

# Special Education Programs

## Information, News, and Events

### November 2015

“Education  
is not  
preparation  
for life;  
education  
is life  
itself.”

-John Dewey

#### 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:

- [December 1<sup>st</sup> child count](#) is fast approaching, students need to be determined eligible and receiving services on Dec 1 to count. Please watch for [Student Data Newsletter](#) for more details.

Sped Director Monthly Meeting, November 17, 2015, 10:00 central

- Child count
- Augie Access

#### Federal Program Highlights:

**Dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia:** The United States Department of Education issued a letter regarding the use of the terms, dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia. The purpose of this letter is to clarify there is nothing in the IDEA that would prohibit the use of these terms in an IDEA evaluation, eligibility determination, or IEP documents. The letter also states that regardless of whether a child has dyslexia or any other condition explicitly included in the definition of specific learning disability (SLD), or has a condition such as dyscalculia or dysgraphia which are not listed expressly in the definition, the LEA must conduct a comprehensive evaluation and IEP teams should consider all the information gathered during the evaluation process to determine whether that child meets the criteria for SLD or any of the other disability category listed in the IDEA definition of “child with a disability”. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) encourages States to remind LEAs of the importance of addressing the unique educational needs of children with specific learning disabilities resulting from dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia during IEP meetings. OSERS believes that there could be situations where an IEP team could determine that personnel responsible for IEP implementation would need to know about the condition underlying the child’s disability. OSERS encourages LEAs to consider situations where it would be appropriate to use the terms dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia to describe and address the child’s unique, identified needs through evaluation, eligibility, and IEP documents.

#### DOE Program Highlights:

##### NAEP scores at or above national average

Fourth grade and eighth grade scores for math and reading on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress are mostly steady in South Dakota and remain at or above the national average. Across the country, scores were mostly down.

South Dakota met the goal for special education participation in both grade levels and both subject areas. Special education students’ scores in both grade levels and both subject areas remained largely steady. Find more information at <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>.

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## Sped Program Feature Presentation

### **State director of special education elected to NASDSE Board**

Linda Turner, director of the office of special education, has been elected to a three-year term on the NASDSE (National Association of State Directors of Special Education) Board. She was also elected as co-lead for the small state consortium. Congratulations, Linda!

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

- [\*\*Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) and Concussion Technical Assistance\*\*](#)  
The Center for Disabilities is collaborating with the SDDOE to provide supports to assist with students transitioning back into the classroom who have suffered a TBI or a concussion. The Center for Disabilities will assist in addressing academic and/or behavioral issues that often accompany these injuries. For more information, please contact [nancy.saufley@usd.edu](mailto:nancy.saufley@usd.edu) or [sara.hansen@usd.edu](mailto:sara.hansen@usd.edu) or call 800-658-3080.
- [\*\*2016 South Dakota Special Education Conference: Using the Whole Box of Colored Pencils.\*\*](#)  
March 22 and 23, 2016 at the Pierre Ramkota.  
Topics: Transition, effective programs, technology, innovative methodology, employment, behavior supports, and learning outcomes. Please see attached flyer for more information.
- [\*\*Special Education New Director Workshop:\*\*](#)  
November 23, 2015 in Pierre  
Training will be for special education directors with 3 years of experience or less. Training will include special education requirements, resources, and supports.