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December 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators
Special Education Directors
Curriculum Directors

FROM: Sharron Hunt, Ph.D.
Director of Testing

SUBJECT: Nominations of Teachers for the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
Development Committee Meetings

As you are aware, the GAA is being redeveloped to reflect access to the state-mandated curriculum. A new vendor, Questar Educational Systems (Questar), has been selected through a competitive bid process to facilitate the test development process with significant guidance from Georgia educators. The new alternate assessment will consist of a portfolio of student work samples capturing student learning and progress in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Committees of Georgia educators will develop the requirements of the portfolio system, including the number of data collection elements (i.e., student work samples), types of elements, and the parameters/timing of the collection of elements. Georgia educators will inform the development of the rubrics by which the student work samples will be evaluated.

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is seeking nominations for educators to serve on the GAA development committees. To ensure an adequate representation of educators from across Georgia, each system should use the attached nomination form to submit the names of qualified teachers for consideration. Both special and general

System Test Coordinators
Special Education Directors
Curriculum Directors
December 7, 2005
Page 2

education teachers are needed to serve on the committee. To meet committee needs, please submit 3 or 4 nominations per system. Committee meetings will begin in January 2006.

Please submit names of teachers from your system who:

- 1) are experienced in teaching students with significant cognitive disabilities in the subject area in the specified grade cluster (see nomination form); or
- 2) are general education teachers with content expertise in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in the specified grade cluster (see nomination form).

Depending upon the response to nominations, all recommended teachers may not be selected. Nominees not selected at this time may be contacted for future meetings.

Complete and submit one form for each educator recommended.

Questar will provide reimbursement for mileage, accommodations, and per diem expenses at the rates authorized by the GaDOE and in accordance with the State of Georgia Travel Regulations. Questar will reimburse local school systems for the cost of a substitute teacher if one is required.

Thank you for your help with this important endeavor. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Houston, Assessment Specialist, via email (dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us) or phone (404.651.0251).

SH/dmh
Attachment

cc: System Superintendents
RESA Directors
Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
Ida Love, Ph.D., Deputy State Superintendent of Schools
Marlene Bryar, Director, Division for Exceptional Students
Lynn Roberts