



Friday News Blast



8-16-2019

Educational Interpreters

This is a reminder to please contact Sue Czaplewski, our state liaison for Nebraska's Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, **regarding any educational interpreters who are employed in your district: staff or contracted employees that are providing IEP/IFSP services.** In Rule 51, 010.06, we have to verify that the educational interpreters you are using are qualified by Rule 51 requirements. Since we had a transition last year from Rhonda Fleisher, who retired, to Sue Czaplewski, we have seen a drop-off of our districts reporting this information.

So, moving forward, please email Sue this information or contact her by phone at sue.czaplewski@esu9.us or 402-463-5611 (office). If you have any questions or concerns, you can also contact Teresa Coonts at teresa.coonts@nebraska.gov or 402-471-4310 since she is the Autism and Low Incidence Specialist providing guidance to this area.

iCanConnect Program

The iCanConnect Program (iCC) is also known as the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. Each state has their own iCC program and in Nebraska it is coordinated by the Assistive Technology Partnership. The iCC program provides free telecommunication equipment and training of that equipment to low income individuals who are deaf-blind. Examples of telecommunication equipment provided by the program could include an amplified phone, smartphone, braille display, computer, magnification software, signaling device, etc. Additional information, including eligibility guidelines and applications for the Nebraska iCC program, can be found at: <http://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/nebraska> Contact Brooke Harrie, iCC Program Supervisor, with any questions at #402-679-4271 or brooke.harrie@nebraska.gov.

If any of your students or children have a combined hearing and vision loss, Teresa Coonts, Project Director of state deaf-blind project, would encourage you to contact Brooke and see if the child/student would be eligible to receive some of these devices plus training that can be provided to access the devices at no cost to parents or to the school districts. Also, the student/child does NOT have to be verified as primarily deaf-blind, but meet the criteria as having a vision and hearing loss (combined) plus other criteria outlined for the equipment distribution program.

Preschool Post

The Preschool Post is your opportunity to become an early childhood insider. We'll provide you with updates on the state of early childhood education in Nebraska.

Click the link to see the Second Edition, <https://mailchi.mp/dd58ca676397/be-an-early-childhood-insider>.

Results Matter Technical Assistance Document

The 2019-20 Results Matter Technical Assistance Documents are now available!
<https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Results-Matter-2019.pdf>

Teaching Strategies GOLD Modules and Inter-Rater Reliability

All teachers/practitioners new to GOLD must complete two required online courses through GOLD by September 30. These online courses are pre-requisites to attending the in-person trainings. The two modules, GOLD Introduction and Introducing MyTeaching Strategies™ can be accessed through the Develop tab on MyTeaching Strategies™.

Administrators can generate the Online Professional Development Report in *MyTeachingStrategies*® to check the status of any assigned online professional development for the users in your program. <https://teachingstrategies.force.com/portal/s/article/How-do-I-see-if-my-teachers-have-completed-professional-development-courses-and-product-tutorials>

Teachers/practitioners who have used GOLD for one year must complete Inter-rater Reliability (IRR) Certification and re-certify every three years after. The IRR is a pre-requisite to attend any of the advance level, in-person trainings for users.

Administrators can generate the Interrater Reliability Report to monitor the progress your staff members have made towards completion of the Interrater Reliability Certification process in *MyTeachingStrategies*®. <https://teachingstrategies.force.com/portal/s/article/How-do-I-generate-a-report-to-see-if-my-teachers-have-completed-Interrater-Reliability>

Tips to share with Parents

The [U.S. Department of Education](#) has provided a list of back-to-school tips to help parents and special needs children be successful in the new year.

Organize all that paperwork: In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to keep track of. Try to keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc. Setting up a binder or folder to keep your child’s special education documentation, meeting notices, and IEPs in sequential order can also help you stay organized.

Start a communication log: Keeping track of all phone calls, e-mails, notes home, meetings, and conferences is important. Create a “communication log” for yourself in a notebook that is easily accessible. Be sure to note the dates, times, and nature of the communications you have.

Review your child’s current IEP: The IEP is the cornerstone of your child’s educational program, so it’s important that you have a clear understanding of it. Note when the IEP expires and if your child is up for reevaluation this year. Most importantly, be sure that this IEP still “fits” your child’s needs! If you’re unsure, contact the school about holding an IEP review meeting.

Relieve back-to-school jitters: Just talking about the upcoming year and changes can help reduce some of that back-to-school anxiety! Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities, and events that they can participate in during the new school year. If attending a new school, try to schedule a visit before the first day. With older students, it is sometimes helpful to explain the services and accommodations in their IEP so that they know what to expect when school begins.

Enjoy your weekend,

Steve and Amy