

# September Friday Email Blasts

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Friday, September 2, 2011



As we continue to work to streamline communication resources and supports, Our leadership team with the help of stakeholders have assembled the attached guidance for the monthly District meetings.

Please remember I can not add individual addresses to the email blast. The blast is sent to the individual who is provisioned as the special education director in the gadoe portal. Check with your local security officer to ensure your access. Of course, you may forward this to any individual in your district that should be provided the information.

Looking forward to "seeing" you all at the Directors Webinar on Monday, September 12 at 1:00 PM. <http://illuminate.gavirtualschool.org/doe/index.html>

Have a safe and relaxing Labor Day weekend. Debbie

### **District Meetings:**



### **ARRA Funds:**

As of this week 88% of the IDEA ARRA funds have been drawn down with \$37.5 million remaining and 85% of the Preschool ARRA funds have been drawn down with \$1.5 million remaining. These funds must be obligated and spent by September 30th. If you are having any difficulty expending all your funds, contact Dr. Harry Repsher at 404-657-9968 or email to [hrepsher@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:hrepsher@doe.k12.ga.us) immediately.

### **Core Access Teacher Supports (CATS) Updates:**



### **GATTAP Registration FY12:**

As a continuation of professional learning opportunities offered to enhance teacher expertise and build state capacity to serve students with Autism Spectrum Disorders ( ASD), the Regional Autism Team Meetings will be conducted during 2011-2012 school year.



### **Record Review Procedures for FY12:**

Monitoring for Record Reviews for districts within Georgia will be conducted in a different format for FY12. There is a Record Review Team that has been established at the department. Kathy Giddens will lead the team in the new process. Districts will be notified approximately one month before a Record Review will take place. Districts will be asked to send GaDOE a list of all students with IEPs in their district along with other identifying information. A random selection of students will take place and the number of students chosen for review will be based on the size group of the district. Two or more districts that have a record review coming due in the same

GLRS region will be completed on the same day. The special education director from chosen districts will take the files/folders to their GLRS office. The special education directors will remain on site at GLRS to answer questions the team may have. Once the reviews are completed, an exit conference will take place where any citations may be discussed with the special education directors.

### **Georgia Vision Educators' Stateside Training:**

The Georgia Vision Educators' Statewide Training (GVEST) will be held at the Georgia Academy for the Blind beginning the evening of October 5<sup>th</sup> and ending at noon on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will encourage your vision educators to attend this important training event.

GVEST provides the only annual opportunity for all of Georgia's TVIs to come together collectively. This training event will feature:

- Dr. Christine Roman, a national expert on the topic of Cortical Visual Impairment
- Training sessions specific to students' independent access of the general curriculum
- Strategies for implementing the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)
- Opportunities to discover new assistive technology
- Additional sessions for paraprofessionals, parents and new vision educators on basic principles and best practices when working with this low incidence population

Please send a note to your vision educators now, and encourage them to attend. Registration information will be available in the upcoming week.

For more information contact [Pam Zipperer Joiner](#) at (478)751-4426 or (478)751-4407

### **Student Attendance Improvement:**

Attached is the new Student Attendance Improvement web page which is located on the GADOE Policy web page. This link will provide research, articles, and resources regarding student attendance. We will continually add more resources to the web page including best practices in Georgia School Systems.

[http://www.gadoe.org/pea\\_policy.aspx?PageReq=PEAPolicyAttendance](http://www.gadoe.org/pea_policy.aspx?PageReq=PEAPolicyAttendance)

### **Questions from District Meetings:**

Several questions and topics have been provided by DLs and will be responded to in the Webinar on September 12.

These relate to GNETS class size and funding, state school placements, parental consent for FBA, status of student returning to public school from an SB 10 placement, transmitting confidential information via email and private for profit and not for profit private schools.

Friday, September 9, 2011



Just a reminder that there will be a Director's Webinar on Monday, September 12 at 1:00 PM.

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

I am also planning to resume the quarterly Special Education Director Forums on October 20, December 8, February 23 and May 3 of this school year. I am in the process of securing a central location and will send that information out in the next few weeks. Please remember that each District should select one representative to attend these discussions. The purpose of these meetings is to provide feedback to the State on a variety of topics. I am anticipating we will use the same time frame of 11:00 -1:00 with participants bringing their lunch.

### **Orientation and Mobility Training Opportunity:**

Salus University, located in Philadelphia, has academic opportunities available in Orientation and Mobility of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Orientation and Mobility professionals teach adults and children who are blind or low vision to remain independently mobile and travel safely through their environment. The O&M program is offered both full and part-time. Applicants can apply for either a Master's degree or a Certificate if they already possess an undergraduate degree. The demand for professionals far exceeds the supply. Extensive financial aid, including tuition scholarships, is available for qualified applicants. Courses are offered on-line with the exception of a 10 week summer program in Philadelphia. Fieldwork and internships can be completed in Georgia. For more information go to [www.salus.edu](http://www.salus.edu) and/or contact Lynne Dellinger, M.Ed. at [ldellinger@salus.edu](mailto:ldellinger@salus.edu) or (215) 780-1362.

### **GNETS Operation Manual:**

The [GNETS Operations Manual](#) is finished and posted on the GaDOE web site, on the GNETS page. I am including a link here for your convenience. You can quickly skip to each section of the manual by clicking on the title in the table of contents without having to scroll through the entire document.

### **GATTAP Announcement:**

Georgia Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (GATTAP) registration is now open. Seats are limited so register early in your region.



GATTAP 2011-2012 Announcement for Registration.doc

### **ANCA Announcement:**

Assessing the Needs of Children With Autism (ANCA) Project will continue with Cohort I this school year and registration will be announced soon.

ABLLS-R Kits are available for checkout at the eight GLRS training sites. Cohort I participants are encouraged to choose a student to assess for group discussion and feedback as we continue our assessment training.

### **Georgia Virtual School Updates:**

Georgia students now possess greater choice and flexibility in how they choose to tailor their educational experience. In July, the State Board of Education increased the amount of Carnegie units that a student is eligible to take per semester. **This change no longer limits students to the one full unit per semester but increases the amount of Virtual School content available to a student per semester, and even permits students to take their entire course load through the Georgia Virtual School with FTE funding.**

Additionally, the Georgia Virtual School has made available online its full course content in many core subject areas including middle school courses, which are fully aligned to the Georgia Performance Standards. Known as Free Shared Resources, this online content includes free digital resources such as interactive video lessons, self-check assessments, and educational links to help enrich instruction for students of all levels. Any student, parent, and educator in the state can access the most current listing of shared learning content by visiting [www.gavirtualllearning.org](http://www.gavirtualllearning.org) and clicking on the resources tab.

If you'd like more information about Georgia Virtual Learning, or to find out how Georgia Virtual School can enhance your child's education, please visit [www.gavirtualllearning.org](http://www.gavirtualllearning.org) or [www.gavirtualschool.org](http://www.gavirtualschool.org).



Hope your week has gone well - I appreciate the participation in the Director's Webinar last Monday - please send me your questions for future webinars. We are working to create a way to archive email blast on the website- more information on this to come. Thanks to you all for your work this week and every week! Debbie

**GRADUATEFIRST Institute Reminder:**

September 26-27, 2011, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. **To register**, visit <https://fcweb.pioneerresa.org>. The course number is 984.



**Monthly Timeline Information:**

Districts should not wait to compile the timeline information until the report due date in July. 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 attached below.** Timeline data are collected for all initial evaluations to determine eligibility for special education (including BCW) and for all eligibility re determinations. This includes speech/language and all other eligibilities, including those that do not require a psychological evaluation. Please remember, any data review to determine continued eligibility, even if testing is not needed, is considered an evaluation. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Giddens at [kgiddons@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kgiddons@doe.k12.ga.us).



Timelines Monthly Log- Initial.doc Timelines Monthly Log- Redeterminations.doc Timelines Monthly Log- BCW.doc

**Implementation Manual Part 2:**

Part 2 of the [Special Education Rules Implementation Manual](#), which focuses on eligibility categories, is online. The Chapters in this manual provide guidance for implementing the special education rules for the different disability categories and include hyperlinks to numerous relevant resources and to different sample forms that are available on the GaDOE website. This user-friendly manual can be downloaded and saved on your computer desktop to provide easy access to valuable information.

**Common Core Updates:**

As you know, we are preparing to roll-out professional learning for Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) in kindergarten through high school in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, and Mathematics. The K-high school ELA/Literacy and Mathematics CCGPS will be taught in Georgia public school classrooms beginning in school year 2012-13. A hard copy of the kindergarten through high school standards for ELA and mathematics will be sent to each school, district office, and RESA in the next few weeks. You can access the electronic copy of

these documents from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) homepage by clicking the link to CCGPS.

Dr. Barge and GaDOE staff will provide an orientation session regarding the CCGPS initiative on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, via live video streaming from Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB). The orientation session will run back-to-back and can be viewed from 3:00-4:00 p.m. and/or from 4:00-5:00 p.m. This session will be recorded, edited for closed captioning, and available in the archives beginning on September 26. The link to access the session from your computer is listed below.

Remember that professional learning sessions by grade level via live video streaming from GPB is planned for January through May of 2012. All sessions will run back-to-back. These sessions will also be recorded and then edited for closed captioning for the archives.

See below for the attachments that include the schedule and link for professional learning sessions via live video streaming utilizing GPB technology.

Use the following link to access the session on September 21, 2011, as well as all GaDOE CCGPS professional learning sessions via Georgia Public Broadcasting. The recordings can also be accessed by using the same link: <http://www.gpb.org/education/common-core>

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at [pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us).



If you are attending the Parent Mentor Conference, we will be streaming the presentation for the conference participants at this time.

Friday, September 23, 2011



What a great 3 days at the 10th annual Parent Mentor Partnership Meeting! I enjoyed seeing so many of you. Hope you have a great weekend. Debbie

### **10th Anniversary Conference: Connecting the Path of Family Engagement to Graduation!**

Thanks to all the many directors who attended the 2011 Parent Mentor Partnership Conference this week in Athens. We are so impressed by the support of those directors who participated with their mentors and are leading the way in family engagement!

The winners of the 2011 Phil Pickens Leadership awards are:

- *Parent Mentor:* Kim Chester/Bartow County Parent Mentor
- *Administrator:* Jo Ellen Harden/Dodge County
- *Phil Pickens Visionary Award:* Kathy Rigsby/SW GLRS

We will be sharing more information about the important work of the partnership and the many inspiring success stories shared by directors and mentors. If you have questions please contact Patti Solomon, [psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **The GaDOE is pleased to host a seminar with Dr. Bill Daggett**

**October 28, 2011 from 8:00-11:00**

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.

Please plan to join us on October 28th at 8:00 for an inspiring seminar with Dr. Bill Daggett. You will leave this event with a renewed joy of increasing student achievement!

*More details to follow....after September 26*

### **Assessment Specialist for the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test-Modified (CRCT-M) Program**

The Assessment Division is pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Nesbit-McBride has recently been appointed to serve as the Assessment Specialist for the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test-Modified (CRCT-M) program.

Mary has served as the Project Coordinator for the CRCT-M since January 2009, and was involved in both the development of the CRCT-M and its initial administration this past spring. Beyond this experience, Mary brings to this role a background in assessment, research, and



evaluation that pre-dates her work with the CRCT-M. Mary's contact information appears below:

**Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D.**

**404.232.1207**

[mmcbride@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mmcbride@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **ARRA Funds Update to Superintendents:**

#### **Superintendents and Finance Directors:**

On September 30, 2011, Title I-ARRA, Title I, 1003a-ARRA, IDEA-ARRA, Preschool-ARRA, and Education for Homeless Children and Youth-ARRA grant awards will **expire**. *This email is intended for staff of any LEA that was awarded any of these ARRA Grants.* According to our payment system, many LEA recipients of these grants have large cash balances that have not yet been drawn from the federal government. Statewide, the current outstanding balances amount to over \$100 million! (GaDOE will send a confirmed list of unspent balances, by LEA and ARRA Grant, early next week.) It is important to note that, unlike many Federal Grants that allow carry over, these ARRA Grant funds will have to be remitted back to Washington if they are not properly obligated or spent by the federally established deadlines.

GaDOE's Program Managers have issued several emails, and hosted discussions, with Local District Title Program Coordinators, communicating the **urgency** to review and utilize unspent balances (appropriately). As a reminder, ARRA fund recipients, and the GaDOE, are accountable for ensuring that all obligations and expenditures are recorded and reported using government-wide cash management standards.

Due to the unusual, one-time nature of these ARRA Funds, we strongly suggest that Local Superintendents and or Local Finance Directors consider implementing the following suggestions:

- Meet with your Coordinators and Finance Staff immediately to review your Consolidated Application Local Budgets and General Ledgers for any unspent/unobligated ARRA funds.
- Ensure that all expenditures are committed appropriately. All unallowable expenditures should be transferred to another funding source.
- Review scheduled expenditures requested by program staff and draw all allowable reimbursable funds as soon as possible (some expenses, such as payroll, or encumbrances, may still be held until the appropriate time for payment).
- Review outstanding purchase orders for delivery date and estimated pay date. **All goods and services must be received by October 15, 2011 to ensure Completion Reports are submitted timely.**
- Review the plan to expend funds and incur any additional (appropriate) obligations before September 30, 2011. (For example, the plan should forecast salaries through September 30<sup>th</sup> and subtract from unexpended balance.)
- Any new purchase orders/contracts should be encumbered before September 30, 2011; to remain in compliance with the Federal Period of Availability policy.
- As a reminder, invoices must be received and paid by the GaDOE Finance Office by October 15<sup>th</sup> to meet the required October 31, 2011 Completion Report Deadline.

- In the event that Local Budgets need to be amended, please Submit Budget Amendments in the Consolidated Application as expeditiously as possible. GaDOE's Program Managers will assist with this process to ensure budgets and expenditures are aligned and approved as quickly as possible (and feasible). Program Staff at GaDOE are also available to provide technical assistance, should you have questions about the process.

Of course, these recommendations may be handled slightly differently, depending on your local internal finance processes; however, the main point is to ensure senior level management focus on appropriately utilizing these funds.

Friday, September 30, 2011

Hope that your week has gone well. Will be sending out information for the first Directors forum on October 20th next week. Have a great weekend - Debbie

### **Proposals for CEC Conference:**

The 2012 GA CEC Conference will be held on February 24th and 25th at the Macon Centreplex. Please save the date for this event. Registration for this will begin around the end of November. We are calling for proposals for conference presentations! Please submit a proposal if you would like to present a session at the conference. This is your opportunity to share your expertise with your fellow professionals in Georgia. Just visit our website! The deadline for proposals is November 7th, 2011.

### **Striving Reader Comprehensive Literacy Grant:**

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is pleased to announce the upcoming sub grant competition for the newly awarded Striving Reader Comprehensive Literacy Grant that the state received on September 7, 2011. The award of \$25,650,000.00 will be sub granted to eligible Local Education Agencies (LEAs) as well as non-profit providers of early learning to improve literacy instruction for all children. This funding is unique in that it includes all learners from Birth through Grade 12. LEA's and non-profit providers of early learning are eligible to apply. Project objectives include developing a system for providing evidence-based professional learning at all levels, ensuring that teachers use data to provide instruction targeted to the needs of students, and implementing technology applications that enhance instruction and support student engagement with text.

**On October 4, 2011**, a webinar will be conducted explaining the award, the timeline and the highlights of the grant. The webinar will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be recorded for future viewing. A listserv has been set up for future grant related communications. Anyone interested can join the listserv by sending an email to [join-GAstrivingreader@list.k12.ga.us](mailto:join-GAstrivingreader@list.k12.ga.us)

If you have questions, please contact Julie Morrill at (404)657-8318 or (404)425-2975. You can email Julie at [jmorrill@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jmorrill@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **Posting the Friday Email Blast:**

Many of you have asked about posting the Friday Email Blasts. We have decided to post all of one month's email blasts together in one document, however they are separated into each week's blast. A table of contents has been added to the month's email blast so you can go straight to the 'blast' you want to see.

They will be posted with the DL Updates. You can access them by going to the Special Education homepage, scroll down to **Conferences and Presentations, Webinars, DL Updates, Newsletters**, and click on [DL Updates and Friday Email Blasts](#).

### **Free Training Materials For Effective Listening Skills and Other Dispute Resolution Strategies:**

*Effective* listening will (1) keep the focus on the person speaking, (2) demonstrate care and empathy, and (3) demonstrate understanding.

If you would like access to free training materials for effective listening and other professional learning areas for your staff, follow the link below to CADRE, the national technical assistance website for special education dispute resolution.

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

### OSEP Guidance:

Last month OSEP published a document, "Creating Equal Opportunities for Children and Youth with Disabilities to Participate in Physical Education and Extracurricular Athletics." Just in case you weren't aware of it, I am attaching it to this document. Here is a link if you want to download it: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/equal-pe.pdf>

### Autism Capacity Building Projects:

**ANCA Project Registration** - ANCA Cohort I participants may now register for fall and spring sessions by clicking on ANCA in the WHAT'S NEW box on our Special Education GaDOE webpage, or here at [ANCA Project Registration](#). The schedule and location of each training is posted on the [ANCA Assessment Project webpage](#).

For questions regarding the ANCA Assessment Project, please contact Dr. Alice Murphy at [mmurphy@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mmurphy@doe.k12.ga.us) or 404-657-9957.

### GATTAP:



GATTAP 2011-2012 Announcement for Registration.doc

### Coding:

- ⦿ Where does the CTI fit in with Inclusion '6', if at all? Must the Job Coach be a CTI teacher or is it any staff member supporting the class?
  - ⦿ CBI (Community Based Instruction) is reported with special education program codes and is not reported with inclusion codes.
  - ⦿ CTAE WBL (Work Based Learning) supported by either by CTI or another special education teacher should be reported with inclusion codes of 6 if the student receives this support on the day of the count.