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DIVISIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES and SUPPORTS

AUGUST 2009 DL UPDATE

Georgia Grant for High Cost Fund (GHCF)

The Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) 2004 gives States an option to set aside funding for the creation of a "Risk Pool" designated to assist local school districts in meeting the high cost needs of providing special education services to certain individual children with disabilities.

These funds will assist local school systems in covering the direct special education instructional costs of children with disabilities who meet the criteria established in IDEA 2004 and the system plan for GHCF. In FY10 approximately \$3,000,000 will be available for distribution to local systems through the Grant for High Cost Funds (GHFC).

- 1) A "High Need Child" is defined as a child who has been identified as eligible for special education and related services and has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP). The intensity, frequency and diversity of the special education needs of the child exceed the typical needs of a child with a disability.
- 2) IDEA 2004 requires the eligibility for reimbursement for a high needs student be at least three times the average per pupil expenditure as defined in Section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. In Georgia for FY10 direct costs must be in excess of \$27,000.

Annually, the GaDOE will begin accepting applications for the GHCF on October 1. The ending date for submission is April 1 of each fiscal year. The award letters for the GHFC expenditures in a school year will be issued by May 30. Additional information regarding the criteria and grant application will be posted on the special education webpage at the link, "Budget and Grant Applications." Read the instructions and established criteria carefully. LEAs should complete the application and provide documentation of expenses required for processing the GHCF application.

2009 Georgia CEC Award Winners

Congratulate the following Georgia CEC award winners. Please be on the lookout for outstanding professionals you would like to nominate this coming year!

Outstanding Leadership: Kathleen Coughlin, Douglas County Schools, Special Education Coordinator

Paraprofessional of the Year: Susan Mixon-Lockaby, Gwinnett County Schools, EBD self-contained paraprofessional

Special Education Teacher of the Year: Cyndi Chappel, Douglas County Schools, LEAP Teacher

Statewide Assessments and Students with Disabilities: Upcoming Workshops

It is time for workshops and meetings that focus on the implementation of statewide assessments during the 2009-2010 school year. Two specific workshops may be of interest to special education directors and their designees.

The first series of workshops is the System Testing Coordinator Conferences. In each workshop, all statewide assessments will be discussed. There will be one face-to-face workshop and additional workshops will be provided and recorded via Elluminate. Therefore, special education directors can tune in and receive the latest information regarding all aspects of the specific tests within testing program. Accommodations are not scheduled to be discussed during these sessions, as a separate series of Elluminates will be conducted on this topic.

The second series of workshops is the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Fall Workshops. Conducted by personnel from the Division of Special Education Services, the Division of Assessment, and Questar, these workshops will focus on the logistics of the 2009-2010 administration of the GAA as well as training on aspects of fidelity, data documentation, and portfolio development and review that are targeted based upon information gathered during 2008-2009. Six half-day workshops will be held in various locations around the state. In addition, an Elluminate session will be held for those who are administering the test for the first time..

Each of the GAA Workshops is designed for system test coordinators, special education directors and a designee. BECAUSE there is a focus on further implementation of appropriate and effective practices around the developing of activities and materials, gathering of data and compiling, reviewing and submitting portfolios, as well as redelivery of this information to teachers in the local systems, please ensure that the designee attending these workshops is someone who can redeliver and support all teachers in the system as they administer the GAA.

The memoranda of upcoming workshops sponsored by the Assessment Division for the testing programs can be found at http://gadoe.org/ci_testing_educators.aspx or by going to the GaDOE testing website (http://gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx) and clicking on the link for "Memoranda and Announcements". If there are registration requirements for participating in the workshops, that information as well as how to register will be found within the memoranda.

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 that two representatives from each school district attend one of the regional meetings. The teams may be the same staff who attended the Autism Academy such as a teacher and SLP who can assist with training for school systems. The regional team meetings will be conducted as consortia planned and facilitated by our division and will focus on building capacity for working with students with autism spectrum disorders. Dates and locations for the Regional Autism Team Meetings will be announced through the DL Update and directors will be notified of how to submit names of participants.

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 mmurphy@doe.k12.ga.us.

Georgia Vision Impaired Consortia Meetings for FY 2010.

The VI Consortia will meet from 9:00-12:00 on August 28, 2009, February 19, 2010, and May 7, 2010. Please see below for a list of the Education Technology Centers and the Center that is serving as the host site for each meeting.

ETCs: Albany State ETC, Armstrong Atlantic ETC, Dalton State ETC, Kennesaw State ETC, Macon State ETC, National Science Center ETC, UGA Gwinnett ETC

Host Sites:

West Georgia RESA ETC	August 28, 2009
Valdosta State ETC	February 19, 2010
Pioneer RESA	May 7, 2010

Resources for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Resources for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities are available through the GaDOE Website. New teachers can find information on Access to the Georgia Performance standards both on the website at <http://gadoe.georgiastandards.org/impairment.aspx> and on the Resource Board for Access to the GPS. A password can be obtained by emailing Kayse Harshaw at sharshaw@doe.k12.ga.us.

Recorded Elluminate Live webinar sessions contain extensive information on access to the curriculum and the Georgia Alternate Assessment. Information regarding these sessions is available at http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCELLuminate. Elluminate sessions will continue to be conducted monthly during the next school year.

Additional units and activities for the new High School Access Courses developed by Georgia teachers of students with significant disabilities are being added to the Resource Board. Please encourage your teachers to visit the Resource Board for resources and materials to assist them in giving their students access to the curriculum. Also please remind them these materials are created for teachers across Georgia by other teachers, and we hope they too will contribute activities and materials they have created (in electronic format) and success stories they have had with their students!

Interagency Transition Councils (ITC): Register Yours at www.gatransition.org

Great News! Over 50 Interagency Transition Councils have registered at www.gatransition.org. Please check-out this web site and register your ITC if it is not listed.

If you are listed be sure to e-mail your ITC "dates" for the state calendar. Also, if you have questions about Transition Assessment, this website has many answers accessed by clicking on Assessment. If your district has some helpful transition assessment answers, please e-mail them to the web site or to bnations@doe.k12.ga.us as we (the Transition Community in Georgia) want to know what you are doing that works!

GCASE/GaDOE Special Education Leadership Development Academy

This will mark the sixth year that G-CASE and the GaDOE have offered the academy, which was previously known as the New Directors' Academy. The name has been changed from the New Special Education Directors' Academy to the Special Education Leadership Development Academy to reflect the academy's role in training and supporting new directors, directors with limited experience, and those preparing for key leadership positions in special education such as coordinators or assistant directors.

The purpose of the SELDA is to provide long-term, sustained professional learning for special education administrators to become change agents in their systems, ultimately impacting the practices of teachers and the educational performance of students. Over the course of the school year, the participants will meet for five full days of training:

SELDA Training Days:

Thurs/Fri. September 10-11, 2009

Wednesday November 11, 2009

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Week of March 22, 2010

SELDA New Marriott, Macon

SELDA G-CASE preconference, Savannah

SELDA GAEL preconference, Atlanta

SELDA Spring Special Education Leadership Meeting
preconference Dates/Location to be announced.

The SELDA uses the most valuable resource in the state to support new administrators: veteran Directors of Special Education. The mentor directors and the protégés will work in pairs, small groups, and large groups to share and learn from each other. Each participant commits to participate in each training session, an e-mail group, and a total of 10 hours of collaboration outside of the training sessions with their mentor/protégé.

The academy focuses on two major strands of objectives: 1) school reform activities leading to improved performance for students with disabilities (e.g., improving leader and teacher practices), and 2) administrative leadership activities (e.g., budgets, data reports, FTE Counts). Ultimately, both sets of skills are needed to impact students' educational performance. Over the past several years, participants have reported that the academy has facilitated their growth not only in knowledge, but also in their leadership practices.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009-2010 SELDA, please watch the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) web site: <http://www.ciclt.net/gael/> for registration information. The registration fee for new directors/leaders is \$ 250, which includes professional membership in GAEL, CEC, GCASE, and CASE. Participants who are already have professional membership (all four organizations) will not pay a registration fee, nor will mentors. Professional Learning Units (PLUs) will be provided for participants who attend every session. New directors will also receive an email invitation this month.

Data Collection and Reporting Elluminates

The Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports are pleased to announce a monthly series of Elluminate Sessions focusing on data collection requirements for special education including Indicator 20 of the SPP/APR for the FY 10 school year. These sessions will also include activities designed to introduce participants to applications available to support the analysis of data aimed at improving student performance.

The interactive sessions are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Bonnie Dye is the session moderator. The Elluminates are intended for participants including special education directors, coordinators, instructional technology staff and/or administrators who are responsible for timely and accurate data reporting of student level data.

Specific topics will be discussed each month beginning with the basics of data collection and the types of data reporting required by the state department. Come join us for the live, interactive sessions.

Please refer to the chart on the next page for the schedule.

**FY 10 Elluminate Schedule
Supporting Timely and Accurate Data Reporting
(Indicator 20)**

Date	My GaDOE	Data Reporting
8/18/2009	Portal Navigation Student Profile Documents	FTE1 Scheduling Considerations GSEG Application
9/15/2009	FTE Documentation	FTE1 Reporting Considerations Preschool Exiting Survey
10/20/2009	Introduction to Data Warehouse	FTE2 GNETS Program File
11/17/2009	Data Warehouse - Special Education Cube	FTE 2
12/8/2009		Special Education Level Record
1/19/2010	Data Warehouse - Graduation, Dropout and Attendance Cube	Weighted Risk Ratio Review FTE1 for FTE3
2/16/2010	Data Warehouse - Calculating Identification Risk	Discipline Level Record
3/16/2010	Data Warehouse - Assessment Cube	Postsecondary Survey Timeline Reporting
4/20/2010	Consolidated Application	CEIS Survey Application
5/18/2010		Student Record

Assistive Technology for Transition to Post Secondary Education: Elluminate Rescheduled

Announcing the first Elluminate for Transition for this school year! --- "***Assistive Technology for Transition to Post Secondary Education***" on August 27, 2009 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.. This is the session that was rescheduled from last year due to technical difficulties.

Please mark your calendar and tune in as this is such an important topic for all secondary students. Just a reminder to access this session, please go to www.gadoe.org, click on georgiastandards.org, click on *Elluminate Live! Webinars under Announcements*, click on *calendar for date of session* (August 27, 2009). No password is needed. Please note the Transition Flyer for all of the other Transition Series Elluminates for this school year is available. Also, remember the last two years of Elluminates on Transition are also still available.

Transition Training Opportunities via ElluminateLive!

Transition services are meant to be a "results-oriented process" focused on the academic and functional achievement of a student with disabilities to assist the student in attaining the desired post-school outcomes. Transition for students with disabilities remains a critical professional learning area for many Georgia school systems.

An outstanding opportunity for increasing knowledge and application of core principles of transition is available through seven online training sessions scheduled using Elluminate. These sessions focus on best practices for all special education professionals, Labor Department/Vocational Rehabilitation professionals, parents and any other interested persons who participate in the planning and implementation of Transition. Elluminate Live is a real-time training and collaborative on-line format that is flexible and easy to use. It allows participants the ability to participate in presentations over the Internet. **The time of each of the sessions is 3:30-5:00.** Please refer to the attached flyer for dates, topics, and directions for logging into the sessions. For questions, please contact Dr. Lu Nations-Miller at bnations@doe.k12.ga.us.

Teacher TALKs: Talking About Learning and Kids Mathematics Webinars

The GaDOE Mathematics Department hosts **Teacher TALKs** for all grade levels/courses for mathematics teachers once a month from 11a.m. - 1:00 p.m. during August, September, October, November, January, February, and March. These Elluminate sessions provide teachers with an "open mike" opportunity for questions and concerns to be addressed by the GaDOE Mathematics Team and when available a representative from the Special Education Department.

This is a great opportunity for special education teachers who are teaching mathematics to hear general education teachers' questions/comments and ask questions. Please distribute the attached **2009-2010 Mathematics Webinars for Teacher TALKs** to all your teachers.

Collaborative Mathematics I/II Support Elluminate Sessions

Donna Ann Flaherty, Special Education Program Specialist, and Janet Davis, Mathematics Program Manager, will present four ElluminateLive sessions targeted for the Mathematics I/II Support Classes. All Elluminate sessions will be held at 10:00 a.m. We had great attendance at these sessions last year and look forward to your attendance this year.

August 12, 2009 (tentative)	How to Set Up Your Mathematics Support I/II Classes
September 23, 2009	The Use of Manipulatives and Graphing Calculators
October 21, 2009	Systems Share: Programs and Interventions That Work
January 20, 2010	Schedules: Pros and Cons

Collaborative Elementary Lunch Math Elluminates

Donna Ann Flaherty, Special Education Program Specialist, and Sharon Hooper, Mathematics Program Specialist, will present four ElluminateLive sessions targeted for the Elementary Mathematics. All Elluminate sessions will be held on Tuesdays for 1 hour, starting at 11:30 a.m. We will be available to answer questions after session.

August 11, 2009	Ten Effective Teaching Principles for Elementary Level
September 1, 2009	Basic Facts for Elementary Level
October 20, 2009	Mental Math for Elementary Level
November 17, 2009	Planning for Learning Mathematics: Interleave, Space Learning Over Time, Homework

Dates to Remember:

August

28 Georgia Vision Impaired Consortia Meeting, Host: West Georgia RESA ETC

September 2009

1-2 Focused Monitoring Team Member Training, Lake Blackshear

10-11 Special Education Leadership Development Academy
(formerly New Directors' Academy) Macon, Georgia

14 Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session
Kim Hartsell and Nancy O'Hara 10:00-11:30 a.m.

29 School System Focused Monitoring Orientation
(only for systems selected for Focused Monitoring)
GaDOE West Tower Training Room, Atlanta

October

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

November

9 Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session
Kim Hartsell and Nancy O'Hara 10:00-11:30 a.m.

January 2010

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

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

To Be Announced 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