



Special Education Programs

SPED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SEP Staff

Jodi Berscheid, 619 Coordinator has taken a position as the Head Start Association Liaison with the Part C (B-3) program as of January 24th. We would like to thank Jodi for her time in special education Part B and we wish her well in her new position.

Please see below for temporary contact information until this position is filled.

Region 4 representative: [Rebecca Cain](#)

Region 5 and 6 representative: [Brandi Gerry](#)

Early Childhood and BDI Information: [Wendy Trujillo](#)

National Board Certification

Five South Dakota teachers and three school counselors earned national certifications in 2019, demonstrating advanced knowledge and skill in their professions. Congratulations in particular to Alicia Schoenhard in the Pierre School District for receiving certification for Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood.

To learn more about these certifications and stipend and reimbursement opportunities, visit <https://doe.sd.gov/nationalboard/>

DOE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Legislative session opens Jan. 14

The 2020 Legislative Session begins Jan. 14, with Gov. Kristi Noem's State of the State address at 1 p.m. CT. Listen live at [sd.net](#). House and Senate Education Committee meetings will also be streamed live throughout session via [sd.net](#) and on the SDNet app available for iOS and Android.

SFEC offers training, services, and resources to SD public schools

The South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center is a grant program that can offer free trainings, services, and resources to South Dakota public schools. The SFEC strives to ensure that all learners - especially English learners, economically disadvantaged learners, and minority students - have the supports they need to achieve academic, career, and life goals.

Updated SD Step Ahead/Head Start brochure available

[SDStepAhead.com](#) is a website dedicated to kids, built around the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines. Organized by learning domains, this site also includes resources to improve knowledge of child development and a map of services by South Dakota county. An [updated informational brochure](#) promoting this website and Head Start services in South Dakota is now available.

Abilities Dedication
Acceptance
Inclusion Evolving
Independence
Special Access
Individual Success
Unique Education
Accommodating Integration
Hope Achieve
Opportunity Challenges
Participation
Understanding

SPED STAFF:

[Linda Turner](#), Director

[Wendy Trujillo](#), Assistant Director

[Rebecca Cain](#), Program Specialist

[Che Fon](#), (Fon) Data Manager

[Melissa Flor](#), Program Specialist

[Jodi Berscheid](#), 619 Coordinator

Vacant, Program Specialist

[Beth Schiltz](#), Program Specialist

[Brandi Gerry](#), Program Specialist

[Lindsey Bomesberger](#), Secretary

[Regional Representative List](#)

Contact: 605.773.3678

[NEXT SPED DIRECTOR CALL:](#)

January 21, 2020- 10am CST

Connect through Adobe Connect:

<https://taese.adobeconnect.com/sdta/>

Conference Line: 888-387-8686

Participant Code: 608 991 0201

Agenda Items:

- ◆ 2020 Legislative Session
- ◆ Battelle Developmental Inventory 3
- ◆ Accountability
 - Private Schools
 - Compliance Issues 18-19
 - Education Structures

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

DOE STRATEGIC PLAN

Championing excellence in South Dakota's K-12 education system

The South Dakota Department of Education has released its strategic plan, which will guide the department's activities through 2024. The plan consists of four strategic directions: championing excellence, maximizing and building relationships, achieving effectiveness, and cultivating our professional culture.

The department's strategic plan clearly defines what we hope to be as a department in five years, and it describes who is working on which initiative and when. This is a living plan, to change as the needs of students change while keeping standards high and ensuring that a diploma is meaningful.

To learn more about the DOE strategic plan, please click [here](#).



FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Restraint and Seclusion TA from US DOE

On January 17, 2019, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos [announced an initiative](#) to examine the possible inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion in our nation's schools. As a part of this initiative, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has partnered with the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) to support teachers, school leaders, parents, and stakeholders as they work to address the behavioral needs of children with disabilities.

One primary component of the Department's initiative has focused on providing technical assistance to support schools in understanding how Section 504, Title II, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) informs the development and implementation of policies governing the use of restraint and seclusion.

To this end, OCR and OSERS are pleased to present the following webinar, [Students with Disabilities and the Use of Restraint and Seclusion in K-12 Public Schools](#), as technical assistance to both support children with disabilities — and support the needs of those within school systems serving students.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ9YxoLC8TI&feature=youtu.be>

DOE DIVISION HIGHLIGHT

Division of State Library

Currently the SDSL provides service to 110 public library administrative entities, 30 branches, and four bookmobiles. Almost two-thirds of South Dakota's public libraries (63%) serve communities of fewer than 2,500 people. The State Library also serves 379 school libraries at the system level. This includes 150 public school districts, 44 non-public school systems, 20 tribal and one special school for the blind. The Braille and Talking Book program serves over 2,000 South Dakotans annually. We also serve over two dozen academic and special libraries within the state.

Our Vision

Well-resourced libraries are critical to the social and economic development of our communities and to the vitality of a free and democratic society. To ensure quality and equity in access to information, the State and Federal government does have a direct interest in strengthening communities through the following goals:

The South Dakota State Library...

- Strengthens the work of public, school and academic libraries throughout the state.
- Expands citizen, including student, access to library services.
- Develops specialized collections that supplement the resources of our state's individual libraries.
- Improves the work of state government, libraries and schools by providing timely access to information.
- Through this work, South Dakota's citizens are enriched and our state government and educational institutions become more efficient and effective while strengthening local workforce and community development efforts.
- Provides library services in accessible formats to those who cannot read standard print due to visual or physical impairment.





DOE TOPICAL GUIDANCE RESOURCES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Click on the titles to go to the registration site)

New Sped Directors Webinars

This series of webinars is directed at new special education directions (0-3 years) is provided as an overview of responsibilities as a special education director. Topics include Leadership and Management, Accountability/RDA, Child Count, Dispute Resolution, State Performance Plan (SPP), and Fiscal/Budget.

3:00pm - 4:30pm CT

● **Webinar 1: CANCELLED**

● **Webinar 2:** October 9th
Accountability/RDA

● **Webinar 3:** November 14th
Child Count

● **Webinar 4:** December 12th
Dispute Resolution

● **Webinar 5:** January 9th
State Performance Plan

● **Webinar 6: February 6th**
Fiscal & Budget Responsibilities

You must register for each webinar separately to receive contact hours.

2020 Sped Conference

It's a Game Changer!

Please join us in Sioux Falls, March 17 and 18, 2020 for the SD Special Education Conference. Early bird registration ends February 1, 2020.

Please see the application for Parent Nominated Special Education Staff of the Year included with this newsletter. The winner will be announced during the lunch session of the Special Education Conference on March 17.

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Date: Top 20 Training

July 28-30, 2020 in Chamberlain More details coming soon!

Summative Assessment Winter Workshops

The dates for the annual workshop for the state summative assessments have been set. Each workshop is scheduled from 8:30 am—4:00 pm local time. Registration is open.

● Jan. 28—MacKay Bldg—Pierre

● Feb 4—STI—Sioux Falls

● Feb 5—STI—Sioux Falls

● Feb 6—LATI—Watertown

● Feb 13—WDTI—Rapid City

● Feb 25—Skype Virtual Meeting (3:30-4:30 CST)

Sioux Falls Summer Institute

Dr. Anita Archer training! The SD Council for Exceptional Children is bring in Dr. Anita Archer for the Sioux Falls Summer Institute. This training will be held on the Augustana campus on June 2 and 3, 2020. Registration will open after the holiday break.

“Developing Brains Matter!”

South Dakota Early Childhood Conference
April 23-25, 2020

Sioux Falls Convention Center

Registrations beginning January 15, 2020.

<https://sdececonference-org.doodlekit.com/home/index>

Title Webinars: January to April

Topics include parent/school communication, Executive Dysfunction, Mindfulness, etc... see flyer for more details.

South Dakota Parent Connections—Navigator Program

Special Education Programs collaborates with South Dakota Parent Connections to offer the Navigator Program. The Navigator Program is available to parents and districts who need assistance with the special education process and increasing positive communication. As of January 1st, 2020 Special Education Programs is hosting the Navigator website and it can be found at <https://doe.sd.gov/sped/navigator.aspx>.



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