



## Federal Programs

April 12, 2024 Email Blast

### Office of Federal Programs - Division for Special Education

Directors,

The solar eclipse at my house was covered with some clouds. It certainly got darker than it should have been for the time of day but not so much that the streetlights came on. I hope your view was better than mine. Still very exciting to see.



*Smiling sun*

### IDEA Capacity Building Grants are Back!

The IDEA Capacity Building Grant is intended to support students with disabilities by providing Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and Georgia Network for Education and Therapeutic Services Support funds for supplemental or expanded activities directed towards literacy actions outlined in the Early Literacy Act (HB 538) and for the implementation of Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards. A total of \$8,000,000 will be awarded, with a maximum of \$75,000 per LEA. All Georgia public LEAs are eligible to apply. Funds will be available for use until June 30, 2025. Applications Due: May 8, 2024, 5 p.m.

Contact: Katherine Johnson, [katherine.johnson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:katherine.johnson@doe.k12.ga.us), Office of Federal Programs with questions.

RFA

## Apply Now

Please take the time to read about the Everyday Magic Camp being offered by the University of Alabama at Birmingham for free to students with disabilities ages 9-18 years of age. What a great way to engage students this summer. The camp is no cost to the student or family.



## Magic in the Magic City

Learning and performing magic tricks have been shown to benefit children and adults with disabilities. The approach is being shown to be an effective treatment technique as it promotes motivation and improves physical, psychological, perceptual, or social functions in those who participate. The annual UAB Magic Camp will be held virtually via Zoom this summer. It is designed for children with disabilities, ages 9-18, and free to attend. In each four-week camp, children will learn two to three magic tricks every Monday and Wednesday and be part of a group meeting each Friday so all the campers can get to know each other. The end of each camp will feature a streamed magic show performance for friends and family!

-Camp 1: June 3 to June 28, 2024

-Camp 2: July 8 to August 2, 2024

The camp is taught by UAB OT students trained in the protocol developed by Kevin Spencer, who is an international authority on the therapeutic use of magic tricks in physical and psycho-social rehabilitation. Please email Arts in Medicine at [artsinmedicine@uab.edu](mailto:artsinmedicine@uab.edu) if you are interested in UAB Magic Camp.



## **Registration is Open for the 2024 Federal Programs Conference: Teachers and Leaders Improving Outcomes for Georgia's Students!**

Deputy Superintendent Shaun Owen and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Johnson are pleased to announce that registration for the Georgia Department of Education's Federal Programs Conference: District and School Leaders Improving Outcomes for Georgia's Students is open. Join the offices of Federal Programs, School and District Improvement, Teaching and Learning, Whole Child Supports, Financial Review, Assessment & Accountability, Technology Services, and Rural Education and Innovation for the Georgia Department of Education's collaborative summer conference.

Teachers, school leaders, and district personnel will engage in interactive sessions that provide resources, strategies, and best practices to improve outcomes for Georgia's students. In addition, participants will receive information to assist with plans for coordinating federal funds in FY25, supporting federally identified schools, and leading strong instructional practices in the 2024-2025 school year. Local Educational Agencies (LEA) participants should include representatives working with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) grants, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants, and selected school and district-level instructional personnel.

This conference will be held in Atlanta at the [Georgia International Convention Center \(GICC\)](#) on June 11-13, 2024. The conference will be an in-person event with a modified virtual option. LEA staff not able to join in-person will be able to watch a live-stream of the general sessions only on the morning of each conference day. All concurrent workshop recordings will be available in the GaDOE's PL Catalog after the conference.

[Conference information and registration is available here.](#) For more information, please contact John Wight at [fpconferences@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:fpconferences@doe.k12.ga.us)



*Pictured from left are NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe, Courtney Walker and Carrollton City Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Albertus.*

A special congratulations to Courtney Walker of Carrollton High School in Carrollton City Schools for being named the National Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals!

“At the heart of Courtney’s work is a profound understanding of the unique needs of every student and teacher she works with,” said NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe. “From bridging gaps in advanced coursework access to the Mental Health Minutes program, Courtney’s innovation and passion built an inclusive and nurturing environment for every student to grow into their best selves. Her commitment to creating personalized educational pathways, ensuring that students are not just prepared but poised for success beyond her school doors, truly sets her apart. We’re honored to recognize her incredible contributions and the positive, lasting impact she’s made on her school community.”

As a former local special education director, I know the importance of the role of an assistant principal. Courtney is working to ensure every student belongs and has the opportunity to be their best self. Thank you, Courtney, and to all the leaders working each day to support students with disabilities.



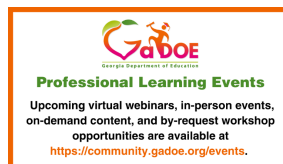
*Stay close to people who feel like sunshine.*

The trees have leaves again! The beautiful, blooming dogwoods, azaleas and redbud trees have been spectacular this year. Such a gorgeous time of year but it just doesn't last long enough. Although the weather has been cold for early spring, warmer weather is just around the corner. Let the sunshine in!

Please remember - you are making a difference each day! I know this time of year is so busy but hang in there because summer is coming! I appreciate each of you and am so proud of your dedication and commitment.

Keeping students first,

Wina



*Professional Learning  
Events*

## **Special Education Events & Due Dates**

Please review the information below and the Due Dates Calendar for deadlines and key dates.

### **Coming Up**

**April 25** at 1:30 p.m. FY24 Special Education Summer Data Collections

**June 11 - 13** at 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Federal Programs Conference: Teachers and Leaders Improving Outcomes

### **Reminders**

**May 15** Post School Outcomes Opens for Data Entry (FY 22-23 Exiters) SE Applications Dashboard Indicator 14

**May 15** Preschool Outcomes Opens for Data Entry SE Applications Dashboard Indicator 7 31 Parent Surveys Completed

**May 31** Parent Survey Closes Link on GaDOE Website APR Indicator 8

Visit [GaDOE Community](#) for a complete listing of GaDOE Professional Learning Events.

## **New Director Spotlight: Dee Dee Hall-Burnum, Baker County Schools**

The Georgia Department of Education's Special Education Services and Supports Division is excited to feature Dee Dee Hall-Burnum for our New Director Spotlight this week.

Dee Dee Hall-Burnum is the Special Education Director for Baker County Schools and has been in the field of education for 35 years.

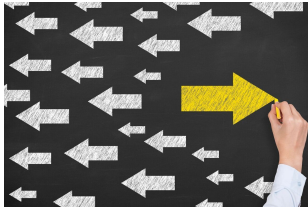
With 27 years in Public School Education and an additional 8 years at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital (PPMH), Dee Dee has worn various hats, from Classroom Teacher to Wellness Coordinator. In the small district of Baker County, serving Pre-K through 12th grade, she knows nearly every student and has taught generations of families. Her mantra, "What if it were your child?" underscores her commitment to her students.

Beyond the classroom, Dee Dee is a mother, wife, "Maidee" to her grandchildren, coach, farmer, and an enthusiastic supporter of Baker County's sports teams. Her upbringing in Moultrie, Ga., shaped her into a sports fanatic, playing basketball against legends like Teresa Edwards.

Dee Dee's life is intertwined with family, pets, and unique experiences, including overcoming challenges on their Pecan Farm and refurbishing her mother's 1907 Home-Place. Despite her numerous roles, her heart belongs to her grandchildren: Tillie, Price, Abigail (remembered fondly), Flint, Perry, and Maddox.

In Baker County, Dee Dee Hall-Burnum's legacy extends beyond education, leaving an unforgettable mark on the community she holds dear.





## **Practice Pointers – Early Childhood Transition Conference and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**

### **QUESTION 12: CAN THE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (LEA) UTILIZE ASSESSMENT AND IFSP INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PART C AND THE PARENT TO DETERMINE THAT THE CHILD IS ELIGIBLE FOR PART B?**

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has emphasized in a Questions and Answers Document that an evaluation under Part B is defined at 34 C.F.R. § 300.15 as procedures used in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.304 through 300.311 to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs. Under 34 C.F.R. § 300.305(a), the individualized education program (IEP) Team and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, must review existing evaluation data on the child, including evaluations and information provided by the parents of the child. On the basis of that review, and input from the child’s parents, the IEP Team and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, must identify what additional data, if any, is needed to determine, in the case of an initial evaluation, whether the child is a child with a disability, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 300.8, and the educational needs of the child; the present levels of academic achievement and related developmental needs of the child; and whether the child needs special education and related services. If the IEP Team and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, identify any additional data that are needed, with the parent’s consent, the LEA must conduct the initial evaluation of a child suspected of having a disability under 34 C.F.R. § 300.301.

For more information, please see our [Preschool Special Education](#) webpage, and the [OSEP Early Childhood Transition Questions and Answers Document](#)

### **Autism Acceptance Month**

In honor of Autism Acceptance Month and in response to a growing need, we have partnered with Emory Autism to provide two parent training sessions. The

first session will focus on supporting communication at home and will be offered on April 23 from 12 - 1 p.m. and again on April 24 from 6 - 7 p.m. The second session will discuss how to maintain structure and routines at home. This session will be offered April 29 from 6 - 7 p.m. and again on May 2 from 12 - 1 p.m. We look forward to seeing you and your families at these events.

#### Supporting Your Child's Communication at Home

April 23, 2024 12 - 1 p.m.

April 24, 2024 6 - 7 p.m.

#### Maintaining Structure and Routines

April 29, 2024 6 - 7 p.m.

May 2, 2024 12 - 1 p.m.



Georgia  
Parent Mentor  
Partnership

## Parent Mentor Application Now Available

The Parent Mentor Partnership Application is now available and can be found on [Grant-Opportunities](#). The application is open until Tuesday, April 30 at 5 p.m. Our goal is to increase the number of mentors each year until each LEA has a Parent Mentor. If you have any questions about the application or about the partnership, please reach out to Anne Ladd at [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) or Belinda Tiller at [belinda.tiller@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:belinda.tiller@doe.k12.ga.us).

## Parent to Parent April 2024 Trainings

### **Webinar: Online Workshop for Parents & Caregivers: Transitioning to Adult Health Care**

This is a virtual opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about transition planning, tools and resources available for you to help your young adults become better prepared to manage their health care needs.

**Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

Time: 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Flyer Link: [View Here](#)

### **Webinar: Your Pathway to Success: Preparing for and Getting a Job**

Please join us as we discuss with Young Adults information on Preparing for



and Getting a Job featuring Vocational Rehabilitation and the services offered and how young adults can participate in the program. *This presentation is in partnership with PEATC and is for Youth and Young Adults*

**Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024**

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Flyer Link: [View Here](#)

## **Special Education Parent Survey**

The Annual Special Education Parent Survey available for families to complete until May 31, 2024. At the present time, only 8% of our families have completed the survey. Please make sure to check your survey completion rate in the Special Education Dashboard by school for your LEA. Please reach out to Anne Ladd at [aladd@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:aladd@doe.k12.ga.us) if you have any question about the survey.

## **2025 IDEA Documents Available for Public Review and Comment**

In order to meet the requirements as set forth by IDEA 2004 for the annual state application of Georgia's grant award under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for federal fiscal year 2024 (2024-2025), the Georgia Department of Education is publishing the following documents for at least 60 days beginning March 18, 2024 with an opportunity for public comments on such plan to be accepted for at least 30 days.

Your comments should be forwarded to: Wina Low, Division for Special Education Services and Supports at [wlow@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wlow@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **2025 IDEA documents**

- Interactive Spreadsheet
- Part B Georgia Fiscal Application
- Notice to Applicants
- State Rules that Exceed IDEA 2004

## **DCMP: Resource for Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Visually Impaired Students and Teachers**

Described and Captioned Media Program is a free resource that provides a streaming library of educational videos that are captioned, described, and

interpreted in ASL. It is important that all media shown in classrooms is accessible to all students and this resource makes that possible. In addition to accessible media, they also have professional learning opportunities that support educational interpreters' use of academic signs, training and guidelines for creating accessible educational materials, and resources for families. Anyone who works with students with disabilities can sign up for this free resource at [The Described and Captioned Media Program](#)

**CVL&A**  
Admissions Department

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

APPLICATIONS  
OPEN: APRIL 1ST

APPLICATIONS  
CLOSE ON: JULY 12

**RWS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL SEMESTER 2024!**

Slots are filling up fast!

For more info email:  
Admissions Department  
rws.csc.referrals@gvsu.ga.gov  
706-489-7985

## Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS) Now Accepting Applications for Fall Semester 2024

RWS is now accepting applications for this fall! Slots are filling up fast, so please act quickly. This program can truly change a student's life, so let's team up and fill the program to capacity!

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