**Sped Program Highlights**

**Significant Cognitive Disabilities and Alternate Assessments**

Staff, who instruct students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, there are two updated websites. Please update your favorites to reflect new URLs. Instructional Supports website at [http://doe.sd.gov/oess/instructionalSCD.aspx](http://doe.sd.gov/oess/instructionalSCD.aspx) and Alternate Assessments at [http://doe.sd.gov/assessment/alternate.aspx](http://doe.sd.gov/assessment/alternate.aspx)

**Best wishes to Ambrea Sikes and thank you for your hard work on the SSIP this last 2 years. Temporary region reps are: Jamie Morris—Region 5 and Beth Schiltz—Region 6.**

**Welcome Rebecca Deighton, new secretary for Special Ed and Birth to 3 Programs!**

**Federal Program Highlights**

Congratulations to South Dakota on being awarded a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). A SPDG is awarded to state educational agencies to reform and improve their systems for personnel preparation and professional development. The goal of the South Dakota SPDG is to develop a systematic, cohesive, collaborative, and sustainable evidence-based literacy model, that uses data and engages families, and can be implemented with any district needing support for struggling readers, especially students with specific learning disabilities (SLD). The project will align current initiatives of instructional coaches, MTSS, SSIP, supporting students with dyslexia. This is a five year grant so we will share much more information as we get to work.

**DOE Program Highlights**

**New PD event: Better Questions, Better Data, Better Results**

The Department of Education is replacing the fall assessment workshops with comprehensive events entitled Better Questions, Better Data, Better Results. The new workshops are designed to analyze trends in accountability and assessments that can help spark districts’ own data analyses.
Northern Plains Law Conference

The Northern Plains Law Conference on Students with Disabilities will cover special education legal issues, including the latest information from due process hearings, circuit court cases, OSEP/OCR guidance letters, and basic IDEA procedural requirements.

Registration Deadline for Conference and Pre-Conference: Tuesday, September 17, 2017

New Director Webinars

This series of webinars is directed at new special education directors (0-3 years) to learn more about processes required by the Department of Education.

Time: Time: 3:00-4:30pm CST  (webinars will be recorded and posted after the training)

CEU’s available for registered participants who participate on the Live call. Roll call will be taken, please be sure to sign in with full name for credit.

Webinar 1: Accountability/RDA - September 25th
Webinar 2: Child Count - October 30th
Webinar 3: Dispute Resolution - November 14th
Webinar 4: SPP/APR - December 12th
Webinar 5: Fiscal/Budget - January 23rd

Transition Events

9/21/17—Transition Forum — Central HS, Aberdeen
11/01/17—Let’s Talk About Work— AmericInn, Aberdeen
11/7/17— Let’s Talk About Work—Ramada, Sioux Falls
11/14/17—Employment & Benefits Training, Pierre
11/16/17—Transition Forum—County Fail Hall, Watertown

Catch the Wave Events

(Mark your Calendars)

9/20/17— Oglala Lakota College, Eagle Butte
3/22/18—BHSU, Spearfish
3/27/18—MTI, Mitchell
4/10/18—USD, Vermillion
4/11/18—NSU, Aberdeen
4/18/18—LATI—Watertown

Still time to register for the 2017 IES
Register today for the 2017 Indian Education Summit. Longtime CBS broadcaster Hattie Kauffman will be a keynote speaker. There will be a screening of the new film, “Neither Wolf Nor Dog,” along with an appearance by Kent Nerburn, author of the book upon which the film is based. The summit will also include specialized sessions, cultural activities and student-led discussions.

October is dyslexia awareness month! Please consider highlighting the new dyslexia handbook found at http://doe.sd.gov/Dyslexia/documents/Handbook-17.pdf during any parent attended event.

Save the date: The 2018 Special Education Conference will be held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center on March 13 and 14. More details coming soon!

Save the date: The 2018 MTSS Summer Education Conference will be held in Chamberlain on June 20 and 21. More details coming soon!

Literacy for All – Understanding Language, Learning and Dyslexia Conference

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Sioux Falls Convention Center
See attached flyer for more details

COMING SOON! Online BDI2 Training Modules

We are in the early stages of development for some online learning modules tailored to teaching and supporting our Early Childhood community teachers and providers on the use, administration, scoring, and interpretation of the BDI2. Stay tuned!

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