

# Special Education Programs

## Information, News, and Events

### December 2015

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."

-Mark Van Doren

#### STAFF:

Linda Turner, Director  
Melissa Flor, Assistant Director  
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Wendy Trujillo, Program Specialist  
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#### Sped Program Highlights:

- The 2015 Spanish version of the [Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards](#) has been updated on the website.
- [Adult Agency involvement in the transition IEP = seamless transition for your student!](#)  
TSLP sponsors Transition forums in the fall for networking of available adult agency services. However, some school districts in SD are being successful in sponsoring adult agency panels at their school district during parent teacher conferences or other events! If you are interested, contact your transition liaison for more info.

#### Sped Director Monthly Meeting, December 15, 2015, 10:00 central

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

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

#### Agenda Items:

- Birth to 3 State Systemic Improvement Plan

#### Federal Program Highlights:

- [Dear Colleague Letter: Clarification of FAPE and Alignment with State Academic Standards](#), which clarifies that individualized education programs for children with disabilities must be aligned with state academic content standards for the grade in which a child is enrolled.
- [IDEAs That Work: Preparing Children and Youth with Disabilities for Success](#) website will connect teachers and families with resources to assist them in improving instruction and supporting academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students with disabilities as they become college and career ready.
- [Supporting and Responding to Behavior: Evidence-Based Classroom Strategies for Teachers](#) toolkit, which summarizes evidence-based, positive, proactive, and responsive classroom behavior intervention and support strategies for teachers.

#### DOE Program Highlights – State Library Talking Books

South Dakota Children's Book and Teen Book Award Nominees (Prairie Bud, Prairie Pasque and YARP) are now available in audio format for visually impaired students and those who cannot use traditional print books because of physical disability. Students who would like to participate by reading books from the lists and voting for their favorites can participate with their classmates or individually. For the list of available (or soon to be available) books please go to <http://library.sd.gov/BTB/latest.aspx>

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## Sped Program Feature Presentation

Need a way to fund a project? [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org) is a free website for teachers to post projects needing extra funding. Google is planning to share the wealth with a plan to donate funds to benefit students in special education through the DonorsChoose program. Google is also looking for tech projects to fund. <https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2015/12/01/google-pledges-funds-sped/21606/>

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

- **[SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL UPDATE](#)**

Please join us on **December 17, 2015** from **2:00 – 4:00pm CST**.

Attorney Jim Walsh will provide a review of new and important legal developments in serving students with disabilities, including case law and OCR and OSEP guidance pertaining to student eligibility, IEP meetings, FAPE, discipline, bullying, parent rights and other issues. The emphasis will be on the practical with plenty of time for Q and A.

**Webinar Link:** <https://connect.usu.edu/taesedisputes/>

**Conference Line Access:**

Conference Line: 1-888-387-8686

Conference ID: 4274201#

- **[How to REACH those you TEACH](#)**

Jan. 11- Disability Categories

Feb. 1- Differentiated Instruction

Feb. 29- Behaviors and Behavior Plans

March 14- Autism Spectrum Disorder

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 [Arlene Maxfield](#), South Dakota Department of Education, at (605) 773-2594 with questions.

## Coming Soon...

Assessment Workshops: NCSC and DSTEP Science Alternate Winter Workshops – for educators who will be administering the Alternate Assessments.

- March 7 – Watertown
- March 8 – Sioux Falls
- March 9 – Chamberlain
- March 10 – Rapid City