

Special Education Programs

Information, News, and Events

January 2016

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."

- Benjamin Franklin

Sped Program Highlights:

- Personnel changes
 - Melissa Flor has moved to Black Hills Special Services Coop and is now working as a [Transition Liaison Project Specialist](#). She was with DOE for ten years and we appreciate her service but glad she is still working in the Special Ed field in another capacity. Thank you Melissa, and good luck!
 - Arlene Maxfield has also left the Department. We appreciate her work on developing a Results Driven Accountability process. As we work to fill her position, [Beth Schiltz](#), will be the temporary [Region 1 Representative](#).
- The Parent Survey that is required to be provided to parents annually is also made available online in collaboration with South Dakota Parent Connection and SEP. Parent Connections will assist parents to read and complete the survey is needed. The online survey can be found at:
 - www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q6JW6HJ (English)
 - www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJNWNVJ (Spanish)

Sped Director Monthly Meeting, January 19, 2016, 10:00 central

Connect through Skype for Business at: [Join Skype Meeting](#)

Direct dial: 1(866)410-8397 Participant code: 1286289700

Agenda Items:

- DD Council grant opportunity - Arlene Poncelet
- Accommodations
- Project Search
- Assessment

Federal Program Highlights:

The [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) has been signed and SD DOE is pleased with the bill in that it puts more control of education policy back in the hands of states and local school districts. In the months ahead, SD DOE will be investigating every opportunity in the new law to take advantage of flexibility for state and local decision-making. Following the legislative session, together stakeholders will be brought together to gather input on how to move forward with the best interests of our students in mind. In the short term, nothing changes in terms of standards, assessments or evaluation. Our current ESEA Flexibility waiver is in effect until June 30, 2016; most parts of the new bill take effect for the 2017-18 school year. As more guidance is provided from the federal level regarding timelines, changes, etc., it will be shared.

STAFF:

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

Information, News and Events

Developmental Disabilities Council Grant Opportunity:

The SD DD Council is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds for Advocacy and Leadership Training for Middle School Students. The grant will encourage creative and innovative ideas for starting or enhancing advocacy and leadership skills training or sharing curriculums and activities that are already working within your school or organization.

[Grant applications](#) are due to the Council by March 31, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Arlene Poncelet at 605-773-6369 or Arlene.poncelet@state.sd.us

DOE Program Highlights:

- Applications for the next cohort of Multi-tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) districts are now available on the MTSS website <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/mtss.aspx>. Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us for more information.
- State Assessments Testing Window
 - Smarter Balanced
 - March 9– May 6, 2016
 - (Paper/pencil window: March 16 – April 19, 2016 Tests shipped on April 22)
 - NSCS (Alt Assessment)
 - March 30th thru May 15th
 - DStep Science and DStep-A Science
 - March 28 – April 22, 2016

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

- [How to REACH those you TEACH](#)
 - Feb. 1- Differentiated Instruction
 - Feb. 29- Behaviors and Behavior Plans
 - March 14- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Registration is closed, however you can still view the webinars without being registered. You will not receive the 2 contact hours unless you registered prior to and attended the Jan. 11th webinar.

The office of special education is excited to offer webinars that are specifically designed for general educators that will help you reach all students in your classrooms. The past year we received many requests from teachers and administrators asking for professional development in assisting with students with disabilities that who are integrated in the general classroom. Participants will learn tips, tricks, and the basics of special education. Contact [Wendy Trujillo](#), South Dakota Department of Education, at (605) 773-8071 with questions.

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

- [Alternate Assessment Administration - DSTEP Alt and NCSC](#)
 - March 7– Watertown Lake Area Tech – Student Center Rm 514 - 1PM to 4PM
 - March 8 – Sioux Falls – Southeast Tech – NC 101 – 9AM – 12PM
 - March 9 – Oacoma – Cedar Shores – 9AM -12PM
 - March 10 – Rapid City – Ramkota – Lincoln Room – 9AM – 12PM
- [Special Education Conference registration is now open!](#)
 - March 22 and 23 at the Ramkota in Pierre SD (Please see attached flyer for more information)
 - Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions
- Education Summer Conference featuring Anita Archer! Registration information coming soon
 - June 28 and 29 at the Cedar Shores Hotel in Chamberlain (please see attached flyer for more information)
 - Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions
- Top 20 Training Save the Date
 - July 18 and 19 in Rapid City
 - July 20 and 21 in Sioux Falls
 - More information and registration coming soon
 - Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions
- Working with students with dyslexia training: Save the dates
 - Rapid City, August 2 and 3
 - Aberdeen August 8 and 9
 - Sioux Falls, August 10 and 11
 - More information and registration coming soon
 - Please contact Becky Cain at Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions
- [The Center for Disabilities is providing a training on working with students who are Deaf-Blind.](#)
Please see attached flyer for more information.