



Special Education Programs

SPED Program Highlights

Share Skill-Based Assessments:

Special Education Programs would like to update the IEP Technical Assistance Guide around skill-based assessments. As special educators, you have knowledge of great skill based assessments that could be shared with others. Please [click here](#) and share your favorite assessments.

2020-2021 Parent Surveys

Parents need to complete and return parent surveys by May 21st, 2021. If you should need more copies or are in need of a Spanish version, email Jessie Ahlers at jessica.ahlers@state.sd.us. Districts can also provide parents the links to the online surveys. Links are provided below:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q6JW6HJ (English), and

www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJNWNVJ (Spanish)

DOE Program Highlights

Accountability waiver request approved. The U.S. Department of Education has approved South Dakota's waiver request related to accountability. While state testing continues as planned, the 95 percent participation rate is one of the items that is waived. That said, DOE encourages districts to test students to the extent possible. Much of the data that is typically reported on the Report Card – minus the Student Progress/Growth measure – still must be reported at the end of SY 2020-21. There will be no new identification of schools for improvement.

Extraordinary cost funding available. Applications for special education extraordinary cost funds are now available through April 30. An eligible school district may apply for extraordinary cost funds based on a high-cost student, high-cost program, or supplemental aid. Please see information posted on our [website](#) regarding eligibility, program, and process. The Administrative Rules surrounding these funds are at [ARSD 24:05:33.01](#).

SPED PROGRAM STAFF

[Linda Turner](#), Director

[Wendy Trujillo](#), Assistant Director

[Rebecca Cain](#), Program Specialist

[Angel Corrales](#), Data Manager

[Melissa Flor](#), Program Specialist

[Debra Willert](#), Program Specialist

[Jessica Ahlers](#), 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 20, 2021 - 10am CT

Connect through ADOBE:

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

For audio dial: 888-387-8686

Passcode: 818 562 8373

Agenda Items

- [Continuing Education Hours](#)
- [State Systemic Improvement Plan \(SSIP\) results](#)
- [NEW State Performance Plan package](#)
- [Behavior](#)
- [IDEA Budget](#)
- [SPED Retirement Recognitions](#)

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

Parent Nominated Special Education Staff of the Year Nominees

Jordann Hansen-Redfield

Erin VanDeStroet-Redfield

Kara Evens-Spearfish

Kim Smeenk-Belle Fourche

Kimberly Herr-Sioux Falls

Peggy Bias-Rapid City

Peggy Boydsten-Rapid City

Michelle Ruland-Wall

Esther Crandall– Harrisburg

Congratulations to all of the nominees and thank you for all you do!

Congratulations to our winner, Esther Crandall!



Federal Highlights

NCDB

The [National Center on Deaf-Blindness](#) published an article called [The Importance of Connection in Deaf-Blindness](#) in the December 2020 issue of Exceptional Parent Magazine. It features many of OSEP's partners—the state deaf-blind projects, the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind, the Helen Keller National Center, the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, the Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders, and the Usher Syndrome Coalition.

Report to Congress

OSEP published the [42nd Annual Report to Congress on the IDEA](#). This report describes our nation's progress in:

- providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities under *IDEA*, Part B and early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families under *IDEA*, Part C,
- ensuring that the rights of these children with disabilities and their parents are protected,
- assisting states and localities in providing for the education of all children with disabilities, and
- assessing the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities.

The report focuses on the children and students with disabilities being served under *IDEA*, Parts C or B, nationally and at the state level.

SEP Program Staff Highlights

Lindsey Bomesberger

Senior Secretary for SEP, B-3, and Finance

I was born in Las Vegas and raised in South Dakota. I graduated from T.F. Riggs High School in 2009 and have moved about the state a few times. I have been involved with education off and on since then. I have worked at the Pierre School District for a time as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. I, also, worked with children as a lifeguard and swimming lessons instructor for 10 years.

I currently work as the Senior Secretary for the Special Education Program, Birth to Three Program and Finance and Management Division. I am like a Swiss Army knife, so to say. I strive to help the programs run smoothly by processing invoices, mailings, travel requests and anything else to help the office.

At home, I have a toddler boy that keeps me on my toes. I love water activities and yard games. I enjoy binge-watching Harry Potter, Parks and Recreation, FRIENDS and Bob's Burgers. I also enjoy writing poetry, acrylic canvas painting, crocheting and spending time with family.





To register, please click on the title.

[Dyslexia Training](#)

Registration is now available for a **2-hour introductory training on dyslexia**. This training will provide teachers and administrators with a basic understanding of dyslexia. The training will include a recorded webinar with Dr. Louisa Moats and Dr. Dale Webster, guided notes, breakout room discussion, and end with a **15-minute live Q&A** with Dr. Dale Webster and Dr. Carrie Thomas Beck.

This training will be offered two times – **May 11th at 3PM Central and May 13th at 3PM Central**. To register, visit Go Sign Me Up and look for “Dyslexia Webinar.” If you have any questions, please contact Brandi.gerry@state.sd.us.

[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. Contact Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions. Grad credits and CEU available. See attached flyer for more details.

[THE TEAM PROCESS: IEP DEVELOPMENT, IEP IMPLEMENTATION, & RESPONDING TO LACK OF PROGRESS](#) with Lenore Knudtson **April 27th, 2021 2pm—4pm CT**

This learning opportunity will explore the team process and IEP development linked to unique student needs, instruct the team on what to do with a lack of progress, and provide ways to maintain the health of your team.

[BDI3 Assessment Training](#)

- Special Education Programs purchased a limited number of training slots
- Once the district Account Holder is notified the trainings are available, district staff conducting BDI-3 evaluations will send registration request to Debra.Willert@state.sd.us
- When the request is made, the district staff will receive a URL and password to register with Riverside Clinical Academy
- Ongoing, 60 minute live sessions are available to meet the different schedule restraints of staff members
- Riverside Clinical Academy will issue a certificate upon completion of each training session
- .3 CEHs are offered upon completion of all 4 training sessions

[Facilitated Internal Review Training](#)

All sessions are filled for this training. This training will be recorded for your local staff to review and complete on their own. It provides special education case managers tips and tricks on completing an internal file review as part of the RDA process and preparation for accountability reviews.

Fall 2021 IEP Workshops coming soon. Fall IEP workshops will have a virtual and in person sessions.

Transition Summer Institute 2021
July 12-13 at Ramkota Conference Center, Pierre, SD. Limited participation so register early. See attached flyer.

SPED RESOURCES

Dispute Resolution

CADRE encourages the use of collaborative practices by sharing resources for districts and parents. There are two resources attached to the newsletter email and you may find them at:

[https://
www.cadeworks.org/
files/cadre-
workingtogetherthrough-
conflictresourcespdf](https://www.cadeworks.org/files/cadre-workingtogetherthrough-conflictresourcespdf)

CADRE believes these resources will be especially useful as more students return to in-person learning. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance as you think about how to support educators and families working together in the prevention and resolution of disputes.

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.

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

⇒ [Evidence-Based Teaching Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#) by National Professional Development Center On Autism Spectrum Disorder

School Resource

[Students with MS and the Academic Setting : A Handbook for School Personnel](#)

Transition

⇒ [Job Accommodation Network](#). Are you preparing a student to work on a job site. JAN provides examples of job accommodations for a variety of disabilities. Many of these examples can also be used while a student is in k-12 school setting.

⇒ TSLP Monthly Newsletter are posted at [Events - Transition Services Liaison Project \(tslp.org\)](#) - February, March, and April. Each newsletter features a different topic as well as highlights either a student with a disability or a transition teacher.

Early Childhood

⇒ LTSAE Website: www.cdc.gov/actearly

⇒ Order LTSAE Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>

⇒ Milestone Tracker App: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cdcs-milestone-tracker/id1232718688>

⇒ <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.cdc.ncbddd.actearly.milestones>