



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2895 Vineville Ave.

Macon, GA



Georgia Academy for the Blind

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Mark your Calendars

6/9 through 6/14 - GAB Summer Program

8/6 - Orientation/Title I Required Parent Meeting at GAB

8/7 - First Day of School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of yet another school year, I would like to take a moment to say “thank you” for once again entrusting us with your most prized possession – your children. This has truly been a year of transition and change for our students, parents/guardians, and our GAB team. Even through these various transitions, we have had several reasons to celebrate many accomplishments.

To our students: Thank you for your hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm. You are the heart of GAB, and your growth and achievements are the reasons we strive to do our best every day.

To our parents/guardians: We thank you for your support and involvement. From attending school council meetings and a variety of school programs, your dedication to your child’s education and well-being helps to create a united school community.

To Team GAB: Your commitment to providing our students with a variety of opportunities, experiences, and fostering a positive learning environment; this is truly inspiring. Your passion for teaching in a profession that requires a prominent level of commitment is the foundation of our school’s success and excellence.

Farewell to our Graduating Senior and Transitioning Students: To our graduating senior, Brian McClain, we say, “see you later” and we wish you the best. Shayla, Kayleigh, and Ian, keep transitioning, keep moving, and keep reaching for the stars. The best is yet to come for EACH of you and your future looks so bright! We will miss ALL of you and you will always be part of the GAB family.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for everyone’s contributions to another successful year. Together we have created a nurturing and dynamic learning environment where our students can thrive.

Enjoy your summer, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you in August!

Warmest regards,

Alicia M. Jackson

**Interim School-Level
Superintendent**



Letter From the Editor

Dear GAB families,

This year has flown by with one event after another—it felt like we were fast forwarding—and here we are on the last day of school. Next, on Sunday, June 9th, our Summer Program at GAB will begin, and it will end on June 14th. Then, we have several weeks to soak up summer and enjoy with a little later start of the school year beginning on August 7th. I look forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday, August 6th, for Open House at GAB. Our required Orientation Family Meeting begins at 1:00 that day, and then residential students can move their belongings into the cottages. As a reminder, when school is out in the summer, it's a great time to update your student's Eye Report. This is my last newsletter until school starts in the Fall. I'm available this summer via text or email. Please feel free to communicate with me and ask questions.

Have a great summer!

See you in August,

Jennifer Minter

Parent Mentor/Family Engagement

478-262-3303





**WATER
DAY**









**GAB's
Got
Talent!**





MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

GEORGIA PARENT SURVEY FOR STUDENTS WITH AN IEP



1. CHOOSE STATE SCHOOLS (FOR COUNTY)
2. CHOOSE GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND

Why are you being asked to complete a Statewide Survey?

In order for all students to graduate prepared to achieve a lifetime of success, families need to be an important part of the school team. It is critical that the GaDOE assist local school systems in partnering with families to raise the achievement rate for students with disabilities. Completing this survey will assist in achieving this goal.

Who is being surveyed?

The GaDOE is surveying parents of students with disabilities throughout Georgia.

What will be done with the information collected?

GaDOE Division of Special Education will work collaboratively with Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P), the statewide Parent Training Information Center, to identify needs in family involvement within the state and local districts based on statewide survey results.

Who will see your answers?

Individual answers are kept confidential. The GaDOE has contracted with evaluators at the Georgia Center for Assessment (GCA) to guarantee confidentiality. Each response will be coded by a number – not a name.

How do you complete the survey?

You may complete the survey online in English and Spanish at www.gadoe.org/Parent-Survey or scan the QR code above.

Who do you contact for help with completing the survey?

GaDOE Special Education Help Desk at 404-657-9968. You may also call your Parent Mentor, Jennifer Minter at Jminter@doe.k12.ga.us or 478-262-3303.

Meals for this summer...

How to find a program?

Parents/guardians, find out where your child/children can get healthy, daily meals this summer. There are multiple programs that offer summer meals at no cost. Check all these sources to see if there is a meal distribution site in your area. Those who are looking for summer meal sites can easily find locations through their cell phone or online. Options include:

- Text “FOODGA” to 877877 from a mobile phone beginning June 1 and be provided geographically based results on the closest sites

Visit [GeorgiaFoodBankAssociation.org](https://www.georgiafoodbankassociation.org) for a GPS-enabled map of the closest sites

- Dial 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) to find locations.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>

FoodFinder

Opción perfecta de verano

Padres / tutores, descubran dónde su hijo / hijos pueden obtener comidas saludables y diarias este verano. Hay múltiples programas que ofrecen comidas de verano gratis. Verifique todas estas fuentes para ver si hay un sitio de distribución de comidas en su área:

- Envía un mensaje de texto a FOODGA al 877877;

Use la aplicación gratuita Summer Finder Site Finder basada en la web en [GeorgiaFoodBankAssociation.org](https://www.georgiafoodbankassociation.org)

- Llame a la Línea Nacional de Hambre al 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273)

Directorio de Comidas Para Niños

FoodFinder

Unstable Housing Happens! Now what?



GAB Families,

Times are tough! We realize that we are in a season of change and challenges with our economy that lead to temporary living situations or “doubling up” with others. Though we have no solutions for this, we have many other ways to support our students and their families, including expediting school transportation and assuring our students miss as little school as reasonable.

1. There is a federal law that aims to protect our students by keeping them in school in a stable and consistent manner. Learn more in this video: [what is mckinney vento program - - Video Search Results \(yahoo.com\)](#)
2. This PRIVATE survey is designed to help us meet your needs. Complete from this link and we will be in touch with you promptly. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V53SCGZ>
3. We are working with the Georgia Alliance to end homelessness where there is a person dedicated to helping our families. Please reach out to Sonya Milam sonya.milam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-751-6083, ext 1142 so that she may connect you to this viable resource.

May 2024

Birthdays

Adam	5/1	William	5/20
Taryn	5/1	Heidi	5/20
Mary	5/4	Lukas	5/25



June 2024

Birthdays

Berkley	6/1	Cassidy	6/12
Jesse C	6/4	Tyler	6/28
Savannah	6/8		

