



Friday News Blast



September 18, 2020

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.

Nebraska Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitation Guide:

IEP Facilitation is an option available to parents and school staff when they both agree that it would be valuable to have a neutral person—the IEP Facilitator—present at an IEP meeting to assist them in discussing issues regarding the IEP. The facilitator promotes effective communication and assists in developing an IEP based on the student’s needs. Facilitated IEP meetings are scheduled at the convenience of the parent, district, and facilitator. It is best practice to use a trained facilitator that resides outside of the student’s district. Primarily the district representative would coordinate scheduling after initial connections with all parties. Facilitation can be accessed through PTI NE, NE Department of Ed, or Disability Rights of NE - if not directly through the district. School Districts may contact NDE for the current list of trained facilitators by calling 402-471-2295

2020 Virtual Para-educator Conference Registration is NOW OPEN!

November 10, 2020



We look forward to your participation at the virtual 2020 Para-educator Conference. This year’s theme of “Para-educator’s, The Link to Meaningful Connections” is more relevant than ever! The focus of the conference is how to create and maintain social-emotional connections with students. Registration for this year’s conference is FREE! Do not miss out on this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow. Register at: <https://events.education.ne.gov/events/paraeducator-conference/>

Para-educator of the Year Nominations

You are encouraged to nominate an outstanding para-educator for recognition as a Nebraska Para-educator of the Year. Para-educators who demonstrate the highest standard of performance in carrying out their assigned responsibilities should be considered for nomination.

The award recipients will be announced at the 31st Nebraska Virtual Para-educator Conference scheduled for November 10, 2020.

Please take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by para-educators and honor an outstanding individual.

It is highly encouraged that schools acknowledge the winning paras with on-site school recognition.

Nomination Deadline is September 30, 2020.

Link to the Nomination form: <https://forms.gle/2dwANuxK1LS2a1D6A>

GOLD Reminder – 1st Year Pre-school Teachers Using GOLD



Reminder that all preschool teachers in their first year of using GOLD need to complete two online modules by September 30th. These two modules each take a total of two hours to complete. The modules are located in the Develop Tab of their GOLD account. The modules are titled: GOLD Introduction and Introducing MyTeaching Strategies.

You can track their completion of these two modules by visiting your Report Tab and generating the Online Professional Development report. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter!

Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science



Mark your calendars and be prepared for a lively webinar featuring Dr. Louisa Moats on September 28, 2020! The free event is supported by the Nebraska Dyslexia Association and NDE, Office of Special Education. Dr. Moats will summarize the highlights of her updated paper for the AFT (Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science, 2020), with a focus on what needs to happen to bridge the divide between the world of scientific reading research and typical reading instruction practices. Her presentation is 4:15-5:15 P.M., followed by a Q and A. Share this Save-the-Date with your educators, administrators, and others interested in sound literacy research. <https://events.education.ne.gov/events/louisamoats/>

Upcoming Virtual GOLD Trainings & Misc. GOLD Information

November 5-6th GOLD: Using your Observations to Individualize Instruction ([Register Here](#))

November 10-11th GOLD: A Key to Responsive Planning (Home Visitor Breakout Session on day 2) ([Register Here](#))

November 12-13th GOLD: Administrative

Please notify GOLD administrators to ensure that children receiving early intervention services are exited on their 3rd birthday. The [Part C GOLD Exit Checklist](#) is attached to assist in that process.

As a reminder, all children birth through kindergarten eligible age, served by a public school district or ESU are required to have an NDE Student ID/ADVISER ID. This identification number must be reported on the child's Teaching Strategies GOLD profile. The GOLD administrators are responsible for ensuring that these identification numbers are within each child's profile. Please refer to the [Results Matter TA document](#) for further clarification on ADVISER ID's

Fall GOLD Checkpoints are due October 31st



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