

# Monthly SPED Webinar

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

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Welcome

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## 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).



#### Center for Disabilities

To learn more visit  
[www.beam-sd.org](http://www.beam-sd.org)



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# BEAM-SD Professionals

## BEAM-SD PROFESSIONAL TO PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION TEAM



Tim Soundy, M.D.  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



Sarah Flynn, M.D.  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



David Ermer, M.D.  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



Brian Wilson, D.O.  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



Mackenzie Mertz, D.O.  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



Aimee Delbramich, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



Eric Kurtz, Ph.D.  
Executive Director,  
USD Center for Disabilities



Marni Johnson AuD  
Audiologist



Heidi Aderhold, Ed.S.  
Educational Specialist



Bruce Fogas, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



Nikki Eining, CSW-PIP  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker



Faith Carlson, MA, LPC  
Eating Disorder Therapist



Shannon Emry, M.D.  
Pediatrician



Carolyn Kippes, M.D.  
Developmental and  
Behavioral Pediatrician



Lizzy Milton, LPC-MH,  
PMHC  
Perinatal Therapist



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, EDUCATION, ACCESS  
AND MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH DAKOTA



### Center for Disabilities

Professionals can easily  
request a NO COST behavioral  
health consultation by dialing  
the toll-free phone number

1-888-877-5390 or at  
[www.beam-sd.org](http://www.beam-sd.org)

[Learn More](#)



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## BEAM-SD ECHO

### BEAM-SD ECHO INTENSIVE: BUILDING CAPACITY IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Join us for a FREE advanced ECHO series designed to strengthen skills in identifying and managing pediatric behavioral health concerns across the 0-21 age range. This intensive learning experience will offer deeper dives into key topics such as:

Child Development  
Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Suicidal Ideation

CMEs will be provided through the South Dakota Academy of Family Physicians, pending approval, and Certificates of Attendance for CEU's provided.

Sessions begin January 14th, 2026, and will take place on the second Wednesday of every month, virtually, from 12 to 1 pm CT. Registration is through the iECHO platform.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, EDUCATION, ACCESS  
AND MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH DAKOTA



### Center for Disabilities

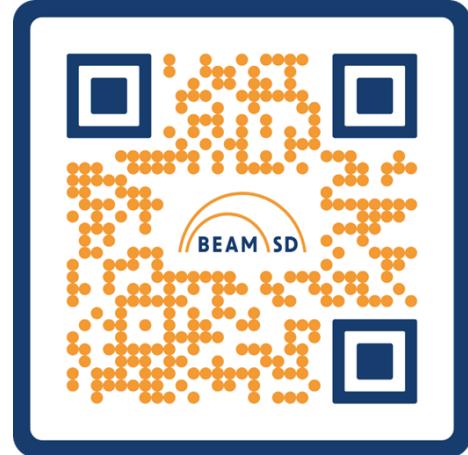
[Registration](#)



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Find All  
Programming  
at [www.beam-  
sd.org](http://www.beam-sd.org)



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Welcome

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# 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.

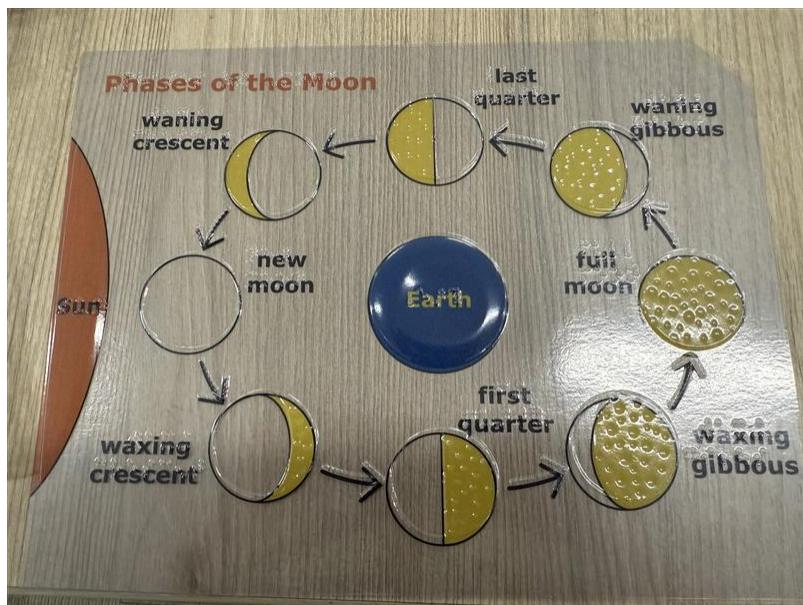
Sense of Science is a unique series designed to make the world of science accessible, understandable, and enjoyable.

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.

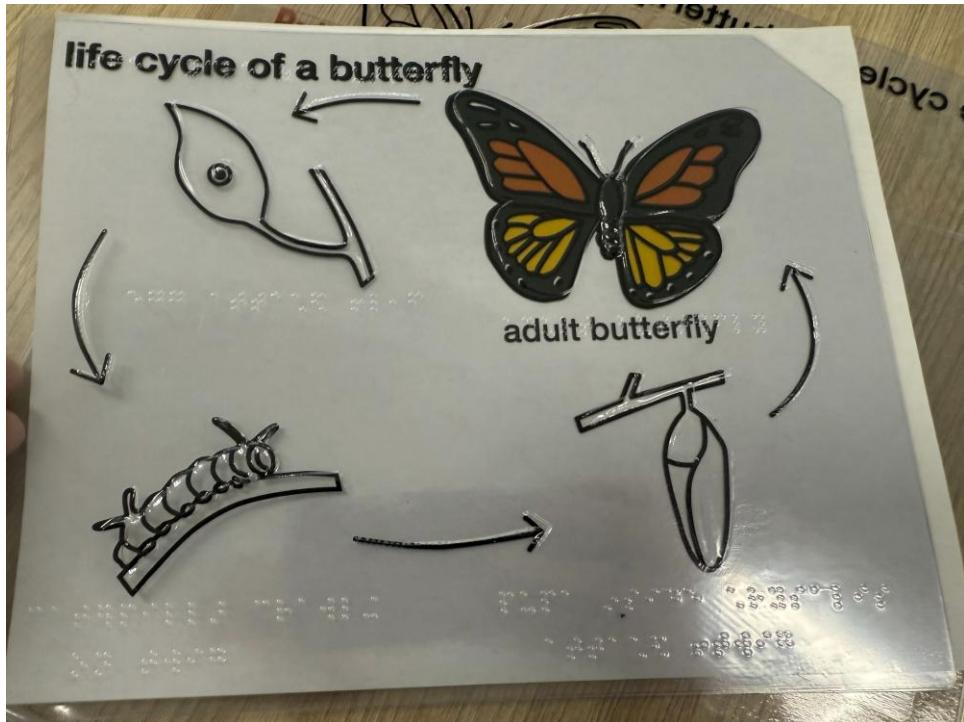
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- 1. Permission from parents/guardians for their child/adult to be included in the census. We will send you a permission slip that you will need to get signed and keep on file at the school or agency. No personal information will be shared.
- 2. A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

A screenshot of the South Dakota Legislative Information and Resources website. The URL https://sdlegislature.gov is visible in the browser's address bar. The page features a header with the South Dakota Legislature logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are two main sections: "SCHEDULE" on the left and "LATEST" on the right. The "SCHEDULE" section lists various legislative events with their dates and locations. The "LATEST" section contains a grid of links to legislative resources, including "2026 BILLS", "2026 CALENDAR", "2026 CHAMBERS AND COMMITTEES", "2026 LEGISLATORS", "CODIFIED LAWS", "LEGISLATIVE RULES", "RESOURCES", and "LEGISLATIVE DATA". The bottom right corner of the page features the South Dakota Department of Education logo.

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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

Find My Legislators

Counties: Haakon, Hughes, Hyde, Stanley, Sully

Legislators:

| Name            | Chamber | Party      | Status    | Occupation             |
|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Mehlfahrt, Jim  | Senate  | Republican | Incumbent | Retired                |
| Mortenson, Will | House   | Republican | Incumbent | Attorney/Cow Hand      |
| Weisgram, Mike  | House   | Republican | Incumbent | Retired/Business Owner |

Prior effective Districts

Current Districts

Search in South Dakota

District

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## Tracking Information

<https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/>





My LRC+

- Meetings
- Documents
- Notes
- Administrative Rules
- Statutes
- Bills**
- Session Committees
- Interim Committees
- Archives
- Notifications

Dark Theme

## Session Bills

Add a new Bill List

**ADD**

Notify me my bill hearing schedule each legislative day

Notify me when a new version of one of my bills is available

### My Bill Lists

|                          |   |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 2026 - Education         | + |  |  |  |  |
| Number of Bills: 6       |   |  |  |  |  |
| 2026 - General           | + |  |  |  |  |
| Number of Bills: 4       |   |  |  |  |  |
| 2026 - Special Education | + |  |  |  |  |
| Number of Bills: 1       |   |  |  |  |  |

- 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

| View   | Bill    | Title   | Status |
|--------|---------|---|--------|
| Filter | Filter  | Filter  | Filter |
| Active | HB 1003 | amend provisions pertaining to the required criminal background investigation of certain school employees.  | Active |
| Active | HB 1008 | direct the amendment of the Administrative Rules of South Dakota regarding the awarding of high school credit for participation in extracurricular athletics. | Active |
| Active | HB 1017 | permit the board of a school district to require that certain students receive instruction in alternative settings.   | Active |
| Active | HB 1030 | amend provisions pertaining to the timing of municipal elections.   | Active |
| Active | SB 8    | permit a school district to administer epinephrine using a nasal spray.   | Active |
| Active | SB 34   | amend provisions pertaining to conducting a municipal or school district election and to declare an emergency.  | Active |

| AUTOMATIC CRITERIA  |                       | (Quick Add Bill (Example: HB1001))  |                                 |        |        | ADD BILL       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Filter by:          |                       |   |                                 |        |        |                |
| Keyword             | Assigned to Committee | Sponsored by Committee  | Sponsored by Interim Committ... |        |        |                |
| Requested by Agency | Prime Sponsor         | Prime Sponsor   |                                 |        |        | Filter by Text |
| View                | Bill                  | Title   | Introduced                      | Add    |        |                |
| Filter              | Filter                | Filter  | Filter                          | Filter | Filter |                |
| Active              | HB 1001               | provide for prescribed burning of state-owned land by a person owning adjoining land and to declare an emergency. | 12-19-2025                      |        |        |                |
| Active              | HB 1002               | revise the daily meal allowance for wildland fire employees and fire suppression forces in certain circumstances. | 12-19-2025                      |        |        |                |
| Active              | HB 1004               | authorize the recall of county commissioners.   | 12-19-2025                      |        |        |                |
| Active              | HB 1005               | provide a sales and use tax exemption for goods and services related to data center operations.                   | 12-26-2025                      |        |        |                |
| Active              | HB 1006               | create a taskforce to study the creation of Indian medicaid managed care entities in the state.                   | 12-26-2025                      |        |        |                |



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## Tracking Statutes (Codified Law) - SDCL

- Statute is changed through legislative process
- Based on input from constituents, changes proposed by Departments, legislative platforms....
- Legislator or Legislative Committee must sponsor bill
- Tracking Statute 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](mailto: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.sdsdha.org/doe-sdsdha-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         | District List (2)      |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Agar-Blunt-Onida 58-3 | Hill City 51-2         |
| Bennett County 03-1   | Hot Springs 23-2       |
| Bowdle 22-1           | Lead-Deadwood 40-1     |
| Canistota 43-1        | Lennox 41-4            |
| Clark 12-2            | McIntosh 15-1          |
| Elk Mountain 16-2     | Meade 46-1             |
| Elkton 05-3           | Parkston 33-3          |
| Ethan 17-1            | Redfield 56-4          |
| Eureka 44-1           | Rosholt 54-4           |
| Garretson 49-4        | Scotland 04-3          |
| Henry 14-2            | 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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- Description of services are focusing on goal instructional frequency and duration.
- Consent to invite outside agency process
- Individualized PPWN

Improved Noncompliance

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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>

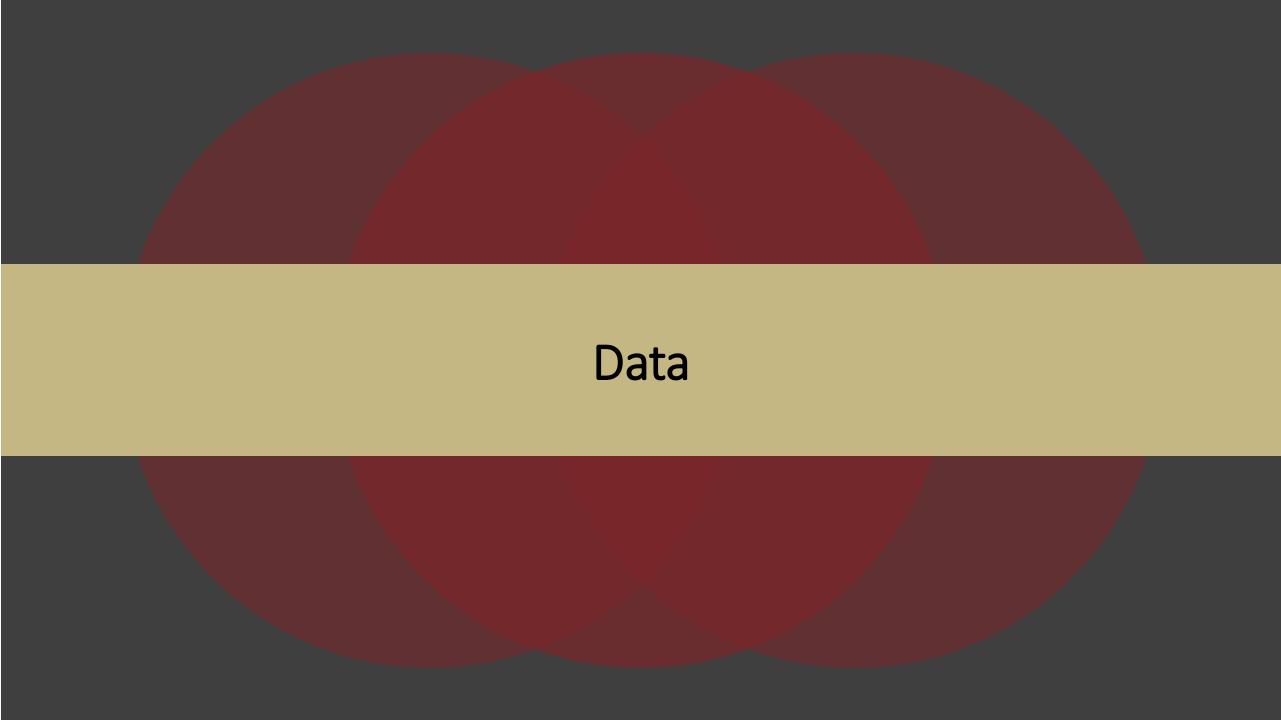
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## Non-Certified Sped Staff

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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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

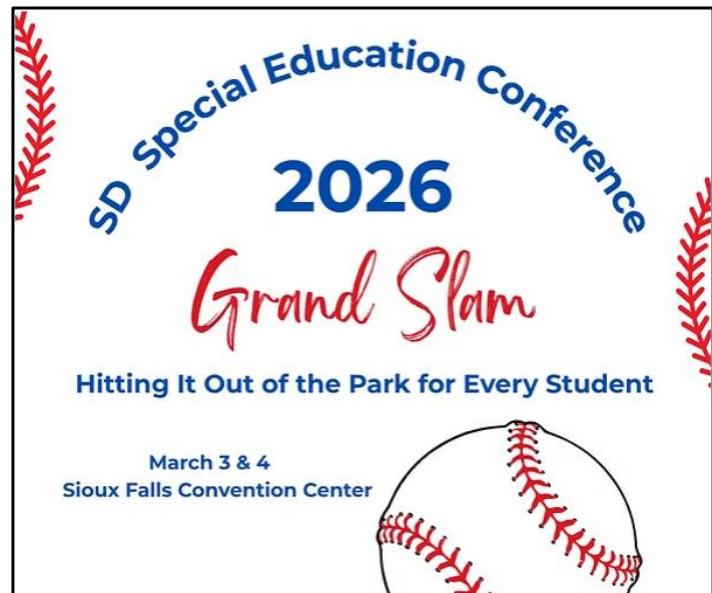
<https://doe.sd.gov/sped/mtss.aspx>

Contact Becky Cain at [rebecca.cain@state.sd.us](mailto: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](mailto:Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us).

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## Parent Engagement and Conflict Resolution

 CADRE

### New Free Online Course

**Supporting Families to Engage in the IEP/IFSP Process and Resolve Conflict**

One course. Many tools. Stronger support.

- ✓ SELF-PACED LEARNING
- ✓ SCENARIOS WITH FEEDBACK
- ✓ DISPUTE RESOLUTION BASICS
- ✓ RELEVANT AND PRACTICAL
- ✓ FOR PARENT CENTERS, ADVOCATES, AND ANYONE SUPPORTING FAMILIES



*“Especially valuable for onboarding new staff—and as a practical refresher.”*

**START TODAY**

[cadreworks.org](http://cadreworks.org)

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## Secondary Transition

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### Next SPED Webinar

February 17,  
2026

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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**

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.