



Special Education Programs

SPED Program Highlights

Questions regarding record retentions policies?

SD Bureau of Administration has the Local Schools Retention Manual: https://boa.sd.gov/central-services/docs/Local_Schools_2017_Revised.pdf

Personnel Record Form (PRF) database is now open. Deadline to make changes is June 11. As the Department of Education looks ahead, we want to make you aware of some critical deadlines for the PRF database. If there are any changes to this timeframe, the department will contact school districts. The information in the PRF is required to be collected by state and federal law and is used for the Report Card, federal and state reporting, and teacher compensation accountabilities for the public schools. It is important this information is accurate. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

New Issue Brief on Graduation Requirements and Students with Special Needs

Graduation guidance for students with disabilities now located under the [Students with Special Needs](#) drop down.

DOE Program Highlights

Submit your District Teacher of the Year by March 1. Districts have an opportunity to recognize great teaching through the South Dakota Teacher of the Year program. Each district is invited to select a District Teacher of the Year, who becomes a nominee for their region's Teacher of the Year. South Dakota is broken up into five regions. Deadline for districts to submit the name of their District TOY is **March 1, 2020**. All submitted District TOY winners will be invited to submit a Region application. Region applications are due March 31. The five Regional Teachers of the Year candidates vie for South Dakota Teacher of the Year, who is announced in October. That person represents the state in the national competition in the spring of 2022. Information and forms are available on our [TOY webpage](#). Contact [Kelly Royer](#) at (605) 773-8415.

Oceti standards resources. Beginning this week, DOE will disseminate resources to support instruction of the [Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards](#) (OSEUs) in all schools. Resources will be shared weekly via multiple educator listservs, with the goal of getting them to as many K-12 classroom educators as possible. Visit the [SD Department of Tribal Relations webpage](#) to access weekly updates. We appreciate your help in getting these resources into the hands of classroom teachers.

Preliminary ESSER II allocations posted. Last week, DOE shared preliminary allocations for the second round of ESSER allocations (ESSER II) with superintendents and business officials. That document, along with a fact sheet detailing primary differences between ESSER I and ESSER II have been posted on our [COVID funding webpage](#). (Scroll to bottom of the page – under the heading: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.)

SPED PROGRAM STAFF

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[Regional Representative List](#)

Contact: 605.773.3678

[Next SPED Director Call](#)

February 16th, 2021 - 10am CT

Connect through ADOBE:

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

For audio dial: 888-387-8686

Passcode: 818 562 8373

Agenda Items

- [IEPQ Tips](#)
- [State Assessment](#)
- [Related Services Determination](#)
- [Placement and Participation Decisions for Preschool](#)
- [State Performance Plan FFY 2019 Results](#)

NO CALL IN MARCH

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

Equity In Education

Equity in Education has become an important topic in last year especially with school closures.

Disproportionality in special education is related to two federal requirements. State Performance Plan Indicator 9 and 10 along with Significant Disproportionality.

There are some resources for districts who would like to learn more about equity in education or identify resources for staff development,

IDEA Data Center at <https://ideadata.org/>

CEEDAR Center at <https://ceedar.education.ufl.edu/> has professional development areas regarding "Culturally Relevant Teaching"

Federal Highlights

OSEP State Performance Plan FFY2020-2025 Package released

In October of 2020, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released the new State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). States were expecting changes across multiple indicators and will begin planning for those changes. With the new package, starting in FFY 2020 the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) or Indicator 17 must be submitted at the same time as the SPP, instead of April 1st.

You may view a summary of the Indicator changes on the IDEA Data Center website at ideadata.org.

Upcoming Webinar Opportunity

Relationships are more important than ever! On February 25, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 pm EST, NCII, the Center on PBIS, and the University of Minnesota Check & Connect Team will host a [webinar](#) focused on how Check & Connect can be implemented and adapted in a virtual setting. Panelists will share guidance to support virtual mentor meetings, strategies from sites currently implementing Check & Connect, and information from Check & Connect trainers who are making training options more accessible.

SEP Program Staff Highlights

Debra Willert - 619 Coordinator

I am grateful to have grown up on a farm in south central South Dakota near Norris. My older sister and I attended a country school between Norris and Parmelee, where I am proud to say, I had the same teacher as my dad. She was a wonderful teacher! I learned everything from reading and math to square dancing, softball and flute playing. I attended first through seventh grade in Prairie View. I talked my mom and dad into letting me attend 8th grade in White River so I could play basketball. I graduated from White River High school.

Because of my grade school teacher, I wanted to make teaching my career. Of course, I had to try a few other employment opportunities prior to my career in education. In 1983 I enlisted in the Army and served as a Military Police Officer in Texas and Germany. My military experience led me to a short career as a police officer in Ohio. When I returned to South Dakota, I enrolled in cosmetology school. While working as a cosmetologist, I finished college and received a degree in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and an endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education. I've served in education for the past 23 years either in special education or general education. Since July 2020, I have served as the 619 Coordinator for the South Dakota Department of Education, Special Education Programs and I love my job!



During my time off, I enjoy yard work, fishing, hunting, golfing, and spending time with my family. I am truly blessed with a daughter and son-in-law that live too far away in Ohio, and four amazing grandchildren, Avery, age 11, W.J. age 3, Jasper age 2, and Willow age 1. We have spent a lot of hours facetimeing and my daughter, bless her for taking the time, sends me videos of the kids doing what kids do, play and have fun.



To register, please click on the title.

Core Content Connector Training

Learn about the purpose, development, and use of core content connectors (CCCs). By the end of the training participants will be able to use resources to find CCC's and related content, as well as use core content connectors in instruction of the South Dakota Content Standards in ELA, Math, and Science for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The webinar will be an hour long with a 15 minute Q and A session to follow. Sign up for either day using the links below:

[Wednesday, February 17th 3:30-4:30 PM](#)

[Thursday, February 18th 3:30-4:30 PM](#)

Better Together: Working with Families and Educators to Improve Communication Outcomes for Children who use AAC

February 26th, 2021. This session focuses on two major aspects of clinical service delivery for children who use AAC: how to effectively work with communication partners, and how to measure children's language development progress. See attached handout for more information.

Functional Behavior Assessments to Behavior Support Planning

Intensive 3-day professional development opportunity designed for professionals seeking to improve their skills in FBAs and BSPs. See handout for more information.

Registration Open!

2021 South Dakota Special Ed Conference March 16 & 17, 2021

SD-STARS Special Education Communities Menu Training

Online training on SD-STARS for district-level and school-level users of SD-STARS. The new version of SD-STARS features a space and functionality called "communities." The first community in SD-STARS will target special education. Through the community, users like special education directors and superintendents can collaborate and access resources including special education reports. This training about the special education community includes an introduction to the Special Education Communities menu, demonstration, and instructions on how to access important special education reporting. More information will be sent to districts in the coming weeks.

SAVE THE DATES

The Multi-tiered Systems of Supports Conference will be held in Sioux Falls. June 29 will feature [Mike Veny](#) speaking on how to incorporate mental health practices in your school. June 30 features [David Kilpatrick](#) with strategies for struggling readers. Registration coming soon! Contact Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions.

South Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference will be held April 8-10, 2021 in Watertown, SD. (location to be determined). Key note speaker [Dr. Angela Searcy](#) will open the conference on Thursday, April 8. [Teacher Tom](#) will begin the Friday session and [Denita Dinger](#) will be the final keynote speaker on Saturday, April 10th.

SPED RESOURCES

BDI3

The BDI3 Q&A has been updated. Please find the document here:

[BDI3-QA-0620.pdf \(sd.gov\)](#)

- Dashboard is open
- Account holder and staff rights addressed
- Electronic Record Forms
- SEP contact

South Dakota Step Ahead Supporting Early Learners

Learning domains mirror the BDI3 and Indicator 7 Child Outcomes.

- Social/Emotional Development
- Communication/ Language and Literacy
- Cognitive Development
- Health and Physical Development (Adaptive/Motor)

Built around South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines. Goals Developmental Indicator Continuum present in for each domain.

Organized by age range, birth through age 5, and developmental domains

On-line activities are presented in each learning domain.

Resources to Support Specialized Instruction and Specific Disability Areas

SD State Disability Category

Resources

[Administrative Rules of South Dakota](#)

Article 24:05

(There were new rules adopted that went into effect July 2020, if you have a stand alone copy of the rules please make sure you update them. You can download the whole Article on the LRC site.)

[South Dakota Special Education Programs](#)

Federal Resources

[IDEA Part B Federal Regulations](#)

[US Department of Education](#)

Each month we will feature different organizations and resources that will help you expand your toolkit to meet the needs of a variety of learners. **Disclaimer:** The information is being shared as a potential instructional or professional resource. Most are from state or nationally funded or recognized entities. Please evaluate individually to determine how it meets your needs.

February is Low Vision Awareness Month

South Dakota State Library: <https://library.sd.gov/BTB/index.aspx>

Provides materials to blind and visually impaired SD residents.

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL for the BLIND and VISUALLY IMPAIRED

<http://sdsbvi.org> The mission of the SDSBVI is to educate children who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. This is done through programs available on the campus in Aberdeen and through outreach consultant services statewide. The website hosts several resources.

SD Rehab Center for the Blind, have transition resources available along with Transition Week. They can provide more one-on-one training to students in the areas of Skills of Blindness training (O&M, Communications, Home Living, Assistive Tech, etc.) and Employment Skills training. [SD Department of Human Services](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ready resources to assist with Indicator 7 Outcomes. The purpose of the South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is to prepare children for Kindergarten. Without a formal, funded and standards-based preschool program available to children in each district across the state, SDPB ELI will help fill the gap and prepare children for the first steps of their education.

Each week PBS will share activities that are aligned with the **South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines**. These include activities in social and emotional development, language, math, science, the arts and health and physical development. The activities align with **Indicator 7 Child Outcomes**: Positive Social Emotional Skills, Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills and Use of Appropriate Behaviors.

[Early Learning | SDPB](#)

SDPB ELI provides a newsletter that follows the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines. It currently goes out to over 1000 SD families and other early learning providers.

[Link to sign up for the Early Learning Links Newsletter](#)

ELI also provides links to a variety of early learning topics for parents, caregivers, teachers, and therapists to access.

[Early Learning News \(sdpb.org\)](#)

Free toolkit and workshop. Receive information about workshops, training, and other opportunities available. Shipping address is required.

[Signup Form \(constantcontactpages.com\)](#)

Bright by Text provides free tips, information, and resources to help all parents and caregivers give every child a bright beginning

[Bright By Text](#)