



**DIVISION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES and SUPPORTS**

**DECEMBER 2010 DL UPDATE**

**Directors Elluminate December 1, 2010**

Please mark your calendars for the Special Education Directors' Monthly Elluminate session that is held the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am.

**Communities of Practice in Transition Institutes**

In conjunction with the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC), the Georgia Department of Education will present the first Communities of Practice in Transition Institutes. These sessions will include an overview of transition assessment and its requirements. Participants will spend time gaining a hands-on knowledge of various assessment instruments, reviewing reports from assessment instruments for different students, and then developing postsecondary goals (and the rest of the IEP) from these documents. The entire day will focus on the essential elements of transition assessment, which is the cornerstone of quality transition planning and services. All districts are invited to send representatives to this one day, drive-in professional learning opportunity. No registration fee is required, but districts will be responsible for substitutes and for participants' travel expenses. Please note that participants will be responsible for their own snacks and lunch and should plan accordingly. Please remember to register for only one session as these are repeated sessions. Follow this link to register:

<http://admin.doe.k12.ga.us/gadoc/trngadmin2.nsf/frnCourseSchedule?OpenForm&CourseName=Communities+of+Practice+in+Transition+Institutes&parentunid=CD9A593C547402DE852577D700512025>

For questions or more information, contact: Lu Nations-Miller, [bnations@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bnations@doe.k12.ga.us).

Time: 9:30 - 3:00 each day—dates and locations are listed below.

January 11, 2011

Grayson Technical School (located on the Grayson HS campus)  
50 Hope Hollow Rd, Loganville, GA 30052

January 12, 2011

Central Macon Technical College, Building I, 2nd Floor  
3300 Macon Tech Drive  
Macon, GA 31206

January 25, 2011

South Georgia GLRS  
245 North Robinson  
Lenox, GA 31637

### **Interpreter Training**

The University of Northern Colorado, Distance Opportunities for Interpreter Training Center, was awarded a 4-year grant (2010-2014) from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, to establish the Professional Educational Interpreter Project. The American Sign Language-English Interpretation program is an on-line baccalaureate degree program, with summer on-site requirements in Colorado.

This grant-funded project will sponsor BA students who are prepared to

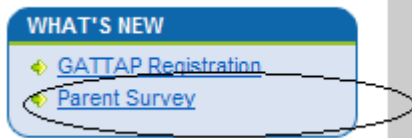
1. engage in specified sophomore course work within the program,
2. select educational interpreting as their emphasis area, and
3. provide a 4-year service obligation in exchange for the \$20,000 OSEP scholarship.

Applications for the OSEP scholarship will be available when a student has been accepted into the ASL-English Interpretation program.

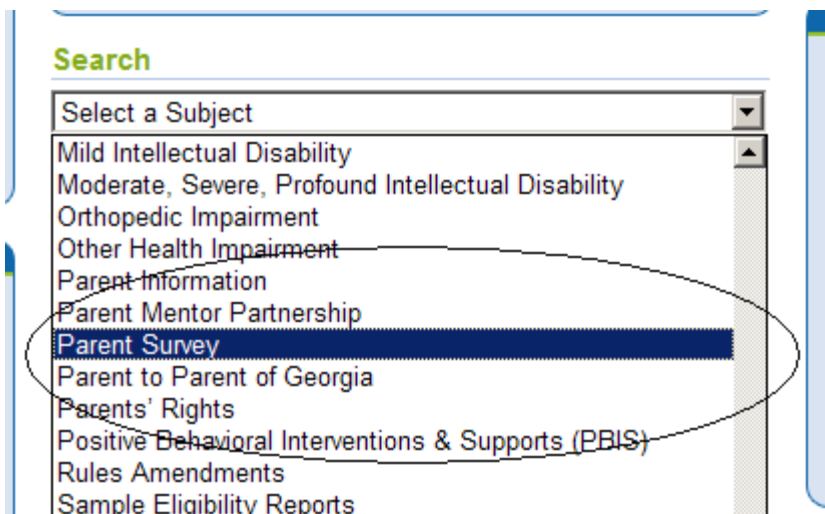
If a student does not complete the bachelor's degree within the two years of sponsorship, or does not provide four years of service to an IDEA-eligible student, he or she must repay all the OSEP monies expended on his or her education. For more information, go to [www.unco.edu/doit](http://www.unco.edu/doit).

### **Parent Surveys 2010-11**

By now every school district in this year's survey should have received packaged surveys to distribute to selected schools. We have also posted links to the parent survey wizard on the Special Ed website. Users have the following three options to get to the parent survey:



1)



2)

### **Family Engagement Information and Resources**

- [Information for Parents](#)
- [Parent Mentor Partnerships](#)
- [Parent Training and Information Center](#)
- [Parent Rights](#)
- [Parent Survey](#)

3)

**Please remember to return, to UGA, the form indicating how many surveys were distributed.** As indicated in your instruction letter, questions should be directed to Steve Cramer at UGA or to Patti Solomon at GaDOE, [psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us). Thank you for your assistance.

**Dispute Resolution Data FY 07 – FY 10**

Last month we explored the three main areas of conflict in special education, which are *design, delivery, and relationships*. This month we present four years of state data for review.

**Dispute Resolution Summary Table FY 07 - FY 10**

**Written, Signed**

**Complaints**

	<b>FY 07</b>	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10</b>
Total Filed	40	44	52	82
Complaints with Reports Issued	33	37	39	63
Non-Compliance	21	19	19	34
Within Timeline	25	28	39	61
Extended Timeline	8	2	0	2
Pending	2	0	0	0
Pending DPH	0	0	0	0
Complaints Withdrawn/Dismissed	n/a	n/a	13	19

**Mediation**

**Requests**

Total Requests Received Through All Processes	99	94	87	84
Mediations Held	64	73	53	61
Related to DP Complaints	18	32	19	10
Agreements	11	14	8	6
Not Related to DP Comp.	46	44	34	51
Agreements	25	29	19	36
Mediations Pending	0	0	0	0
Mediations Withdrawn or Not Held	35	29	34	23

**Due Process Complaints**

Total Filed	111	139	107	76
Resolution Meetings	71	62	63	44
Written Settlement Agree.	34	31	26	23
Hearings Fully Adjudicated	6	3	4	3
*Within Timelines incl. exp.	1	0	0	0
Within Extended Timeline	5	2	4	3
DP Complaints Pending	no data	no data	no data	6
DP Complaints Withdrawn or Dismiss	95	105	87	69
incl. resolved w/out DPH				

\*including expedited hearings

The trend appears to be an increase in formal complaints and a decrease in due process hearings, with mediation requests holding relatively steady (although slightly declining) across the four years of data. This data can be the basis of further study and discussion, perhaps with an eye toward establishing and maintaining sound preventative measures that avoid and/or resolve conflicts in their informal, early stages of development. In the area of dispute resolution, an ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure. If you have tips to share or questions to ask, please email Mike Blake at [mblake@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mblake@doe.k12.ga.us).

## **Announcing New Autism Assessment Project (ANCA)**

### **Assessing the Needs of Children with Autism (ANCA)**

In response to requests from local districts, the Marcus Autism Center and the Georgia Department of Education are collaborating to offer training for selected staff to help meet the needs of children with ASDs in local schools effectively. This initiative will assist locally nominated educators in administering and using data from the ABLLS-R Assessments to guide the development of appropriate goals that are based on the individual needs of the learner.

Leading teachers, facilitators, and coordinators from eight educational regions will work directly with our consultants. The course material will be delivered via face-to-face instruction, telemedicine (video chat using a secure server), or webinars. Participants will be trained to

- administer and use the ABLLS-R to determine developmental needs and to plan appropriate instruction;
- assist others in utilizing the ABLLS-R assessment; and
- determine the appropriateness of other assessment tools.

After the first session, each participant will identify a student to work with for the remainder of the training. Participants will conduct assessments with this child and will develop goals and objectives based on these assessments.

Materials and competency measures for this child will be used throughout the training series, and the competency measures must be met by all participants. Attendance at all training sessions is necessary, since each training session builds on lessons from the previous session.

### **Selection and Registration of ANCA Participants**

It is recommended that two representatives from each school district who teach **mild, moderate, and low functioning students with autism**, and who have a foundational knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders, attend these meetings. Selected representatives should be capable of assisting with subsequent training for their school districts. Special education directors are encouraged to select project participants who can assist in building local program capacity. Registration for training dates and locations will be announced soon. Upon receipt of this upcoming announcement, you will be able to register participants via GaDOE Special Education website at [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org) (see What's New Box). Registration will be available by January 1, 2011.

### **ANCA Regional Training Locations**

Floyd - Rome	Richmond - Augusta
Spalding - Griffin	Laurens - Dublin
Heard - Grantville	Evans - Claxton
Muscogee - Columbus	Cook - Lenox

## **Calendar of Events**

### **December**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>1</b>   | Illuminate: Special Education Directors  |
| <b>2</b>   | Special Education Directors Forum – Macon  |
| <b>4-5</b> | Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) - Atlanta Area School for the Deaf     |
| <b>11</b>  | Communities of Practice in Transition Institute - Grayson Technical School                   |
| <b>12</b>  | Communities of Practice in Transition Institute - Central Macon Technical College Building I |
| <b>25</b>  | Communities of Practice in Transition Institute - South Georgia GLRS                         |
| <b>31</b>  | FY11 Special Education Budgets Final Submission  |

### **January 2011**

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|----------|---|
| <b>4</b> | Grant for Residential and Reintegration Services (GRRS) Applications Accepted |
|----------|---|

- 5 Elluminate: Special Education Directors
- 27 Georgia Regional Braille Challenge - Georgia Academy for the Blind

**February**

- 2 Elluminate: Special Education Directors
- 17 Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Consortia/Georgia National Agenda Taskforce Educational Technology Centers - Dalton State - Host Site
- 28 Initial Transmission for Special Education - Student Record