



Special Education Programs

SPED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Education released guidance regarding federal special education and Title programs. In the federal guidance, you will find guidance on how schools should plan for and prevent COVID-19. In addition to that, they have addressed Q&A for districts on state's responsibilities for providing services to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities related to how, what and when services should be provided. Please see attachment "OSERSCoronavirusfinal" attached to the newsletter email for more information.

Resources:

[U.S. Department of Education](#)
[SD Department of Health](#)
[Center for Disease Control](#)

Special Education Programs will continue to release information through the sped listserv as we learn more.

OTHER SPED NEWS

Job Announcements: Position may be considered for remote after 6 months of employment. Special Ed Programs has posted the position for Program Specialist focusing on the Alternate Assessment. If interested in the position it is posted at [Alternate Assessment Coordinator](#).

Changes to ARSD 24:05 proposed. The [Board of Education Standards](#) will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to Article 24:05 Special Education at its meeting March 16 in Mitchell. The effect of the changes would be to update state Administrative Rules to accurately reflect the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and to correct the definition of preschool age and preschool program to align with the IDEA preschool age. The reason for adopting the proposed rules is to ensure federal and state language align. To see the proposed rule changes, visit rules.sd.gov and follow the "Department of Education" links.

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

Vacant, 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:

Special Education Programs will host a short sped call on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 to cover information related to COVID-19.

Login information (March only):

[Join Skype Meeting](#)

Call In: 866.410.8397

Code: 3347192866

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

Due to the cancellation of the Sped Conference, the winner will be announced during the monthly sped director call on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020.

CONGRATS TO OUR 2020 PARENT NOMINATED SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF OF THE YEAR!

NORMA BROWN BULL- LITTLE
WOUND

JILL GORTELL-SIOUX FALLS

LAURA HARRISON– RAPID CITY

HEATHER HOEYE– BHSSC PROJECT
SEARCH

BASIL KNEBEL– LANGFORD

ROXANNA MURPHY-MEADE

GINA NELSON– RAPID CITY

JESSICA NORDHUS-CLARK

JADA SULZLE-RAPID CITY

RONALD TEN FINGERS-PINE RIDGE

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DEDI-
CATION TO YOUR STUDENTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES!**

DOE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Looking for candidates: Aspiring School Leaders Retreat. School administrators, please consider nominating one of your finest teachers to attend the Aspiring School Leaders Retreat, April 28-29, in the Black Hills. The retreat is designed for teachers viewed as strong candidates for school administration roles; it affords them an opportunity to learn about leadership roles, reflect on their careers, and consider a pathway leading to administration. Participants must be nominated by a supervising administrator in order to apply. **Applications are due by March 20.** The retreat is limited to 30 participants. For information and application, click [here](#). This event is a collaboration of DOE, School Administrators of South Dakota and TIE.

Older private Report Cards moved. Due to software changes, the private Report Cards found in SD-STARS for 2016-17 and prior years have been removed for all school, district and department users. Private report cards for 2017-18, 2018-19 and future years are available through the SD-STARS portal. If you have questions, please contact the accountability office: DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us

FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

618 Child Count Data—Change in Reporting SY20-21

Beginning SY 20-21 child count for students age 5 will be split into two reporting categories. Children age **5 in kindergarten** will be included in “School Age” and children age **5 not in kindergarten** will be included in “Early Childhood.”

The Office of Special Education Programs is currently seeking public comments on changing the State Performance Plan Indicator 5 and 6 to align with the child count reporting. If you would like more information on this change or to make comment please go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=ED-2020-SCC-0030-0005>.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Lindsey Bomesberger, Special Education Secretary

I was raised in South Dakota and have taken up permanent residence in this wonderful state. I have one sibling with a ten-year age difference, which did not make my teen years very “cool”, but we greatly enjoy each other’s company now.

I have worked within the education field before, but at the school district level. I am still new to Special Education programs so it’s a constant learning curve, but I’m enjoying all the changes in pace. I work as the Senior Secretary for the Special Education program, Birth to Three program and occasionally, I help with some duties for the Finance and Management Office at the DOE. Just call me a jack of all trades and/or a Swiss Army Knife.

I have an adorable and rambunctious 3-year-old boy who keeps me busy in my free time. When I’m not being mom or working at the DOE, I spend my time: going to the gym to “pump some iron”; writing; painting; binge-watching Hulu, Netflix and/or Disney+; and being around my family and friends. I, also, am a huge fan of the river and all activities involved with being by the water.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

[South Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference](#)

“Developing Brains Matter!”

Breakout Topics Focused on Brain Development & Learning.

When: April 23-25, 2020

Where: Sioux Falls Convention Center

[Special Education Spring Legal Update Webinar](#) by Jim Walsh, attorney

This webinar will highlight recent judicial decisions regarding special education in the public schools. Topics will include eligibility, parent rights, discipline, and liability concerns. The emphasis will be on practical application with time for Q&A.

When: April 28th, 2020

Time: 2pm—4pm CT

[CEC 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 June 2 and 3, See attached flyer for more information. Contact michelle.powers@augie.edu with any questions

[Title Webinars: January to April](#)

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

[Transition Summer Institute 2020](#)

June 15-16—Pierre, SD

Back by popular demand – keynote speaker Karen Haase, an attorney specializing in special ed law. She is passionate about high-quality public education! The second day consists of general and breakout sessions focusing on transition to adulthood.

Registration fee includes continental breakfast, working lunch, and snacks on both days. Also included is a riverboat cruise from 7-9pm on June 15 aboard ‘The Sunset’! Register for the event by May 27 to avoid additional late fee!

[SAVE THE DATES](#)

[Restraint/Seclusion and Bullying Webinar by Elena Gallegos, attorney](#)

When: May 7th, 2020

Time: 2pm -4pm CT

[Top 20 Training](#)

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

DOE TOPICAL GUIDANCE RESOURCES

[CADRE IDEA Dispute Resolution](#)

Since 2013, the [IDEA Dispute Resolution Parent Guides](#) have been widely used to inform parents about their dispute resolution rights and options. These Parent Guides continue to be our most downloaded and printed documents. In response to a growing interest in multi-media formats, CADRE recently developed and published companion videos to the Parent Guides. The [videos](#) include:

[IEP Facilitation](#)

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitation
- Preparing for IEP Facilitation

[Mediation](#)

- IDEA Special Education Mediation
- Preparing for Mediation

[Written State Complaints](#)

- IDEA Special Education Written State Complaints
- What to Expect After Filing a Written State Complaint

[Due Process](#)

- IDEA Special Education Due Process Complaints and Hearings
- What to Expect After Filing a Due Process Complaint
- Resolution Meetings
- IDEA Special Education Expedited Due Process Complaints and Hearings