



Nebraska Department of Education

300 Centennial Mall South ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68508

High Ability Learning

March 2022

Spring Updates



Spring is in the air! The weather is nicer, the flowers are blooming, and we are starting the final push to the end of the school year! I hope you all are able to have a rejuvenating spring break and come back ready to crush the last quarter!

This newsletter is dedicated to updates of things going on this spring and summer. We have a lot of exciting opportunities coming up, so make sure to stay in touch via the [HAL website](#) and follow @NDE_HAL on Twitter!



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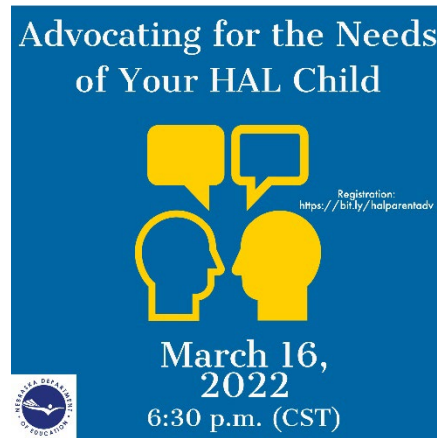


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Family Night: *Advocating for the Needs of Your HAL Child*



Advocating for the needs of a HAL child is imperative, but it can be difficult to know where to begin. This one-hour learning session will give parents and families of HAL students strategies to advocate for their child's needs in school, provide an overview of available resources, and provide stories of success in advocacy from family and school perspectives.

Join us on March 16, 2022 at 6:30pm (CST) for this fabulous opportunity. If you cannot make it, this session will be recorded. Register [here](https://bit.ly/halparentadv).

Equity in HAL State Report

In partnership with REL Central, we were able to create a state of the state report regarding equity in high ability identification and achievement in the state of Nebraska. We were able to glean a lot of useful information from the data to move our work forward in the state of Nebraska. The full report can be found on my [webpage](#).

Did you miss the Equity in HAL State Report Webinar? Have no fear! A copy of the webinar that explains the project and data is also available on the website. You can watch the [recording](#) and share the link!

ESU 9 & 10 Summer Science Retreat



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ESU 9 & ESU 10 will be hosting a science retreat in Aurora on June 6th & 7th, 2022. This conference will not only include science, but how math, ELA, and Social Studies integrate into science. Additionally, I will be presenting on differentiation for HALs in the science classroom. College credit will be available through Hastings College for an additional fee.



For more information and registration, visit their [website](#).

2022 Nebraska Career Education (NCE) Conference



The annual NCE Conference will be held June 6-9th, 2022 in Kearney at the Younes Center. This event is intended to support CTE teachers and administrators in the state as they expand learning in the field of career development.

For HAL students, we know their development of expertise is predicated on appropriate match in talent domain. CTE programs help students hone specific skills, and some CTE pathways include advanced academics and preparedness for post-secondary. Learning more about CTE and CTE pedagogy can help us understand how to best serve students with high ability in this domain. I will be presenting sessions on supporting HAL students in CTE and how advanced academic programs fit into CTE pathways.

More information will be coming soon to www.nceconference.com

Federal Javits Grant Applications Open

Federal Javits Grant Applications for FY 2022 have officially been opened. Per the USDOE website:

The program will award up to \$6.6 million in new grants for five-year projects that support evidence-based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities that enhance elementary and secondary schools' capacity to identify gifted and talented students and meet their unique educational needs.



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Supporting all students, including gifted and talented students, with accelerated learning opportunities is critical to addressing the impacts of lost instructional time and supporting positive academic outcomes for all children. Accelerated learning opportunities can help to ensure students excel and thrive.

"Expanding access to gifted and talented programs is one important way that we can ensure all students—particularly those who are underserved—have the opportunity to engage in rich, rigorous learning experiences that open doors for them to discover new passions and reach their potential," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "This work is perhaps more important now than ever before, when we must support students through our nation's continued recovery from the pandemic and boldly address opportunity gaps in our education system."

The Department strives to ensure that the educational needs of underserved children and youth, including those with disabilities who are gifted and talented, are met. Addressing and closing educational opportunity gaps in underserved communities—before and after the pandemic—are one of the top priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration. A major emphasis of the Javits program is to identify and serve students underrepresented in gifted and talented programs, to include the training of personnel in the identification and education of gifted and talented students and in the use, where appropriate, of gifted and talented services, materials, and methods, for all students.

The FY 2022 Javits program competition focuses on students who are underserved and underrepresented in gifted and talented programs by including an absolute priority that applicants must address to be eligible for review. This year's application requires applicants to develop "new information that assists schools in the identification of, and provision of services to, gifted and talented students (including economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals who are multilingual learners, and children with disabilities) who may not be identified and served through traditional assessment methods."

Eligible applicants include state educational agencies; local educational agencies, the Bureau of Indian Education; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; or other private agencies or organizations.

Grants are written for 5-year time periods and have a specific focus on underrepresented populations, including students in rural populations.

For more information, visit the [USDOE website](#) or email me!

HAL/MTSS Pilot Kick-Off!

The 2022/23 school year will be the first year of the HAL/MTSS Pilot Project! We have 15 participating schools:

- Conestoga Elementary
- Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools



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- Ravenna Public Schools
- Hayward Elementary
- Elm Creek Public Schools
- Sunset Hills Elementary
- Laurel-Concord-Coleridge
- Wayne Community Schools
- Falls City Public Schools
- Creek Valley Public Schools
- Cross County Community Schools
- Louisville Public Schools
- High Plains Community Schools
- Pender Elementary School
- Meadowlark Elementary



Be sure to keep in touch with your colleagues and friends at these schools to hear about their experience with MTSS for HALs!



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