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August 15, 2025

Dear Nebraska Special Education Community,

As the summer heat lingers across much of our state, many of you are already welcoming students back into classrooms, while others are putting the final touches on preparations for the first day. Whether your school year is just beginning or already in full swing, this is always a season of fresh starts—filled with excitement, anticipation, and, at times, a bit of uncertainty. It is a time to set new goals, renew our commitment to our students, and work together toward the improvements we know are possible.

As we enter the 2025-26 school year, our focus remains clear: improving outcomes for Nebraska's infants, toddlers, and students with disabilities—and supporting the families who stand beside them. We know the work is complex and that challenges remain:

- Recruiting and retaining qualified staff to fill critical roles
- Responding to the evolving needs of the children and youth we serve
- Adapting quickly to shifts in policy, practice, and expectations

These are not small hurdles, but Nebraska educators have always met challenges with creativity, persistence, and a steadfast belief in the potential of every child.

There are many reasons to be optimistic. Across Nebraska, districts and ESUs are engaging in innovative practices, strengthening early childhood partnerships, and using data to guide meaningful improvements. Our state's commitment to a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), high-quality inclusive practices, and family engagement continues to grow stronger each year. We have also expanded professional learning opportunities to ensure every educator—whether in an early intervention setting, a general education classroom, or a specialized program—has the tools and support they need.

Through it all, the Office of Special Education at the Nebraska Department of Education is here for you. We are committed to ensuring you have access to the resources, guidance, and connections necessary to succeed. Our work together is about more than compliance or process—it is about lifting each other up, finding solutions together, and celebrating the progress and achievements of the children and families we serve.

I am inspired daily by the dedication, skill, and compassion you bring to your students and to this field. Thank you for the countless ways you make a difference—not only in classrooms and programs, but in communities across Nebraska.

I look forward to the year ahead, knowing it will bring both challenges and successes, and confident that, together, we will continue to create the conditions where every infant, toddler, and student with a disability can thrive.

With appreciation,
Amy Rhone
State Director/Administrator, The Office of Special Education
Nebraska Department of Education

Save the Date

SPED
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Join us as we kick off the 2025–26 school year with a series of important events designed to support Nebraska's districts, educators, and partners in improving outcomes for infants, toddlers, and students with disabilities—and the families who stand beside them.

Upcoming	
August 2025	**SPED Monthly Statewide Webinar:** August 29, 2025
September 2025	**District ATSI Support Series Webinar:** September 3, 2025 **Part B District Annual Level of Determination Released:** September 8, 2025 **NASES New Member Workshop:** September 10, 2025, NCSA Office, Lincoln **NASES/NDE Fall Conference:** September 11 - 12, 2025, Graduate Hotel, Lincoln **Part B Focused Monitoring Notification of District Selection:** September 12, 2025 **Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC):** September 25, 2025, NDE Office, Lincoln

	Part B Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Stakeholder Meeting (Invite Only): September 26, 2025, Graduate Hotel, Lincoln **SPED Monthly Statewide Webinar:** September 30, 2025
October 2025	**Days 1 & 2, Region 5 Determination Support Workshop:** October 1 -2, 2025, ESU 16, Ogallala **NeMTSS Summit:** October 9 - 10, 2025, Younes North, Kearney **Days 1 & 2, Regions 1 & 2 Determination Support Workshop:** October 14 - 15, 2025, NDE Office, Lincoln **Part C Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Stakeholder Meeting (Invite Only):** October 17, 2025, SCC Jack Huck, Lincoln **Days 1 & 2, Region 4 Determination Support Workshop:** October 22 - 23, 2025, ESU 10, Kearney **SPED Monthly Statewide Webinar:** October 31, 2025
November 2025	**Days 1 & 2, Region 3 Determination Support Workshop:** November 3 - 4, 2025, ESU 1, Wakefield **Tri-State Regional Special Education Law Conference:** November 13 - 14, 2025, CHI Health Center, Omaha **Days 3, Region 4 Determination Support Workshop:** November 18, 2025, ESU 10, Kearney **Days 3, Region 5 Determination Support Workshop:** November 19, 2025, ESU 16, Ogallala **SPED Monthly Statewide Webinar:** November 21, 2025
December 2025	**Days 3, Regions 1 & 2 Determination Support Workshop:** December 2, 2025, NDE Office, Lincoln **Days 3, Regions 3 Determination Support Workshop:** December 8, 2025, ESU 1, Wakefield

	Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC): December 11, 2025, NDE Office, Lincoln

Contact Us

OSE Webpage OSE Directory **OSE Communications**	Visit the Nebraska Department of Education's Office of Special Education webpage at education.ne.gov/SPED for state and federal guidance, resources, data, and professional learning opportunities to support the success of infants, toddlers, and students with disabilities, and the families who support them.
Main Phone Line **402-471-2471** Office of Special Education	Please leave a detailed message and your inquiry will be routed to the appropriate OSE team member
OSE Email Inbox **NDE.Spedmail@nebraska.gov**	Share a question to the **NDE.Spedmail@nebraska.gov** and one of our team experts will respond. This is the mailbox utilized for all submission of grant information.
NEW!! SPED Finance **NDE.SPEDHelp@nebraska.gov**	Ticket system for all finance related questions.
	NeMTSS Calendar Our Team | Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network | Nebraska

OSE Technical Assistance Partner Professional Development Websites	Assistive Technology Partnership Nebraska Deaf or Hard of Hearing Regional Programs: Event Calendar NCECBVI Transition Get SET Nebraska