

# Special Education Programs

## Information, News, and Events

### October 2015

A very  
little key  
will open  
a very  
heavy  
door.  
- Charles  
Dickens

#### STAFF:

Linda Turner, Director  
Melissa Flor, Assistant Director  
Rebecca Cain, Program Specialist  
Angel Corrales, Data Manager  
Arlene Maxfield, Program Specialist  
Ben Morrison, Program Specialist  
Ambrea Sikes, Program Specialist  
Beth Schiltz, Program Specialist  
Wendy Trujillo, Program Specialist  
Merle Doolittle, Administrative Assistant

#### Sped Program Highlights:

- [Comprehensive plan](#) memo went to administrators on 10/5/15

#### Sped Director Monthly Meeting, October 20, 2015, 10:00 central

##### Agenda Items:

- Bookshare
- Comprehensive Plans
- Results-Driven Accountability Update
- Following Call: **Special Ed Connections Training at 11:00**

#### Federal Program Highlights:

- **OSEPs response to Music Therapy as a Related Service**

Related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. OSEP's June 9, 2000 *Letter to Farbman*. (Note that [Letter to Farbman](#) includes citations to the 1999 Part B regulations.) reiterates the long-standing position that the list of services in the definition of related services is not exhaustive and may include other developmental, corrective, or supportive services (such as artistic and cultural programs, art, music, and dance therapy) if they are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. If the IEP Team determines that music therapy (or other therapy) is an appropriate related service for a child, the Team's determination must be reflected in the IEP, and the service must be provided at public expense and at no cost to the parent. This position was restated in the 2006 Part B regulations at 71 Fed. Reg. 46539, 46569 and in Question E-1 of the document "[Questions and Answers On Individualized Education Programs, Evaluations, and Reevaluations](#)" September 2011

- **Chronic Absenteeism Initiative**

The Obama Administration is launching [Every Student, Every Day: A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism](#). The Administration is announcing new steps to combat chronic absenteeism and calling on states and local communities across the country to join in taking immediate action to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism by at least 10 percent each year, beginning in the current school year (2015-16). The [community toolkit](#) provides strategies to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism.

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## DOE Program Highlights:

A stakeholders group was assembled to provide guidance and rules for South Dakota districts on restraint and seclusion for all students in public schools. The group met in May of 2015 and has been working over the summer to draft rules to present to the Board of Education. The workgroup consists of members from large and small districts, parents and parent groups, Advocacy, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, educational cooperatives, special population schools, Associated School Board of South Dakota and community support providers. The group met again in Pierre on October 7 to review the draft rules. The rules will cover the areas of: Policies and procedures, physical restraint, seclusion, assessment and documentation, training, and data collection. If you have any questions please contact Becky Cain at [Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us](mailto:Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us)

## Sped Program Feature Presentation:

Special Education Programs (SEP) recently hosted a training on “*Who’s Responsible for children who reside on a reservation located within the Local Education Agency*” in Oacoma, SD. This training identified how child find is carried out, how services are administered, and where federal reporting requirements lie. SEP has updated their guidance document that outlines the requirements for LEA’s, LA’s, and SEAs that can be located at [http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/sped\\_BIE\\_birthto5.pdf](http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/sped_BIE_birthto5.pdf).

## Professional Development: (click on the titles to go to registration site)

- [Save the Date- Autism Spectrum Disorder Evaluation Team Training](#)

*December 9-12, 2015*

*Rapid City, SD*

*Location TBD*

*February 3-6, 2016*

*Sioux Falls, SD*

*Location TBD*

Two trainings will be offered to multidisciplinary evaluation teams in public school districts and educational cooperatives in South Dakota. Teams will be required to submit an application and will be selected on the basis of need and space availability. ASD flyer, applications and locations of workshops will be released soon.

- [2016 Special Education Conference: March 22 and 23 in Pierre](#)

Please consider presenting at the 2016 South Dakota Special Education Conference. Proposals in the areas of College & Career Readiness, 21st Century Learning, Instructional Practices, and Positive Behavior Approaches are now being accepted.

- [The Youth Leadership Forum \(YLF\)](#), will be held at NSU, Aberdeen on June 5 – 9, 2015. New & updated applications can be found at [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org), under the YLF tab.

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## Professional Development cont.: (click on the titles to go to registration site)

- [The TAGG, Transition Assessment Goal Generator](#), developed at Zarrow Center, University of Oklahoma, is a new on-line transition assessment for secondary-aged youth with disabilities, their families, and professionals. The TAGG provides a norm-based graphic profile, present level of performance statement, lists of strengths and needs, and suggested IEP annual transition goals.
  - TSLP has available TAGG 'credits' (assessments) that they would love to offer to you to try out as a new type of transition assessment. Each 'credit' consists of an on-line assessment for the student, a parent, and teacher to complete.
- [New Special Education Director Training](#): November 23, 2015 in Pierre **SAVE THE DATE** training is specific to new directors under three years. It will cover how federal requirements impact special education work in South Dakota. South Dakota resources and contacts will be shared. More information will be coming on list serve.
- [SpecialEd Connection Webinar Training](#): October 20, 2015 at 11 A.M. CST (10:00 A.M. MST)
  - SpecialEd Connection Free for Public School Districts to utilize regarding special education laws, case laws, sample forms and tools, etc...
  - See attach flyer for registration details.