



Special Education Programs

SPED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Job Announcement:

Special Ed Programs has posted the position for SEP Data Management Analysts. The position is located in Pierre. If interested in the position it is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/txdwqag>.

2019-2020 Parent Surveys

Parents need to complete and **return the surveys by May 31, 2019**. If you should need more copies or you are in need of a Spanish version, email Beth.Schiltz@state.sd.us and we will do our best to get you copies. With schools not being in session and IEP meetings being held virtually, districts could utilize the online surveys. Just email the appropriate link below to the parent.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDi8> (English), and

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/SDi8S> (Spanish)

IDEA Federal Flow through Applications

Special Education Programs anticipates the IDEA Flowthrough application to open by the end of April 2020. Please submit your application by **June 30th, 2020**. Please watch for more information from Grants Management on GMS application training to assist you with your submission.

LEA Public Reports

Information regarding school districts' performance on improving the educational outcomes of students with disabilities will be released by June 1st. This report identifies school districts' ability to meet federal requirements on several indicators along with performance targets. It is based mainly on data from the 2018-19 school year with the exception of indicators 1, 2, 4, 9 and 10 which is based on 2017-18 data.

Districts will have an opportunity to review the public reports prior to their release. The reports will be sent to Special Education Directors via email by May 1st.

The SD Advisory Panel for Children with Disabilities is seeking an individual with a disability or a parent of a child with a disability to serve on the panel:

We are currently seeking applications for a panel member who meets the "Individual with a Disability" criteria. The Panel meets 4 times per year and advises the Office of Special Education Programs in a variety of topics. You may review archived meetings on the [Boards and Commission website](#). For more information or an application, please contact Wendy.Trujillo@state.sd.us or call 605-773-8195.

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

Vacant, 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:](#)

April 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:

- ◆ IDEA Budget
- ◆ Child Count - students age 5
- ◆ Flowthrough Applications
- ◆ Suspension/Expulsion Data
- ◆ IEP Q

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

LEARNING DISABILITIES, DYSLEXIA, AND VISION THERAPY

The American Academy of Ophthalmology along with The Academy of Pediatrics released the statement below in 2014 in regards to the use of vision therapy for students with learning disabilities:

“Currently, there is no adequate scientific evidence to support the view that subtle eye or visual problems cause learning disabilities. Furthermore, the evidence does not support the concept that vision therapy or tinted lenses or filters are effective, directly or indirectly, in the treatment of learning disabilities. Thus, the claim that vision therapy improves visual efficiency cannot be substantiated.”

For more information please visit: <https://ediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/124/2/837.full.pdf>

What works for students with dyslexia?
Because dyslexia is a language-based disorder, treatment should focus on language-based interventions such as phonemic awareness, phonics and word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. When teaching these area, instruction should be explicit, systematic, cumulative sequential and incremental and multisensory. Data should be gathered and utilized to ensure progress is being made. Please visit the SD DOE dyslexia handbook for more information .

<https://doe.sd.gov/Dyslexia/>

DOE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Extraordinary Costs Application

The department has extended the Extraordinary Cost Fund application deadline to May 14. The original timeline required applications to be submitted by April 27. We want to allow more time for districts to estimate expenditures accurately – to provide financial statements through the end of April instead of March. This information has already been sent to your business managers, but we wanted to reinforce with you. DOE will be scheduling a conference call for any district interested in discussing the ECF application process and to answer questions.

COVID-19 Q&A for Schools

Please find attached an updated *COVID Q&A for Schools*. The changes incorporated into this version of the document are noted at the top. The updated version of this Q&A will be posted on our COVID-19 website at <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/> under “Resources for school officials.” Please continue to watch this website for updates.

Grading Credit and Graduation during COVID19

The department has been receiving numerous questions about the awarding of grades and credit during this time of extended school closures. Attached is a document offering considerations to districts as they go about making these decisions at the local level. See attached document for more information.

FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FERPA and Virtual Learning Webinar recording from March 30th, 2020

The [webinar](#), and the accompanying [slide deck](#) have been posted. You can find them at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>. During these unprecedented times, the Student Privacy and Policy Office and the Privacy Technical Assistance Center are available to support you with your questions on student privacy. If you have a question that was not addressed in this webinar please reach out to us at privacyta@ed.gov or call us at 855-249-3072.

POSTPONED with no new date as of today: The Department’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will livestream its “[Attract, Prepare, and Retain: OSEP National Summit on Improving Effective Personnel for Children with Disabilities](#)” on March 19 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. ET.

This virtual event will focus on strategies to recruit and retain effective special education personnel, including:

- Special Education Teachers
- Early Childhood Special Education Teachers





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Transition Sharing Round-Up

April 16, 2020 from 3-4 pm CDT via ZOOM

Registration required to receive the link.

The goal is to offer educators working with transition-age students a platform for sharing with your colleagues what is working/not working with distance learning, asking questions, and providing support and encouragement to each other.

RESCHEDULED or CANCELED

Transition Summer Institute 2020

Scheduled for June 15-16—Pierre, SD has been rescheduled for July 20-21, 2020. For more information and to register click on this link.

Karen Hasse will be the keynote speaker again this year. There will be breakouts around transition topics. Watch the TSLP website for more up-do-date information.

YLF (Youth Leadership Forum)

Scheduled for May 31-June 4 has tentatively been rescheduled for July 12-16. Youth Leaders and delegates will be contacted. For more information contact you regional TSLP liaison.

CEC Sioux Falls Summer Institute

Sioux Falls Summer Institute scheduled for June 2 and 3 has been canceled. The CEC committee is hoping to reschedule for next summer. If you have question please contact
michelle.powers@augie.edu

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Date: Top 20 Training

July 28-30, 2020 in Chamberlain. More details coming soon! This training is currently still scheduled to take place at the end of July. If we are not able to hold this in person, we will look for alternative ways to provide the training virtually.

Fall IEP Workshops

The IEP workshops will be scheduled to begin after Labor Day. Sessions for Advance, Basic, and Early Childhood will be provided. Transition Services Liaison Project will host transition trainings in conjunction with the IEP workshops. More information will be coming regarding descriptions, locations, dates and registration.

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Special Education Programs will continue to send out resources for school districts weekly, or as needed during COVID-19 school closures through the special education listserv.

The SD Department of Education is updating and maintaining a COVID-19 website where you will find the most up-to-date guidance available including:

- ◆ Resources for School Officials
 - * Action Plans
 - * Q&A
 - * Fact Sheets from OSEP & OCR
 - * FERPA
 - * Flex Learning
 - * Health Care
 - * Providing Services to Students with Disabilities
 - * School Food Services
 - * Employment Assistance
- ◆ Forms
- ◆ Higher Education Resources
- ◆ Waivers for Assessment and Accountability
- ◆ Contacts

Please continue to reach out to your Sped Regional Representative if you have questions related to special education and related services. We are available to assist you and we are in this together!

[Regional Representative List](#)