

## Some information about the Georgia Sensory Assistance Project

The Georgia Sensory Assistance Project is housed at Georgia State University and led by Dr. Kathy Heller, a professor in the College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education.

Other staff include:

- Jennifer Garrett, Ph.D - Identification and Dissemination Coordinator, [jennifertgarrett@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifertgarrett@yahoo.com)
- Lynn McFarland – Early Intervention and Early Transition Coordinator, [dmcfarland1@gsu.edu](mailto:dmcfarland1@gsu.edu)
- Martha Veto – Project Coordinator, [mveto@gsu.edu](mailto:m veto@gsu.edu)
- Deborah Fields-Harris – Family Specialist, [fields-harrisd@comcast.net](mailto:fields-harrisd@comcast.net)

GSAP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide information and technical assistance to Georgia educational professionals and families on issues related to deafblindness. We are an OSEP technical assistance and dissemination (TA&D) project and as such we can't do direct service – but can work with teams to build their capacity to teach children 0-22 years old who have combined vision and hearing losses.

GSAP maintains a child count of students in Georgia with concomitant vision and hearing loss which is part of the national census of children who are deafblind, maintained by the National Consortium on Deafblindness (NCDB).

- Children on the GSAP census do not have to be identified as deafblind on their IEPs – in fact, most are not!

Category Description	Percent
Mental Retardation	29.4%
Hearing Impairment (includes deafness)	4.2%
Speech or Language Impairment	0.3%
Visual Impairment (includes blindness)	10.4%
Other Health Impairment	4.9%
Specific Learning Disability	0.3%
Deafblindness	11.1%
Multiple Disabilities	3.8%
Autism	1.0%
Traumatic Brain Injury	0.3%
Developmentally Delayed – age 3 through 9	26.0%
Not Reported under Part B of IDEA	7.6%

- Children on the GSAP census do not have to be receiving services from teachers of the visually impaired and teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing – in fact many don't!
- Children on the GSAP census DO have to have vision and hearing reports that document vision and hearing loss – but even children with mild sensory impairments qualify for inclusion in the census if the sensory loss is impacting development, learning, or communication.
- Registration for the census available on our website: <http://education.gsu.edu/georgiadeafblindproj>

Services provided by GSAP

- Consultation in homes or schools- upon request we can come offer suggestions on specific issues, facilitate Person-Centered planning, attend IEP meetings
- Demonstration Site program – we identify classrooms where good things are happening and can refer people to visit
- Family and Professional workshops and training- we have a state-wide Summer Institute, can offer regional or district in-services on topics related to deafblindness. Special activities for siblings and teens are offered annually.
- Information and resources: Newsletter available on our website, Early and Late Transition notebooks, vision screening protocol for deaf/hard of hearing students, Dressing Monograph

## Georgia Census Numbers

303 children are registered on the Georgia census

Children are identified in 98 school districts, INSITE, GAB, AASD and GSD (43 districts have only 1 student, 6 districts have 10 or more)

### Age:

- 43 children aged 0-3 (14%)
- 78 students aged 16-22 (26%)

### Vision

- 49 children who have light perception only or totally blind (16%)
- 99 children who are legally blind (33%)
- 56 children with mild vision impairment (18%)
- 83 children with documented functional vision loss (27%)

### Hearing

- 64 children with mild hearing loss (26-40 dB) (21%)
- 48 children with moderate loss (41-55 dB) (16%)
- 39 children with moderately severe loss (56-70 dB) (13%)
- 92 children with a severe or profound loss (71-91 dB) (30%)
- 44 children with a documented function hearing loss (15%)

### Combination of sensory loss

- 30 children with Mild-moderate vision and hearing: (10%)
- 6 children with Severe vision and hearing: (2%)
- 23 children with Functional loss in vision and hearing: (8%)

### Additional disabilities

- 223 children with Cognitive impairment: (74%)
- 167 children with Complex health needs: (55%)
- 208 children with Physical impairment: (69%)

### Primary means of communication

- 174 children using Non-symbolic: (57%)
- 84 children using Speech: (28%)
- 26 children using Sign language: (9%)
- 6 children using Objects or pictures: (2%)
- 1 child using Electronic system: (0.3%)

## Districts with no students identified

Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Bryan, Butts,  
Candler, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Clinch, Coffee, Crawford, Crisp  
Dawson, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Emanuel, Fannin  
Glascocock, Grady, Greene, Hancock, Hart, Heard, Irwin, Jasper, Johnson, Jones  
Lanier, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, Lumpkin, Macon, Miller, Monroe, Morgan,  
Oglethorpe, Pierce, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Rabun, Randolph, Richmond  
Schley, Screven, Stewart, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Telfair, Toombs, Towns, Treutlen, Turner,  
Twiggs, Union, Upson, Warren, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkinson

## Districts with identified students

INSITE 30, GAB 12, GSD 2, AASD 6

		Effingham	4	Montgomery	2
Appling	1	Elbert	1	Murray	1
Atkinson	1	Evans	3	Muscogee	4
Atlanta City	9	Fayette	6	Newton	2
Banks	1	Floyd	3	Oconee	1
Barrow	1	Forsyth	6	Paulding	1
Bartow	3	Franklin	1	Peach	1
Bibb	8	Fulton	10	Pickens	1
Bleckley	1	Gainesville City	1	Polk	1
Brantley	1	Gilmer	2	Rockdale	4
Bulloch	1	Glynn	2	Savannah- Chatham	10
Burke	2	Gordon	2	Seminole	1
Calhoun	1	Gwinnett	27	Spalding	2
Camden	3	Habersham	3	Stephens	1
Carrollton City	2	Hall	14	Sumter	2
Cartersville City	2	Haralson	2	Tattnall	1
Catoosa	3	Harris	2	Terrell	2
Charlton	1	Henry	5	Thomas	2
Chattooga	2	Houston	5	Tift	1
Cherokee	4	Jackson	1	Troup	2
Clarke	3	Jeff Davis	1	Valdosta City	2
Clay	1	Jefferson	1	Vidalia City	2
Clayton	4	Jenkins	4	Walker	1
Cobb	15	Lamar	1	Walton	6
Colquitt	4	Laurens	2	Ware	1
Columbia	3	Lee	4	Washington	1
Commerce City	1	Liberty	1	Wayne	1
Cook	1	Madison	6	Webster	1
Coweta	5	Marion	1	White	3
Dade	2	McDuffie	1	Whitfield	3
DeKalb	7	McIntosh	1	Wilkes	1
Douglas	2	Meriwether	1	Worth	1
Dublin City	1	Mitchell	1		

**ON-SITE TA REQUEST FORM**  
**Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP)**

**General Information**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ School System: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Education Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Person requesting technical assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Target Areas**

Describe areas that you want the project staff member to address during the on-site visit:

1. accommodations for visual impairment

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Permissions** (Required for school on-site visits)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal signature)

The principal was consulted and gives permission for GSAP to provide on-site technical assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized signature)

The Special Education Director was consulted and gives permission for GSAP to provide on-site technical assistance.

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Please return this form to the Georgia Sensory Assistance Project,  
Attn: Martha Veto (students 9-22) or Lynn McFarland (students 3-8)  
Fax: (404) 413-8043

Or mail to: Martha Veto, 208 Huntington Ct. Macon, GA 31210