



# Friday News Blast



August 21, 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](http://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](http://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

### **Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities Resource Guide For Families and Teachers Affected by COVID-19**

The attached guide from the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) is to introduce you to resources that will help you address the challenges we are all facing as we work and learn from home. It offers a variety of resources, but most are in the areas of education, special education, and support for struggling readers. This guide is not intended to be comprehensive; nor is it an endorsement of any programs or products listed or promoted on the websites shared. Many different types of organizations are listed, not all are nonprofits or partners of IDA. Many for-profit organizations are offering tools and resources for free in response to the tremendous need. It is up to you to carefully explore and assess these and other resources to determine what is most helpful to you and your students and families.

### **Addressing SEL Through Data-Driven MTSS to Support the Whole Child**

Jamie Harris, the co-creator of eduCLIMBER and award winning school psychologist, was a featured presenter at Nebraska's Virtual NeMTSS 2020 Summit

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE RECORDED WEBINAR - and](#)**  
**[please share this with your teachers and administrators](#)**

In order for students to be successful academically, they need to be emotionally and mentally ready to learn. Educators will need strategies for using data to quickly identify and provide social-emotional learning (SEL) opportunities to promote emotional well-being and resilience.

Knowing which data to use, and how to structure it, is especially important so that we can identify trauma-related or other universal and individual student needs in order to restart learning successfully.

Join us for a webinar to unpack how to use data within your multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to identify SEL and potential mental health needs, meet students where they are, and measure the effectiveness of your efforts.

In this session, you will learn:

- Research-based guidance for meeting students’ mental and emotional needs in the context of the school closures
- Strategies for maximizing universal supports around the new needs of students
- Data-driven approaches for identifying students who are most at-risk
- Methods for disaggregating and analyzing data to ensure supports are equitable and not disproportionate.

**Jaime's biography:**

Jaime is a school psychologist with over 15 years of experience supporting the needs of students, parents and educators helping to build multi-tiered systems of support for students with a particular interest in social emotional learning and mental health. She was a national nominee and was awarded the Wisconsin School Psychologist of the Year in 2014. Jaime is the co-founder of [eduCLIMBER](#), an MTSS data collaboration/visualization tool, and a senior product manager at Illuminate Education where she has consulted and trained districts across the nation to build capacity in their understanding of MTSS through practical applications of data.

**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](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>): Engaging and Strengthening Partnerships**

**WEEK 3 (August 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>): Adults as Change Agents**

**WEEK 4 (September 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>): Creating a Climate of Support**

**WEEK 5 (September 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>): Prioritizing the Core**

**WEEK 6 (September 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>): 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](mailto:greg.prochazka@nebraska.gov).



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