



Special Education Programs

SPED Program Highlights

WELCOME Special Education Summer Interns

Brooke Wiest has been working with SEP for the past few years as the summer and winter intern. We are excited to welcome her back to assist SEP with the accountability monitoring work. Brooke graduated from USD and has been accepted to University of Northern Iowa for her graduate studies in Speech-Language Pathology.

Grace Nedved will be joining us as a new SEP summer intern. Grace will assist with all SEP related activities. Grace is currently attending University of North Dakota and working on her psychology degree with a minor in special education.

CONTRATULATIONS! Stephanie Ballard - Special Education –Math - South Dakota’s Region 1 Teacher of the Year. Stephanie teaches in George S. Mickelson Middle School, Brookings.

IDEA Flowthrough Applications

SEP and Grants Management are working diligently to prepare the grants management system to open the first week of June. This process has been delayed due to the ARP funds. Districts will be informed as soon as the application is open and if the timelines for submission have been extended. We apologize for any inconvenience.

DOE Program Highlights

Seeking Public Input on use of APR/ESSER Funding

Under the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP), which became law in March 2021, South Dakota public schools are set to receive nearly \$380 million in ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. This marks the 3rd round of ESSER funding. The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) will receive a small portion of this total for state-level activities to support schools, students and learning.

The Department is seeking input on ways to best serve students and support districts in recovering after the impact of the pandemic on learning, particular to low and underserved populations. This is specific to meeting needs in public school districts and ideas can include specific programing, pilot projects of new and innovative opportunities, or ways to secure qualified personnel to name a few. We want to find ways to maximize the funding and make a long term impact even though the funding has to be expended by September 2024.

Please share with your special education teachers, outreach specialists, board or external stakeholders. Note any input received is considered public comment and if names are identified will be published. If students wish to provide input we encourage them to just identify their role as a student and not submit their first and last name if under 18. Interested parties may provide input via a [short survey](#). Thank you, in advance, for your thoughtful feedback. **The deadline to submit input is May 24, 5 p.m. (Central).** Public comment can also be shared by emailing doe@state.sd.us or mailing comments to South Dakota Department of Education, Attn: Holly Robling, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501.

DOE Program Highlights CONTINUED on next page...

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](#)

May 18, 2021 - 10am CT

Connect through ADOBE:

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

For audio dial: 888-387-8686

Passcode: 818 562 8373

Agenda Items

- [SPP Indicators 7, 11, 12, and 14](#)
- [Graduation Data](#)
- [Suspension Data Collection](#)
- [IDEA Applications](#)

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

South Dakota STARS Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System

Special Education Reports

Includes:

- Special Education Exiter
- SPED Accountability Student List
- SPED Participation Rate
- SPED Proficiency Rate
- SPED Performance Plan

Early Childhood

- Child Outcomes Summary
- Indicator 7—Social Emotional Skills
- Indicator 7—Acquiring Knowledge and Skills
- Indicator 7—Use of Appropriate Behaviors
- Children with no Assignments
- Part B Indicator 7 Child List

[Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System \(SD-STARS\) - Login](#)

DOE Program Highlights Cont...

Exit Code Training

An exit code training was provided and recorded with help on how to run an exit code report within SD-STARS to identify errors between the general enrollment exit codes and the special ed fields exit codes. The recording of this training will be posted after April 12 on the [Special Education Programs webinars website](#)— in the Topical Webinars section.

The exit code data is used for district and school report cards as well as for the special

Federal Highlights

ARP ESSER Funds

State and local agencies are planning to expend multiple sets of funds made available due to the Covid pandemic. You are encouraged to provide input on innovative and impactful use of funds at the state and local level.

Hunt Institute Menu of Options on ESSER II funds: The Hunt Institute created the [ESSER II Menu of Options for Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education](#). This document outlines the implications of the American Rescue Plan Act on ESSER allocation decisions in state and local education agencies. It is not a complete overview of the ARP ESSER III Fund.

U.S. Department of Education Releases "COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs"

On Friday, April 9, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released the [COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs](#). The handbook provides additional strategies for safely reopening all of America's schools and promotes educational equity by addressing opportunity gaps that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

SEP Program Staff Highlights

Melissa Flor, Accountability Specialist

I have spent my entire life in South Dakota from growing up on a family farm to my current residence in Pierre. I have always lived within 30 miles of the Missouri River except for 5 years attending SDSU in Brookings. Even when I was young, I was interested in teaching, government and history. When you grow up on a farm, with remnant of a dug out home and grandparents telling stories about prohibition and dirty 30s, history is interesting. I also had an opportunity as a girl scout and Future Homemakers of America (FCCLA), to shadow a legislature for a day. It laid foundation for my current work.

I have the lucky opportunity to have a son and daughter that makes each day an adventure. Even at 17 and 14, they still can make me laugh with their thoughts and actions. I am accompanied by a great husband that likes to handle all the stuff I do not such as insurance and negotiating on a vehicle.

People, I admire the most, are true educators. Their ability to see wonders in all students and provide that deep connection between their students and academics truly amaze me. Thank you all for making the world a better place.





To register, please click on the title.

[Register for 4-8 Foundational Reading](#)

Dates: July 28 and 29, 2021

Location: Drifters Event Center, Ft. Pierre

Audience: Grade 4-8 educators, reading specialists, instructional coaches, para-educators, special education, title, and administrators

No Registration Fee for this Course. Graduate credit and CEU hours are available.

Texts will be provided to all registered participants.

[Register for K-3 Foundational Reading](#)

Dates: August 3, 4, and 5, 2021

Location: Drifters Event Center, Ft. Pierre

Audience: K-3 educators, reading specialists, instructional coaches, para-educators, special education, title, and elementary administrators.
Textbook information is provided below.

No Registration Fee for this training.

Times: All times listed for this course are **central standard time for both Ft. Pierre/Pierre.**

Texts will be provided to all registered participants.

[BDI-3 Live Trainings](#)

Trainings are open to district employees who administer the BDI-3. Individual staff members need to request the training via email to Debra.Willert@state.sd.us. The training consists of four live webinars, several handouts to preview and several videos to watch, for a total of 5 hours.

Transition Summer Institute

To be held in Pierre, SD on July 12-13 at the Ramkota. Keynote speaker, Dr. Patrick Schwarz's presentation From Possibility to Success will include real-life examples from when he was a transition leader. Many break-out sessions to follow. [Registration required.](#)

[Fall IEP Workshops](#)

Basic, Advance and Early Childhood IEP workshops registration is now available. There will be a two options: in-person locations or virtual access. When registering make sure you choose the appropriate date with coordinating option.

[Fall Transition workshops](#)

Registration is now open for the high school transition IEP workshops. The workshops are developed and hosted by Transition Services Liaison Project. (TSLP)

Save the Date

[SD K12 Data Center Training](#)

- Instructional videos available in late May
- Live sessions held **June 8-10th** and **June 15-17th**
- Continuing Education Credit available
- Participants can choose between three tracks:
 - ⇒ All content
 - ⇒ Cyber security/Cloud Computing and Microsoft 365
 - ⇒ Cyber security/Cloud Computing and Google
- Registration coming May 3rd and will be sent out via listserv

See attached handout for more information.

SPED RESOURCES

[Special Education Programs: Professional Learning Website:](#)

- ◇ IEP Workshop Materials
- ◇ Monthly Special Education Director Webinars
- ◇ Technical Assistance Documents and Groups
 - Dyslexia
 - ELL
 - National Materials
 - U.S. ED
- ◇ Recorded PD Webinars
 - New Sped Directors
 - Topical Webinars
 - How to Reach Those you Teach Series

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](#)

Resources to Support Specialized Instruction and Specific Disability Areas

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.

Transition

- ⇒ **High School Transition**—[The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition](#) has a wealth of information and resources for teachers. Looking for sample Lesson Plan Starters? They have them. Look under the Popular resources section.
- ⇒ [Transition Planning Tool](#)—iTransition South Dakota, an online tool, walks students, parents, and teachers through transition planning.

Mental Health

- ⇒ **Sanford fit** – [Improving mood resources](#)

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month

May is the time to celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month. [Better Hearing and Speech Month: Building Connections](#) provides families, early childhood educators and service providers, and health professionals with an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and build connections to provide opportunities to gain life-altering treatments in the areas of hearing, speech and language development.

- ⇒ Audiology testing in South Dakota:
<https://sddeaf.org/Portals/1/Media/Documents/SDSDAudiologyBro.pdf>
- ⇒ The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-funded [National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management \(NCHAM\) at Utah State University](#) serves as the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention National Technical Resource Center (EHDI NTRC).
- ⇒ The Office of Head Start's [National Center on Health, Behavioral Health and Safety](#) (formerly the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness) has a [hearing screening fact sheet](#) that can be used to prepare parents to know what to expect from a screening and how to prepare their child.