



Introducing Mike Blake

Mike Blake of the GaDOE speaks about his job and explains the Functional Behavioral Assessment / behavior Intervention Plan process.

What is your job at GaDOE and what is GNETS?

I've been working as Program Manager for Dispute Resolution, Budget, and Data since September 1st. We provide technical assistance related to dispute resolution, budget and finances of special education, and data collection and usage. Many presentations, webinars, consultations, and other activities occur in order to deliver this assistance.

For almost a year I worked with the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) team helping to implement PBIS in Georgia, and I am the GaDOE contact for the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS). GNETS provides educational and therapeutic support services to students exhibiting the characteristics of severe emotional and behavioral disorder who might otherwise require residential or other more restrictive placements. There are 24 GNETS programs in Georgia with defined service regions for each program.

You work with programs that deal with students who have significant level of disability. What are some new initiatives that are in the works around the state for these students?

One area in which I've been directly involved is professional learning for the functional behavioral assessment/behavior intervention plan (FBA/BIP) process. School teams can greatly improve the chances of successful positive interventions for students when functional behavioral assessment is used to be as reasonably certain as possible as to the function of a behavior.

Functional behavioral assessment usually involves review of records, teacher and parent checklists, interviews with teachers, parents, the student, and others as well as direct observation and data collection in order to form a hypothesis as to the function of an undesirable behavior. Then a positive behavior intervention plan can be developed that provides different strategies to improve the chances of the student demonstrating a desirable replacement behavior that serves the same function.

The FBA/BIP process is a team approach that includes parents and the student. The workshops and webinars I've conducted so far have been well received and more are being

scheduled.

What should parents know about the work you do?

One of my duties is to keep current information on our web pages. Parents should visit the many web resources we have available regarding the dispute resolution process, budget, data, PBIS, GNETS, etc. We're constantly updating information and we're open to suggestions about how to make the pages better so please get in touch.

Here is a link to our dispute resolution

page:http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCDispute

Budget and data information is on the following

pagehttp://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx under the budgets, grants, data collection and reporting tab.

Here is a link to the GNETS

page http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCGNETS

The GaDOE PBIS page can be found

athttp://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCPBS

Parents can reach Mike Blake on 404-657-7329 or [email](#).