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August 2026

Dear Special Education Director:

The South Dakota Office of Special Education Programs (SEP) is required by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs to gather parent feedback on district facilitation of parent involvement in special education. SEP must report the survey data in Indicator 8: Parent Involvement on the annual State Performance Plan (SPP).

The online survey is available at this link and QR code:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8839832/SDI82627>

To access the Spanish version, click on the  symbol in the upper right corner. The [2026-2027 Parent Survey Flyer](#) provides the online link and QR code, as well as a clear script to aid district staff in explaining the survey purpose to parents.



NEW THIS YEAR: Districts who wish to print paper versions in English, Spanish, or Karen may request the PDFs of their district surveys and envelopes from Program Specialist Stacy Holzbauer at stacy.holzbauer@state.sd.us. Please throw away all unused paper versions of the 2025-2026 Parent Involvement Surveys. Also new this year, SEP developed a [Parent Resources Flyer](#) to improve districts' sharing of special education resources with parents.

SEP asks that your district please provide this 2026-2027 SD Parent Involvement Survey ONLINE link or QR code to the parents of every student receiving special education services in your district. If a parent has more than one child receiving services, they need to fill out a survey for each child separately. Each district is responsible for their plan of when and how district surveys are completed throughout the school year, including out-of-district placements. SEP requires that districts have a survey response rate of at least **20.00%**. Allowing parents time to complete the survey at the end of an in-person Individual Education Plan meeting has been shown to produce the highest response rates. Districts should make every effort to encourage survey participation across all student demographic groups, including race/ethnicity and disability. Surveys must be submitted by **May 31, 2027**.

District reports will be created by DOE to summarize your survey results; demographics will be included for districts with at least ten respondents. The district results will be publicly reported on the DOE [State Performance Plan](#) website. DOE encourages your district to review district results at fall staff meetings, in-services, and school board meetings. We hope your district reports are helpful in making local program improvements.

Thank you for your cooperation in improving partnerships with parents of students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Turner".

Division Director of Special Education and Early Learning