



# Friday News Blast



---

9-21-2018

## **“Three Ways to Improve Special Education Outcomes”**

Please click [here](#) to see the article from eSchool News on suggestions for improving special education outcomes. It's a brief article but gives some pretty practical ideas that may interest you. Enjoy!

## **New Special Education Directors/Directors Call**

Our NDE special education team is looking forward to meeting with the new Special Education Administrators next Friday morning, **September 28th**. During the meeting we will all participate in the statewide directors call. The phone call is scheduled for **9:30** on the 28<sup>th</sup>, so make sure you have that on your calendar. Talk to you soon.

## **Medicaid Information**

Please make sure that you complete your verification of Medicaid services provided to Special Education children by age (over/under 5 years of age). Please note that the Medicaid services are Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Mental Health, Nursing, Personal Assistance Services, Vision and Transportation.

## **Nebraska Early Development Network professional development opportunity**

Please see the attachment regarding a new collaborative project with UNL to provide a series of early intervention classes.

## **Transitions and Alignment from Preschool to Kindergarten**

Source: Education Commission of the States

This [special report from the Education Commission of the States](#) (September 2018) provides educators and policymakers state examples and strategies for promoting a "seamless system of education" that connects one program to the next and reduces both the child's stress and loss of skills or knowledge during the transition from preschool to kindergarten.

## **Children Born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) May Have Educational Disabilities**

According to [this report from the CDC](#) (August 2018), NAS is a postnatal drug withdrawal syndrome that can occur from opioid exposure during pregnancy. Neurobehavioral disorders have been found in infants affected by NAS; however, there is little research on educational outcomes for this population. An analysis of data from Tennessee's Department of Health provides insight on special education needs among infants born with NAS. **The study found that those born with NAS were more likely to experience developmental delays or speech/language impairments in early childhood when compared to those born without NAS.** For more information, read the [full study](#) published in Pediatrics.

It doesn't seem possible but we are almost through the first quarter of the school year. Hope you have all had a solid beginning and we thank you very much for your Leadership!!

*Steve and Amy*