Monthly SPED Webinar

Special Education Programs
2025-2026 School Year
January 20, 2026

Welcome

Guest Speakers

Nikki Eining, CSW-PIP
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Heidi Aderhold, Ed.S.
Educational Specialist

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BEAM-SD

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, EDUCATION, ACCESS, AND MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH DAKOTA (BEAM-SD)

BEAM-SD supports primary care providers (PCPs), education-based, and behavioral health professionals in treating and managing behavioral health needs for children and adolescents (0-21).

BEAM SD
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, EDUCATION, ACCESS
AND MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Center for Disabilities

**To learn more visit
www.beam-sd.org**

Real-Time Consultation
Providing support to primary care and school settings through teleconsultation with pediatric behavioral health providers.

Education
Providing ongoing training and education to support the treatment of children and adolescents with behavioral disorders.

Resources & Care Coordination
Serve as a resource hub for primary care providers, school professionals, mental health professionals, educators, and parents.

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BEAM-SD Professionals

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BEAM-SD ECHO

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Find All Programming at www.beam-sd.org
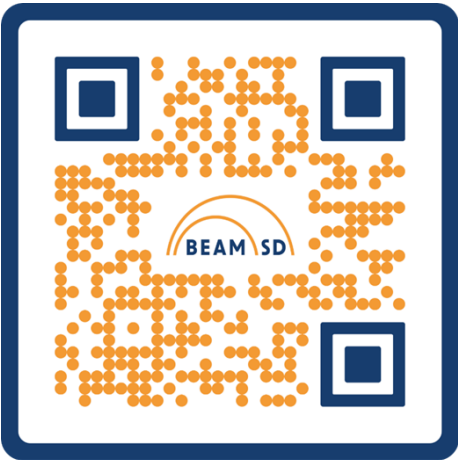
Welcome

APH Federal Quota Census

SD State Library - Accessible Library Services

Ginny Kaus, Kathleen Slocum

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The system through which these specialized materials are distributed is known as the Federal Quota Program. Through it, textbooks and instructional aides are provided free for eligible students who are blind and visually impaired in educational settings

Federal appropriation is divided per capita of eligible students.

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If NEITHER are met, students may also be eligible because they:

- Qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) definition of blindness: an impairment in vision, that, even with the correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance.
- South Dakota's definition of IDEA is:
    - Partial sight is one or more deficiencies in visual acuity, as follows:
        (1) Visual acuity of no better than 20/70 in the better eye after correction;
        (2) Restricted visual field;
        (3) Limited ability to move about safely in the environment because of visual disability.

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# Tactile elements as well as visual.

Sense of Science is a unique series designed to make the world of science accessible, understandable, and enjoyable.

Tactile elements as well as visual. Matching the life cycle of the butterfly to the terms. Print and Braille. Visual and Tactile. Matching the body parts of a butterfly.

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life cycle of a butterfly

adult butterfly
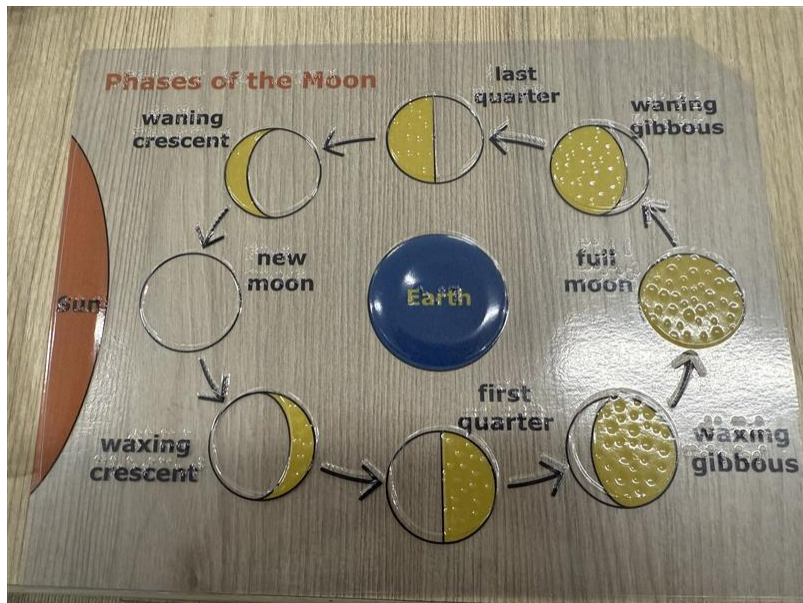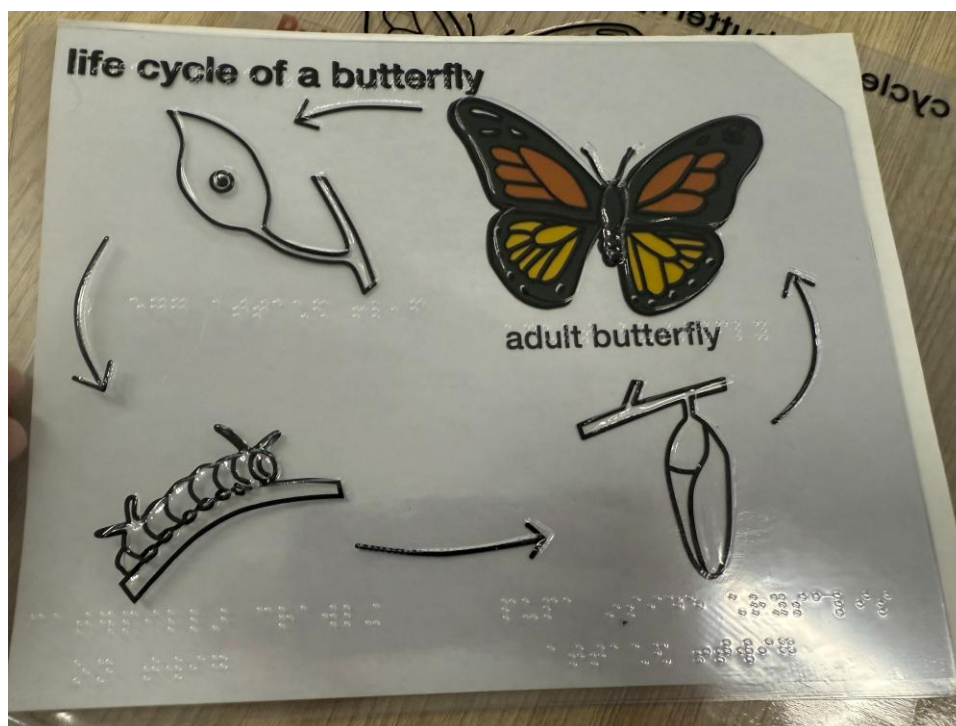
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- 1. Permission from parents/guardians for their child/adult to be included in the census. We will send you a permission slip that you will need to get signed and keep on file at the school or agency. No personal information will be shared.
- 2. A SD State Library Accessible Library Services application for the child/adult. You can find these at library.sd.gov/ALS/apply.aspx

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Contact:

George Seamon – george.seamon@state.sd.us – 1-605-773-3167
Kathleen Slocum - kathleen.slocum@state.sd.us – 1-605-773-8438
Ginny Kaus – virginia.kaus@state.sd.us – 1-605-773-4914

APH information taken from the APH Federal Quota Program Manual

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Legislative Update

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Key Session Dates

- First Day – January 13
  - State of the State @ 1:00 pm
- Last day for Introduction of individual bills – February 4
- Last day to pass bills by house of origin – February 24
- Last day for bill to pass both houses – March 9
- Last day of session – March 12
  - Veto day March 30 if needed

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Department of Education Presentations

- Tentative Dates
  - Senate Education committee – January 14
  - House Education committee – TBD
  - Joint Appropriations Committee – February 3

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Department of Education Bills

○ **SB 8**: Allow schools to administer epinephrine using a nasal spray

○ **HB 1003**: Amend provisions pertaining to background checks for school employees

○ **HB 1017**: Permit a school board to require certain students to receive instruction in alternative settings

○ **HB 1018**: Amend the reversion date for moneys appropriated to improve and renovate the Cultural Heritage Center

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Legislative Information and Resources
https://sdlegislature.gov

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2026 Bills Search

- Key Word Suggestions
  - District
  - School
  - Disability
  - Education
  - Special Education

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Committees

- Key Committees
  - Senate Education
  - House Education
  - Appropriations
    - House
    - Senate
    - Joint
  - Health and Human Services

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Legislator Information

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Tracking Information
https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/

- Tracking Bills will reset each session
- Check notification options
- Set up a Bill List for areas of Interest
  - Add Bills
  - Email Bill List
  - Download List
  - Upcoming Hearings for Tracked Bills

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Add a Bill to Bill List

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Tracking Statutes (Codified Law) - SDCL

- Statue is changed through legislative process
- Based on input from constituents, changes proposed by Departments, legislative platforms….
- Legislator or Legislative Committee must sponsor bill
- Tracking Statue will provide notifications during legislative process

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Tracking Committees

○ Caution: Checking Committee Notifications may yield a high number or emails

○ Adding to list without notifications will put on your Meetings list and save archived information but not send email notices

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Meetings

○ Meetings displays key dates and items you are tracking

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Tracking Administrative Rule - ARSD

- ○ Education Rules are taken by the Department of Education to hearing and approval by the Board of Education Standards
- ○ Rules may be brought based on legislation, federal law, input from stakeholders
- ○ Tracking Rules will provide notification as rules go through that process
- ○ Final step in rule adoption is at Interim Rules Review Committee – otherwise do not go through legislative process

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Overall Notifications

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Effective Practices

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SPED Connection Highlights

LRP SPED Connections subscription is required to access the following resources:

- **Essentials for substitute special education plan**
- **School refusal blueprint: Identify cause, target behavior with accommodations, SDI**
- **Get your PWNs in order, avoid legal missteps with these dos, don'ts**
- **January 2026 Spotlight: Child find**

Join the
SpedConnection
email Listserv

Contact your public school district special education director for login access. If you have any questions about your subscription access, please contact Wendy.Trujillo@state.sd.us.

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AAC Workshop and Assistive Tech Resource

- AAC Workshop: **Addressing Complex Communication Needs and Support for AAC Users**
    - *Jan. 23, 9 am-4 pm CT, virtual.* The Department of Education and South Dakota Speech Language Hearing Association (SDSLHA) are teaming up to provide the 2026 SDSLHA workshop that focuses on developing speech-language therapists and other educational professionals' knowledge of augmentative and alternative communication device (AAC) users. The goal is to empower communication, support language development, and align neurodiversity-affirming framework for professionals working with students with disabilities who use AAC devices. These workshops will build knowledge and expertise while also teaching professionals how to train and support classroom professionals how to implement AAC supports. For more information and to get registered visit: https://www.sdslha.org/doe-sdslha-workshop.

- Assistive Tech Resource: **Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Guide 2024**
    - This Assistive Technology (AT) Technical Assistance Guide is a tool to aid South Dakota school districts and local IEP teams in creating and developing local processes and procedures surrounding AT.
    - https://doe.sd.gov/sped/documents/AT-TA-Guide-24.pdf

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Accountability

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25-26 Internal Review Link

- Internal Review requirements:
  - Between July 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026
  - Each case manager for a district will select 1 file to complete an internal review.
  - Staff should provide feedback in the comments section to help district administrator identify areas of training needed.
  - Information and example documents found at Accountability Website under Results Driven Accountability (RDA)

- **Information to submit by administrator**: The district Sped Director will submit district level areas identified as professional development needs.
- Submit: https://forms.office.com/g/PngrBfT4sh or QR Code

- Updated: The categories are now broken down.

2025-2026 Internal Review
Identified Professional
Development

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Internal Review Options

- Review own file
- Have someone else review the file (Set up professional expectations)
- Professional Development day: review files together
- Split up the year (First semester: IEP and second semester: evaluation)
- Mentor teacher with less experience teacher
- Preparation for accountability reviews: https://doe.sd.gov/sped/documents/2430-DistSchedule.pdf
- Use as a checklist
- Group teachers together
- Pick an area to focus reviews (goals, PLAAFP have data, Parent input is more than "agree", how to improve accept/reject, etc.)

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2026-2027 Districts Accountability Review

District List
Agar-Blunt-Onida 58-3
Bennett County 03-1
Bowdle 22-1
Canistota 43-1
Clark 12-2
Elk Mountain 16-2
Elkton 05-3
Ethan 17-1
Eureka 44-1
Garretson 49-4
Henry 14-2

District List (2)
Hill City 51-2
Hot Springs 23-2
Lead-Deadwood 40-1
Lennox 41-4
McIntosh 15-1
Meade 46-1
Parkston 33-3
Redfield 56-4
Rosholt 54-4
Scotland 04-3
Stanley County 57-1
Tea Area 41-5
Wolsey-Wessington 02-6

- Begin to prepare files for review – Accountability Process Presentation
- Complete internal review
- Use IEP TA Guide and Guidance Documents
- Indicator 13 collected

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Improved Noncompliance

- Description of services are focusing on goal instructional frequency and duration.

- Consent to invite outside agency process

- Individualized PPWN

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Top 2025-2026 Issues

PPWN Consent and PPWN are not individualized.

PPWN Consent and evaluations completed do not align.

Goals and objectives require all components

Individualized justification statements and disability affects statements

- MPSG – Education must be after high school
  - Even after 18-21 programs

- Accommodation/Modifications must be clarified.
  - Do not use the drop down. Describe to implement consistently
  - Duration is not "~~length of IEP~~"

Use Guidance Documents https://doe.sd.gov/sped/IEP.aspx

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Non-Certified Sped Staff

- Teachers who are not state certified in special education, must be on a plan of intent or be on an alternate certification path if designated as special education in the Personnel Record Form (PRF) of funded with sped dollars and providing sped services for an IEP.
- In addition to those requirements, teachers who are not fully certified have limitations on duties they can perform in special education, this includes student teachers. See chart

Task	Yes/No
Works with student(s) on IEP	Y – under the supervision of the certified special ed mentor teacher
Awards grade to student on IEP	Y – but needs to be certified in the content instructing
Evaluates students to determine eligibility	Y – if meets the qualifications for the evaluation instrument
Writes student IEP	N – can help draft but the certified special ed mentor teacher or certified special ed staff that will sign the IEP must complete the final IEP
Signs off on students IEP	N – must be the certified special ed mentor teacher or other certified special ed staff
Issues progress report	N – may collect data but the certified special ed mentor teacher or certified special ed staff that signed IEP must report progress

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Data

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Indicator 3: State Alternate Assessment

- The list of students participating in the 2026 state alternate assessment has been pulled from Infinite Campus to be uploaded into the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) system.

- If you need to verify if your students were entered correctly properly, add students with spring IEP meetings/changes, or designate an MSAA Test Coordinator other than your regular district Assessment Coordinator, please contact Sabrina.Johnson@state.sd.us.

- 11th graders participating in alternate assessment are not affected by the new SD-ACT; they will continue using the alternate assessment platforms:
  - MSAA (ELA-alt & Math-alt) Dates (grades 3-8 and 11):
    - February 17: MSAA Training Modules Open
    - March 9-April 24: MSAA Administration Window
  - SD Science-Alt Dates (grade 5, 8, 11):
    - March 30-May 8: Science-alt Administration Window

- Contact Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us with any Alternate Assessment Participation Form questions.

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Accommodations for state assessment
Grades 3-8

- What can districts do in TIDE (test information distribution engine)
    - Enable embedded designated supports that teams or a teacher has deemed the student needs and has used in the classroom
    - Mark non-embedded designated supports for students
    - (If you can see it you can mark it)
    - If you can't see it, you will have to fill out a form in TIDE – because these will be accommodations)
- What will the state do in TIDE
    - Enabled embedded accommodations as requested by the forms
    - Mark non-embedded accommodations as requested by the forms
- What is the due date
    - Soft deadline of February 1st to ensure all are set prior to test window
    - May take up to a week once form is submitted

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Accommodations for state assessment (ACT)
High School

- Accommodation request deadlines
    - Window 1 – January 14
    - Window 2 – January 28
    - Window 3 – February 11

- Most common reasons for non-approval
    - Incomplete paperwork
    - Requested accommodation not on the paperwork
    -

- SD-ACT website

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Meeting the 25 School Day Timeline
Indicator 11 – Initial Evaluations Data Breakdown

1 Scheduling was the most common reason to miss the 25 school day timeline for initial evaluations in 2024-2025.

October: most initial evaluations were signed in 2024-2025.

September, February, and March were the most common months when initial evaluations signed go over on the 25 school day timeline in 2024-2025.

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Indicator 12 Reminder

- Complete the eligibility meeting and, if eligible, IEP meeting **prior** to the child's 3rd birthday

- Services begin on the child's 3rd birthday
  - Or next school day
  - Or agreed upon date with family

Measuring the process by which a child transitioning from Birth to Three services is able to access services when their Birth to Three services end

- Remember, Birth to Three services end the day before their third birthday.

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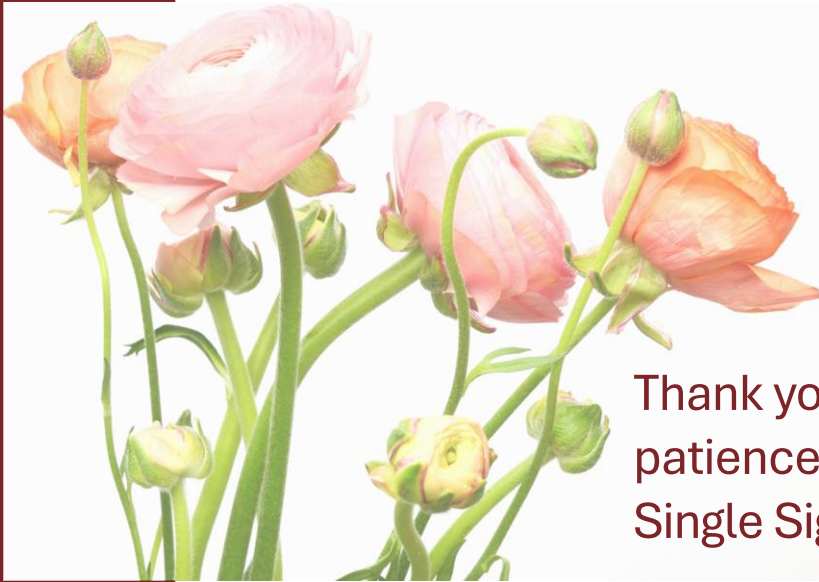
Thank you for your patience during the BDI-3 Single Sign On Transition.

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Miscellaneous

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Parent Resources
Literacy and Behavior Tips

https://doe.sd.gov/sped/mtss.aspx

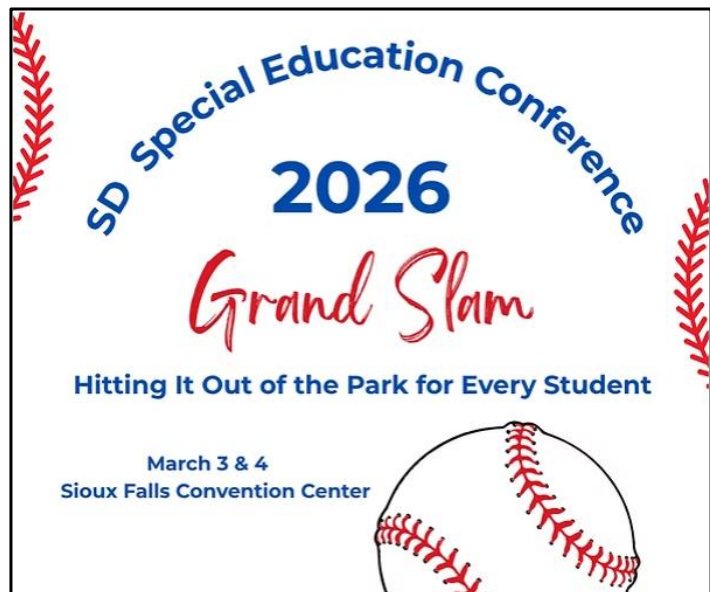Contact Becky Cain at rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any ideas for future tips.

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2026 SPED Conference Registration

- Conference Registration: open through Feb. 20.

- Conference Website: visit for details.

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2026 SPED Staff of the Year Award

- Nominations have closed.
- Parents/Guardians across South Dakota submitted 102 nominations towards **73 SPED staff**!
- This shows that district SPED staff are doing great work and are appreciated by SD parents!
- DOE staff completed two rounds of review and scoring of nominations.
- All 73 nominees will be notified in the coming weeks and will receive a certificate.
- The top 5 nominees will be invited to the March 4 SPED Conference Awards Luncheon to be celebrated on stage. The award winner will be announced at the luncheon.

- If you have any questions about this award, contact Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us.

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Parent Engagement and Conflict Resolution

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Secondary Transition

The Transition Summer Institute provides high school special educators and directors valuable information regarding the topic of transition to adulthood for students with disabilities.

Join us for two full days of learning and networking with your colleagues.

Continuing Education Contact Hours and graduate credit pending approval!

REGISTRATION   Coming Soon!

TSLP 2026 SUMMER INSTITUTE

Arrowwood Resort @ Cedar Shore in Oacoma, SD

JULY 29-30, 2026

http:// www.tslp.org

SAVE THE DATE

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Next SPED Webinar

February 17, 2026

Please share the SPED Webinar registration information with your district or agency special education professionals!

SPED Webinar PowerPoints are posted at:

https://doe.sd.gov/sped/directors.aspx

A recording is available for 2 weeks after the webinar and can be accessed by reaching out to your Regional Representative.

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