP conference: Instructional and Behavioral RTI Solutions, DuBose Porter Center, Dublin.
- 18 Georgia Deaf Education Achievement Forums (GDEAF), Educational Technology Centers
- 24-25 State Advisory Panel for Special Education, Brasstown Valley Resort.
- 29 School System Focused Monitoring Orientation (only for systems selected for Focused Monitoring ) GaDOE West Tower Training Room, Atlanta
- 30 Preschool Exit data for '08-'09 school year due in the GaDOE portal.
- October**
- 1 Regional Autism Team Meeting, Savannah Region , Liberty County Board of Education, Hinesville
- 14 Special Education Directors' Discussion Forum  
Location: To Be Announced
- 15 Regional Autism Team Meeting, Albany Region, SW Georgia GLRS, Albany
- 19 Regional Autism Team Meeting, Pickens Region, Pickens County Board of Education, Jasper
- 24-25 Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Clarkston
- 28 Regional Autism Team Meeting, Macon Region, Macon



**November**

- 2-4      *GA Assn. of School Psychologists fall conference, Savannah Marriott Riverfront.*
- 7-8      *Educational Interpreter Performance Assessments, Site TBA*
- 9         *Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session*  
*Kim Hartsell and Nancy O'Hara 10:00-11:30 a.m.*
- 10-11     *State Advisory Panel for Special Education, Savannah*
- 11         *Special Education Leadership Development Academy (GCASE/GaDOE), Savannah*
- 12-13     *GCASE Fall Conference, Savannah*
- 20         *Georgia Deaf Education Achievement Forum (GDEAF), Educational Technology Centers*

**January 2010**

- 14         *Special Education Directors' Discussion Forum*  
*Location: To Be Announced*
- 16-17     *Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment, Site TBA*
- 22         *Georgia Deaf Education Achievement Forums (GDEAF), Educational Technology Centers*
- 31         *Special Education Leadership Development Academy (GCASE/GaDOE), Atlanta*

**February**

- 8         *Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session*  
*Kim Hartsell and Nancy O'Hara 10:00-11:30 a.m.*
- 19         *Georgia Vision Impaired Consortia Meeting*  
*Host Site: Valdota State ETC*

**March**

- 6-7         *Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment, Site TBA*
- 19         *Georgia Deaf Education Achievement Forums (GDEAF), Educational Technology Centers*
- 22         *Special Education Leadership Development Academy (GCASE/GaDOE), site TBA*
- TBA         *Spring Special Education Leadership Meeting*

**April**

22 Special Education Directors' Discussion Forum  
Location: To Be Announced

**May**

7 Georgia Vision Impaired Consortia Meeting, Host Site: Pioneer RESA ETC

10 Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session

**June**

9-10-11 Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment, Valdosta State University, Valdosta

**Attachments:**

ElluminateLIVE flyer

Timelines Monthly Log - Redeterminations

Timelines Monthly Log - Initial Referrals

Timelines FY 10 Directions-Revised

GDEAF flyer

Transition Conference flyer

H1N1 Flu Guidance

GCIMP Timelines Report - Reevaluation

GCIMP Timelines Report - BCW Evaluation Log

Timelines Monthly Log -BCW Referrals

Monthly Timelines Summary Report Directions

Monthly Timelines Summary Report - BCW Referrals