



DIVISIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES and SUPPORTS

MAY 2010 DL UPDATE

GaDOE Welcomes Kimberly Simmons and Cynde Snider

The Division for Special Education Services is pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member, Ms. Kimberly Simmons. Kim is a program specialist in the compliance review unit. As a Special Education Model Teacher Leader with the Atlanta Public Schools (APS), Kim assisted school improvement teams in disaggregating data and developing improvement activities in their efforts to improve achievement for students with disabilities. In addition, she led professional learning initiatives, provided coaching, and modeled classroom lessons for school leadership teams and teachers. Prior to joining APS, Kim worked as a department chair, reading specialist and special education teacher with Fulton County Schools. Please join us in welcoming Kim to the GaDOE family!

The Division for Special Education Supports is pleased to welcome a new staff member, Dr. Cynde Snider. Dr. Snider will work as a Program Specialist in Teacher Induction in the Professional Learning Unit. Her role is supported by the Divisions' State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and her duties will include development and implementation of GaDOE's pilot Induction Program for New Special Education Teachers. She will also be responsible for other duties related to the preparation, recruitment and retention of Georgia's special education teachers. Cynde is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher and joins our staff from the Decatur City Schools where she served as Coordinator of Instruction and International Baccalaureate Programs. In addition to her classroom experience, Cynde serves on Georgia's Race to the Top Rigorous Standards and Assessments Advisory Team, the Class Keys Advisory Committee and was a consultant for the development of Georgia's Standards-Based Teaching and Learning. Cynde previously worked at GaDOE in Curriculum and Instructional Services. Please join us in welcoming Cynde to the GaDOE family!

Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Collaborative Applications are due NOW

The annual collaborative agreement application packet that was sent to your system superintendent regarding the application for a collaborative agreement with Vocational Rehabilitation for Students with Significant Disabilities is due to your VR Regional Director **May 15, 2010** and should have been signed by your system superintendent by **May 1, 2010**. Please send these agreements to the VR Regional Director, **as soon as possible**. If you have additional questions regarding this information, please contact Lu Nations-Miller at (404) 657-9955.

Register for the 2010 GaDOE Annual Autism Academy

In response to system requests, the 2010 Autism Academy will provide another in-depth study of autism spectrum disorders and an understanding of needs for students to include a specialization in low functioning and high functioning autism. Intended for educators who are in the classroom, attendees will be provided various strategies,

educational practices and methodologies for students with autism, including classroom set up and district program design.

Because this academy will build on previous sessions, attendance is recommended for classroom teachers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and behavior specialists who have attended the previous autism academy and/or GATTAP regional team meetings. Selection of attendees should be based on staff dedicated to building capacity within your local system. Additionally, new staff working with ASD students are welcome to attend.

The Autism Academy will be held on June 21 – 24, 2010 at the Rutland Center, 1250 Oglethorpe Avenue, Athens, GA. 30306. There is no charge for registration. Systems will be responsible for all travel, lodging and meals for participants.

Click on the link to register:

<http://admin.doe.k12.ga.us/gadoe/trngadmin2.nsf/frmCourseSchedule?OpenForm&CourseName=GaDOE+Annual+Autism+Academy&parentunid=4F304D3225B7EEB985257703004DFE04>

Registration information is provided and for additional information you may contact Dr. Alice Murphy mmurphy@doe.k12.ga.us or 404-657-9957.

Final Transition Elluminate for the School Year 2009-2010

The last Transition Elluminate for this school year entitled "A Showcase of Transition Around the State" will take place on May 13, 2010 from 3:30-5:00 PM. It will feature model programs and innovative ideas from transition practitioners around our state! Please remind your secondary teachers to watch this informative session.

District Size Groups Data

Data on the District Size Groups based on the FY10 Federal Child Count is now available. An attachment entitled **FY10(12_9) Size Groups** accompanies this Update. Districts are ranked into five size groups based on the following criteria:

SIZE of SWD Population
A(3000+)
B (1000-2999)
C(500-999)
D (250-499)
E (249-0)

Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Canceled

The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) scheduled in Savannah on May 15 and 16 has been canceled due to the low number of registrants. The assessment session scheduled in Valdosta on June 9-11 has plenty of slots available. Go to the website <http://www.task12.org> to register. For additional information or questions, please contact Frank Nesbit at 404-844-8741 or fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us.

Weekend with the Experts Workshops

Two "Weekend with the Experts" workshops are being offered for teachers and staff working with students with visual impairments. The first workshop, **Functional Vision Evaluations**, taught by Kay DiPlacido from Douglas County Schools, is scheduled on April 30 – May 1, 2010. The second workshop, **Autism and Students with Sensory Impairments**, taught by Marilyn Gense, an author and consultant in Autism and Sensory Impairments is scheduled on May 14 – 16, 2010.

Both workshops are being conducted at the Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon, Ga. Lodging is available at the Academy for free or at the Best Western on Riverside Drive for a rate of \$59.95 per night. There is a \$15 registration fee for The Functional Vision weekend and a \$25 registration fee for the Autism weekend. Cash payment at the week-end workshop is preferred.

Registration materials for the weekends can be found at: www.gimc.org.

Dates to Remember

May

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

10 Special Education Directors' Elluminate Session

13 A Showcase of Transition Around the State Elluminate, 3:30 – 5:00 PM

15 Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Collaborative Applications due

14 – 16 Autism and Students with Sensory Impairments
Location: Georgia Academy for the Blind

15-16 Educational Interpreters Performance Assessments
Location: Largo Tibbetts Center, 1100 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. *Cancelled*

June

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

10 State Board of Education Recognition Awards of Excellence,
Location: Department of Education, Atlanta

21-24 Autism Academy
Location: The Rutland Center, 1250 Oglethorpe Avenue, Athens, Ga.