August Friday Email Blasts

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I know that you are in some of your busiest weeks of the year and hope that the opening of the school year is smooth and a reflection of your continued hard work to provide the excellent services to the children in our State.

There will be a Director's Elluminate on <u>Thursday, August 11 at 10:00 AM.</u> We hope to provide you with information and gather your input on the revision of the Graduation Rule, as well as, input on the district meetings in the upcoming year. I hope you will be able to tune in the webinar will be recorded. Debbie

"What's New" Box on the GaDOE Special Education Homepage:

Please remember to check this box on the Special Education homepage for new announcements.

http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_exceptional.aspx



Fall GCASE:

G-CASE is seeking proposals for breakout sessions at the Fall Conference Nov. 16-18. See the attached call for proposals and submit a proposal and/or encourage someone else to do this. Proposals are due by August 15.



IEP ONLINE PILOT UPDATE:

Blue = Data Submission - 6,534 Yellow = Online IEP - 6,765

District Name	Director's First Name	Director's Last Name	Dedicated Support	LDC	SWD	Current IEP	Current SIS
Coweta County	Gina	Murray	Yes	Yes	2350	Tranquility	Infinite Campus
Dublin City	Jennifer	Claxton	Yes	Yes	275	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus
Jones County	Jennifer	Mellor	Yes	Yes	650	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus
Morgan County	Sara	Burbach	Yes	Yes	307		Infinite Campus
Thomas County	Bonnie	Seery	Yes	Yes	770	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus

District Name	Director's First Name	Director's Last Name	SWD	Current IEP	Current SIS
*Lowndes County	Mindell	Downing	1113	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus
Newton County	Sarah	West	2413	Infinite Campus	Infinite Campus
Sumter County	Barbie	Cowan	580	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus
Troup County	Lakshmi	Sankar	1018	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus
Toombs County	Sabrina	Woodruff	415	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus
Ware County	Jan	James	740	SEMStracker	Infinite Campus

*Lowndes undecided

The total # of students participating in the top right of this page includes Lowndes who may withdraw.

The decision was made to interact with districts using a single student information system (SIS) during the pilot. Infinite campus was chosen for a variety of reasons. Working with a single SIS will facilitate the ability to understand the issues related to the IEP application as opposed to the interface with the SIS. Using only the subgroup of systems using Infinite Campus, we chose systems with some variety in their current IEP software, systems in geographically different locations, and systems with different size groups. It is our hope that additional systems will have the opportunity to be included in the pilot at mid- year.

Graduate FIRST Fall Institute- Register Now:

Please consider reviewing your SWD graduation data and supporting the participation of high schools from your districts.

CAN YOUR SCHOOL SAY... For students with disabilities?

- less than 1% dropped out of school,
- graduation rates increased 8% 9%,
- 80% or greater are proficient in mathematics and reading/Language Arts on the CRCT and the GHSGT, and
- attendance has increased and suspension/expulsions have decreased.

The Institute will assist you to:

BUILD AND CUSTOMIZE YOUR DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM USING TOOLS, RESOURCES. AND MATERIALS FROM THE GraduateFIRST PROJECT

ACCESS VIDEOS, VIGNETTES AND POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS FROM NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES IN DROPOUT PREVENTION

INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO GRADUATE WITH A REGULAR DIPLOMA, DECREASE DROPOUT RATES AND ATTAIN BETTER POSTSECONDARY OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

DISCUSS DROPOUT PREVENTION STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES WITH STAFF FROM THE NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



DL Assignments for FY12 - REVISED:



National TASH conference:

The National TASH conference will be in Atlanta on Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2011. Please share the attached flyer with staff and parents in your district!



TASH CONFERENCE FLYER_Education and School Administrator.doc

Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA) Registration:

The purpose and focus of SELDA is to prepare new special education directors. So participation in SELDA 2011-12 is limited to new special education directors (in the first 3 years of service) and/or one other special education leader per school system. Mentors are also sought to support Directors who are new in their role.

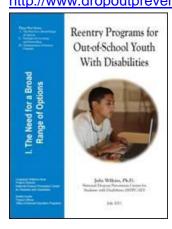
Registration for New Directors and Mentors:

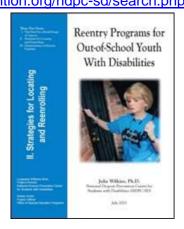


NEW Resources:



NDPC-SD is pleased to announce the release of three new reports that address school reentry. The reports examine the issues around reentry, some of the options available for youth to reenter school, strategies for locating and re-enrolling out-of-school youth, and the characteristics of some existing reentry programs. These documents may be downloaded from the NDPC-SD website, at www.ndpc-sd.org. Another related resource is the Center's new database of reentry programs, which may be accessed at http://www.dropoutprevention.org/ndpc-sd/search.php.









Thanks to those of you who participated in the webinar yesterday. I hope the information provided was valuable. Lots of announcements this week as we get FY12 underway. Hope your school opening is going well. Debbie

FY12 Important Dates to Remember:



FY12_SPECIAL EDUCATION DUE DATES.docx

SELDA Registration:

Friday, August 12 is the last day to register for the 2011-12 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA) to attend all of the sessions. If you know a new special education director who needs to attend, remind them to register if they have not already done so. Each district may register 2 individuals. (new director and a potential new director)

The SELDA programs are designed to train new and beginning special education directors and those aspiring to be new special education directors in the next couple of years. Those registering for and attending the SELDA sessions should understand the purpose of the training sessions. You should not attend if this purpose does not meet their current professional development needs. If you have any questions, contact me at ecollins@gael.org.

http://www.g-case.org/

Parent Survey Satisfaction Results for 2011 Continue to Climb!

State Parent Satisfaction Rate	2008	27 %
	2009	30 %
	2010	36 %
	2011	39 %

If your district participated in the 2011 parent surveys this past school year, be watching the mail early next week for your 2011 parent survey report. Your report contains district results as well as building results for those schools receiving back at least 10 completed surveys and finishing with a 25 percent or better return rate. The state's IDEA Parent Survey results were prepared by the Georgia Center for Assessment/Test Scoring and Reporting Services at UGA. Steve Cramer, Ph.D., Associate Director, who reported Thursday that all reports would be mailed to systems by today, created an *alternative* report for each district with building results after so many principals wanted to know how their individual buildings fared. The individual school results are not kept as part of the accountability on Indicator 8 by the GaDOE but are offered as information to improve results by the Assessment Center.

Statewide the question that received the most favorable score was: "Teachers are available to speak with me." As it is every year, the lowest ranking item was: "I was offered special assistance (such as child care) so that I could participate in the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) meeting." We are aware that many administrators feel that this childcare question is confusing and should be changed and we will address this at the next opportunity when Federal guidance allows for changes to this current process.

If you have questions concerning parent surveys please contact Patti Solomon at psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us.

Parent Mentor Partnership 10th Annual Conference is Sept 21 to 23:

This year's conference for administrators and parent mentors will be held at the UGA Conference Center and Hotel in Athens beginning at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21 with keynotes and a resource fair, and continue all day Thursday, September 22 with keynotes and breakout sessions followed by an anniversary leadership reception. On Friday, September 23 the conference will conclude at noon.

Registration for the conference, pre-sessions and lodging will be on the UGA center site by the end of next week at www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/cch/register. An email blast will be sent to you when the site becomes public. The registration cost, which includes most meals and the leadership dinner reception, is \$165 per person. Participants will be able to choose an optional pre-session from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21 for a registration fee of \$15 which includes a box lunch. The preliminary agenda is attached for your review.



GraduateFirst Institute:



Parent Mentor and Administrator Orientation:

A Drive-in Orientation is scheduled for new GaPMP Districts and new parent mentors on Wednesday, Sept 7, 2011 from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the: Monroe County Schools Education Center, 44 Hwy 41S, Forsyth 31029. There is no registration fee for training or materials but participating districts are responsible for travel costs. Lunch will be on participants' own. If there is interest, we will run an optional session on September 6, 2011 from 1 pm to 4 pm specifically for new districts and/or new mentors on the basics of setting up an effective program. Registration forms will be sent to applicable systems with the registration and planned agenda early next week.

Curriculum Newsletter:



Transition Elluminate Schedule:

Attached is the Transition Elluminate Schedule for this year. Please note the first Transition Elluminate in September entitled: <u>Hand In Hand-The Transition Plan and The Individual Graduation Plan "THE BRIDGE BILL"</u> is a follow-up to the Bridge Bill discussion mentioned in the Directors' Elluminate yesterday.



CEC Awards:

We were so proud to have some recipients from Georgia last year- so think about nominations for CEC in FY12.

The Yes I Can! Awards honor children and youth with disabilities who excel in categories such as academics, athletics, self-advocacy, and transition. This year, CEC will select 21 winners to be acknowledged at the CEC 2012 Convention & Expo in Denver. All nominees receive a certificate of accomplishment, whether they win the award or not. The **deadline** for the CEC's 2012 Professional Awards and Yes I Can is Oct. 21, 2011! Be sure to submit your honorees to the international competition.

CEC's Professional Awards

Through CEC Professional Awards, special educators are recognized who have advanced the field, as well as CEC members who have contributed to the Council in significant ways. They include the:

- CEC J.E. Wallace Wallin Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award
- Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award
- CEC Special Education Research Award
- Outstanding CEC Leadership Award
- CEC Business Award

<u>Visit CEC's Web site</u> for more information about the awards, including eligibility guidelines and the nomination forms. **Nominations must be postmarked by Oct. 21, 2011.** Also developed are the attached flyers, one of which targets CEC members specifically.

Local District Class Size Resolutions;

Special Education classes are able to exceed class size maximums for the 2011-2012 school year with the adoption of local board resolution. The resolution must be provided to the GaDOE as well. Many systems have increased class sizes across the board for FY12, including special education. Please check the document at the link below in order to view the exceptions for your local district if a resolution was submitted. This does not relieve the caseload requirement in State Board Rule 160-4-7-.14.

Resolutions submitted for FY12 available on the web page at the link below:

http://www.gadoe.org/pea_policy.aspx

VISITS to WARM SPRINGS:

If you have students who may be interested in Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute, please take note of the new visitation procedures. You will no longer be able to take students on a school tour so relaying this information to parents and students will be very important. Important visitation/tour information is attached.



PARRC Consortium Update:

As you know, Georgia is a governing state within the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium. PARCC is developing a common assessment in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics that will be administered in 2014-2015 in grades 3 - 8 and high school. As a first step, the consortium has *drafted* model content frameworks to help identify the big ideas in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for each

grade level (3 through high school). These frameworks, when finalized, will support the development of the assessment blueprints.

Importantly, the model content frameworks are <u>not</u> intended to serve as curricula or scopes and sequences. Rather, their primary intended use is to provide more detail about the standards and ultimately, their connection to the PARCC assessment system. These frameworks have been designed by state content experts as well as members of the team that wrote the CCSS.

PARCC is now seeking a broader review of the draft frameworks. To review the frameworks, please use the following link: http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks. You may submit your comments to PARCC via an online survey which is also available through the link. Specifically, PARCC is seeking information on the usefulness and clarity of these resources, particularly for classroom teachers. Unfortunately the review period is rather short, **ending**August 17th. Please keep in mind, these frameworks are still in draft form and are not final.

Should you have any questions about Georgia's roll-out of the Common Core (referred to as the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards), please do not hesitate to reach out to Pam Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (pamsmith@doe.k12.ga.us), Jan Wyche, Common Core Coordinator (jwyche@doe.k12.ga.us), Kim Jeffcoat, Language Arts Program Coordinator (kieffcoat@doe.k12.ga.us), or Sandi Woodall, Mathematics Program Coordinator (swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us).

Should you have any questions about the PARCC assessment, which is still in the design phase, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be assured that as information about the assessment design



Enjoyed seeing many of you at the data conference this week. Lots of information about upcoming events this weeks email blast. Please consider nominating a student for the Superintendent's Advisory Council. Have a great weekend! Debbie

Parent Mentor Partnership State Conference:

Registration is now open! Please see the registration link below for the 10th Annual Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership State Conference to be held September 21-23, 2011 in Athens at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. To register and view the draft agenda click on: http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/cch/register/10th-annual-georgia-parent-mentor-partnership-state-conference

SSTAGE One-Day Conference:

DATE: August 18, 2011

SSTAGE in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be hosting a one-day drive-in conference entitled "Student Progress Monitoring-Powerful Data for Instructional Decision-Making, RTI and AYP." The conference will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at the DuBose Porter Center in Dublin, Georgia.

Progress monitoring is a scientifically based practice for assessing student performance and an essential component of an instructional decision-making model, a Response to Intervention framework, and an inclusive accountability system. The use of progress monitoring results in more efficient and targeted instruction. Progress monitoring is an indispensable tool for advancing all students.

Dr. John L. Hosp of University of Iowa will be the keynote speaker. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Blenke at ablenke@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 463-1765.

Please join us on September 14 and thank you "For Making Education Work for All Georgians".



TASH Conference:

November 30th-December 1st in Atlanta! Highlights include:

- *Transition to* Employment two-day conference within a conference, scheduled for November 30th and December 1st .
- Assistive Technology in the General Education Classroom a pre-conference workshop scheduled for November 30th.
- More than120 hours of high quality instruction and discussion on December 1st and 2nd on topics related to including students with the most significant disabilities and support needs in the full fabric of school life.

Register online at www.tash.org. Early bird registration has been extended for Georgia until September 15th! If registering between September 1-15th use code **Early Bird-Georgia Teacher** as the discount code when registering!

Preschool Outcomes Entry/Exit Data Update:

- As of August 20, 2011-Entrance data entry is no longer being required in the GaDOE portal.
 Please do not enter students for the 2011-2012 school year.
- GaDOE is moving toward a new reporting method for Outcomes Exit data. Please do not enter exit data for children exiting during the 2011-12 school year into the portal application.
- New method will resemble the calculator that was exhibited at Spring Leadership.
- Districts will report aggregated data instead of the student-level data currently being reported.
- Districts will be responsible for retaining their entrance and exit data, as well as ensuring required exit criteria.
- Bonnie Dye (Data Mgr) is revealing the new application at the Data meeting in Athens.
- Bonnie is creating a template/spreadsheet via EXCEL
- The template/spreadsheet will be shared upon Bonnie's completion.

Assessment Directors & Special Education Directors:

Just as Georgia is participating in a consortium of states to develop a general assessment based on the Common Core State Standards, we are also participating in a consortium focused on the development of an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS). An AA-AAS is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (also referred to as the 1% assessment or in our state, the Georgia Alternate Assessment). The National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) consortium consists of five national assessment and special education policy centers and nineteen states. In an effort to better understand the students who participate in alternate assessments across all partnering states, teachers who administered each state's 1% assessment in 2010 - 2011, such as our GAA, are being asked to complete a Learning Characteristics Inventory (LCI) for each student assessed.

On August 29th we will send you an email containing a weblink to the LCI. The LCI will be completed online. We ask that Assessment Directors and Special Education Directors work together to provide this link to every teacher who administered the GAA last school year (2010-2011) and who remain employed by your district. Teachers should complete the on-line inventory, which consists of 16 questions, for every student who participated in the GAA during the 2010-2011 school year (i.e., last year's students). Importantly, no identifying student-level information will be collected, nor will any teacher, school, or district information be collected. The sole purpose of this endeavor is to understand the learning characteristics of the students who participate in the GAA to inform the test development process.

We understand the beginning of the school year is a very busy time and appreciate your assistance with this important work. We ask that teachers complete the inventory no later than September 16, 2011, if at all possible.

For more information, you may contact Tony Eitel (GaDOE Assessment Division) at (404) 656-0478; aeitel@doe.k12.ga.us or Lynn Holland (GaDOE Special Education Services and Supports Division) at (404) 657-9960; lholland@doe.k12.ga.us.

Statewide VI Consortium:

The quarterly meetings of the teachers of students with visual impairments will be in hiatus until such time as a new Program Specialist for Visual Impairments is hired. The previously scheduled sessions at the ETCs on September 8th has been cancelled. If you have information about opportunities or events that would be of interest to vision educators statewide, please

send them to Lynn Holland at lholland@doe.k12.ga.us, so that they may be distributed to districts in the Friday Email Blast.

Special Education Teacher Newsletter:

Remind your special education teachers to sign up for the electron copy of the Special Education Newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter send a **blank** email to **join-specialeducation@list.doe.k12.ga.us**

The August Special Education Newsletter went out on August 17, 2011. The next newsletter will go out in November. I have attached the most current one. If you want to read last year's newsletters go to the Special Educations website, http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx and click on Conferences and Presentations, Webinars, DL Updates, Newsletters.



2011 GAYC Conference Scholarships:

Apply now for a scholarship to attend GAYC's 45th Annual Conference: "Together for Children," October 14 & 15, 2011, at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth, GA. Visit a demonstration classroom and over 80 vendors in the Exhibit Hall, find out about new initiatives in our field, how to work effectively with children and adults, and going back to school opportunities.

Scholarship applications will be accepted until August 22, 2011. Eligibility requirements on application. Scholarship recipients will be selected and notification sent by September 1, 2011. Download additional GAYC Annual Conference Scholarship applications and find out more about the conference at www.gayconline.org (click on Conference).

PARCC Frameworks for Common Core:

If you haven't already seen them, the PARCC frameworks for Common Core are open for public comment. The finalized frameworks will provide the basis for the common assessments scheduled to be implemented in 2014.

I urge you to look over these frameworks and to consider sharing them with stakeholders to allow those persons to comment during this process if they so desire. The deadline for public comment has been extended from August 17th to August 31st.

http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks

Student Advisory Council:

The members of the Student Advisory Council meet two times during the school year with the State School Superintendent to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Georgia. Members are advisors and act as liaisons between the Department of Education and the students of Georgia. Superintendent Barge will be conducting the meetings, which will also feature various DOE personnel providing further information.

"I am looking forward to getting to know a new group of student advisors and discuss how our policies affect them on a daily basis," said Superintendent Barge. "We want to make education work for all Georgia's students and what better way to do that than to hear directly from them?"

All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply. Meeting dates are: November 4, 2011 and March 7, 2012 (dates are subject to change). Applicants should be able to attend both meetings.

To be eligible for the Council, applications must be received by September 6, 2011.



DAVID PITONYAK, Ph.D. "LET'S TALK BEHAVIORS" SOUTH GEORGIA TOUR:

Provided by the Center for Leadership in Disability September 12th, 13th, &14th, 2011 Information and registration on the attached document





It was good to see many of you at the Data Conference and SELDA last week. Lots of good information and sharing. At this time I am planning to conduct the Monthly Director's Webinars at 1:00 PM on the second Monday of the month.

The projected dates would be 9/12/11, 10/10/11, 11/14/11, 12/12/11, 1/9/12, 2/13/12, 3/12/12, 4/9/12, 5/14/12. I am currently looking to secure a location for the quarterly Director's Forum and expect to convene the first forum in October. Please select your representative for the forum at your upcoming District meetings. Please send me your ideas for topics.

State Advisory Panel - September 15 and 16:

Please share this information with families if you have a newsletter or other form of communication.



SAP_Agenda_for_9-15-11_and_9-16-11.pdf

ARRA Funds:

As a reminder the following IDEA ARRA Grant Awards expire September 30, 2011. Therefore, please remind LEA sub-grantees that all allocations must be obligated and liquidated(goods and services received) by 09/30/2011. In addition, Completion Reports deadline is October 31, 2011. Prompt submission of completion reports will ensure a timely and accurate close-out of funds by GADOE.

If you have questions please contact Dr. Harry Repsher. drepsher@doe.k12.ga.us

Parent Rights Webcast:

NEW on the GaDOE Website - Parent Rights Webcast! We hope this will be helpful to you in assisting parent to understand their rights. It is Chaptered and very parent friendly. It is available in English and Spanish. I also believe it could be a good resource to help teachers brush up on their knowledge of the rights. We had contracted for closed captioning and it will be added soon.

http://gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReg=CIEXCParentsRightsVideos

Recorded Elluminates:

Many of you have requested a directory of recorded Elluminates by subject. This is located on the GADOE website at:

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReg=CIEXCElluminate

Select "Training Schedule" at this link



Sp_Ed_Ser_&_Sup_Elluminate_Schedule_8-16-11.pdf

New Resources on the GaDOE website

End of Course Tests (EOCT)

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_EOCT

- GPS Algebra Test Content Descriptions
- GPS Geometry Test Content Descriptions
- · GPS Algebra Student Study Guide
- GPS Geometry Student Study Guide

Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests - Modified (CRCT-M)

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_CRCTM

 CRCT-M Parent Brochure 2011 – 2012 A memorandum titled "Nominations of Educators for Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests – Modified (CRCT-M) Data/Item Review Workshop " has been posted to the GaDOE website at the link: http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing_educators.aspx

We are seeking recommendations for highly qualified educators to participate in this upcoming CRCT-M event.

Sent by Deshonda Stringer Metro West GLRS:

A nifty little list of technology tools for teachers...

https://sites.google.com/site/anchortechnologytomorrow/home/50-ways-to-anchor-technology

FY12 Due Dates:



Board of Regents – Mini - Core Agreement:

On June 7, 2011, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) approved today a policy change designed to further enhance post secondary completion in Georgia. The change will allow additional courses from the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to transfer to all of the USG's 35 degree-granting institutions. Currently, while hundreds of courses transfer from TCSG colleges to individual USG institutions, only credits in five TCSG-taught core courses – mathematics, algebra, pre-calculus and English composition (two courses) – are transferable to all USG campuses. The Board's action adds five TCSG courses in American literature, psychology, economics, sociology and public speaking to that list.

A link with additional information is listed below along with the 10 courses in the <u>Mini-Core</u> <u>agreement</u> between the Technical College System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia.

Regents Take Action To Help Students Transfer College Credits

http://www.usg.edu/news/release/regents_take_action_to_help_students_transfer_college_credits/

Information on the CATS:

