



Friday News Blast



August 14, 2020

*New guidance – **Planning a Safe Return to School in Nebraska and School Re-entry Process: Scenario Planning** are hot off the press and available at www.launchne.com. Check these and so much more out as you begin your 2020/21 School Year Planning.*

Please see our SPED website at www.education.ne.gov/sped as well for all the updated guidance and information related to special education and early intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continuously be updating our page with the most recent guidance and adding resources.

PEaK Project Reminders

The 2019-2020 PEaK Project closed July 31, 2020. All funds should already be spent. To close out the 2019-2020 PEaK Project, no written report is required, however, the [Final Financial Report](#) is due no later than September 11, 2020

NeMTSS Summer Reading Symposium – Presentation Recordings & Materials Now Available

The NeMTSS Reading Symposium occurred over three days in July. The recordings and handouts for the 15 sessions are available at the Office of Special Education website <https://mtss.events.education.ne.gov/sessions/>.

ATP – 5 Things For You to Know and Share with Your Staff



1. AT Cadre - Applications Due September 10th

The AT Cadre provides intensive professional development (October 2020 to May 2021) related to providing children and students receiving special education services quality assistive technology services. There is limited space, so early applications are encouraged. [Learn More about the AT Cadre.](#)

2. ATP Regional Advisory Groups - Applications Due September 10th

Want to have input on ATP Education programs and services within your region? Volunteer to serve or encourage your staff to serve on a Regional Advisory Group! Commitment is 2 virtual meetings a year. [Learn more about the ATP Regional Advisory Groups.](#)

3. ATP Statewide Education Loan Pool Advisory Group - Applications Due September 10th

Here is a great opportunity to have a voice to determine what items should be in the Statewide Education Loan Pool for schools to borrow. Come volunteer or encourage your staff to volunteer! Commitment is 2 virtual meetings a year. [Learn more about the ATP Statewide Education Loan Pool Advisory Group.](#)

4. Upcoming Trainings

WEBINAR - Sorting Through Tools for Writing - Alternative Pencils with Kelly Fonner

8/19/2020 - 3:45-4:30 PM CST / 2:45-3:30 PM MST

[Register for Sorting Through Tools for Writing - Alternative Pencils with Kelly Fonner](#)

WEBINAR - Immersive Reader: Tips Every Educator Needs to Know to Support Reading with Karen Janowski

8/25/2020 - 4:45-5:30 PM CST / 3:45-4:30 PM MST

[Register for Immersive Reader: Tips Every Educator Needs to Know to Support Reading with Karen Janowski](#)

WEBINAR - Early Reading Tools with Beth Poss

9/2/2020 - 3:45-4:30 PM CST / 2:45-3:30 PM MST

[Register for Early Reading Tools with Beth Poss](#)

WEBINAR - Feature Matching in AT: Who, What, Where, & How? with Kelly Fonner

9/9/2020 - 3:45-4:30 PM CST / 2:45-3:30 PM MST

[Register for Feature Matching in AT: Who, What, Where, & How? with Kelly Fonner](#)

WEBINAR and Q&A - Using the NEW Education AT4ALL with Jeri Johnson & Brian Wojcik

9/14/2020 - 4:45-5:30 PM CST / 3:45-4:30 PM MST

[Register for Using the New Education AT4ALL with Jeri Johnson & Brian Wojcik](#)

WEBINAR and Q&A - Using the NEW Education AT4ALL with Jeri Johnson & Brian Wojcik

9/15/2020 - 3:45-4:30 PM CST / 2:45-3:30 PM MST

[Register for Using the New Education AT4ALL with Jeri Johnson & Brian Wojcik](#)

5. Requesting Support from the ATP Education Program

Please email the ATP Education Program at atp.education@nebraska.gov or [fill out the ATP Education Request Form](#).

PBIS & SEL – Teacher Wellness



(This is the last write-up for the PBIS/SEL series. Any interest accessing previous posts can be found by reviewing previous SPED Friday Blasts or emailing George Toman at gtoman1610@gmail.com.)

“A bad system will beat a good person every time.”

In the first PBIS/SEL blurb, this quote helped anchor the premise of this series - good systems help keep good people around. Connecting the dots with PBIS and SEL (more commonly being referred to as “social-emotional behavior.” or SEB) helps maintain a healthy practice of using two philosophies and combining them into one, creating an “interdependent” connectedness that is designed to improve student outcomes.

SEB is also necessary for adults. Similar to the math teacher that must be proficient in answering a calculus problem before teaching that to students, adults must have some prior knowledge and proficiency in SEB related activities to have any hope of positively impacting students in their own SEB development.

The consequence of adults learning SEB intentionally extends beyond the classroom setting. Good SEB skills can be used in every facet of life and help multiple areas of difficulty. In previous writings, we discussed how the SEL competencies inform and enhance PBIS practices. Last week we briefly mentioned how SEL competencies help improve professional culture. Practically, good SEB skills in adults improve relationships, friendships, and social connectedness, among others.

These positive traits, in turn, lead to emotional gains. Teachers need to feel welcomed, appreciated, and valued to do their job successfully. This cannot happen when the environment is not sensitive to the teachers’ SEB needs. Sometimes, teachers need to be reminded that they’re doing a good job (self-awareness and knowledge). Teachers value their time with co-workers and work together to make decisions (responsible decision making). All teachers have a life outside of school, and respecting that helps facilitate behaviors of wellness.

When you combine a good system with good people, you can achieve extraordinary results. Both the system and its people are interconnected parts that support one another - when the system gets better, the people get better. When people are given the opportunity to be well, the system tends to operate well.

In summary, an educational system operates not on its own, but by the interconnected relationships of educators with their school community. Educators, as part of that system, help move things along by maintaining their wellness and professional drive. Together, students and communities are positively impacted by this dynamic because academic learning is enhanced by authentic human relationships.

This is a great ideal to strive for, and when we think things through as a connected whole (rather than siloed, independent parts), we can achieve the greatness within the vision.

NeMTSS Summit 2020



As the State of Nebraska has experienced many disruptions in their “normal” way of doing business, The NeMTSS Team has made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person 2020 Summit. However, The Team is excited to announce our 6 week Summit Series that will be brought to virtually. Similar to our 5 week summer series, the virtual series, “Moving Forward into the Unknown,” will feature sessions to help schools promote success and wellness for students and staff.

Visit nemtss.unl.edu for more information on the six weeks, beginning August 13th, that are FREE to all who register and gain you access to live and recorded sessions focusing on:

WEEK 2 (August 18th and 20th): Engaging and Strengthening Partnerships

WEEK 3 (August 25th and 27th): Adults as Change Agents

WEEK 4 (September 1st and 3rd): Creating a Climate of Support

WEEK 5 (September 8th and 10th): Prioritizing the Core

WEEK 6 (September 15th and 17th): Putting the Pieces Together Moving Forward

The Virtual Summit will bring messages from National Experts around Social Emotional Learning and is intended for all educators with tracks focused on Administration/School Leaders, Instruction, and Early Childhood. Many of the days have concurrent sessions that will

bring specific support information to sessions in the different track to those who may be looking for support in those specific areas.

We are excited to bring these amazing presenters and their messages to Nebraska Schools and Educators and hope that you will join us for 6 exciting weeks!

Flex Funding Projects 2020/21

It has come to the attention of the Office of Special Education that School Districts were not aware of the modified submission deadline for the 2020/21 Flexible Funding Projects of July 15, 2020. Although this due date was indicated on the Grant Management System for Districts, the information was not shared through our normal means of communication. Thus, the deadline for submission of 2020/21 Flexible Funding Projects is extended to August 31, 2020. This change has been made within the GMS portal. School Districts who originally were asked to submit the CDC late submission request will not be penalized for late data on the annual, district determinations.

Should you have questions regarding your Flexible Funding Project submission, please contact Greg Prochazka at greg.prochazka@nebraska.gov.



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