



# Friday News Blast



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10-26-2018

**Directors Call Reminder** – Call is scheduled for next Wednesday, October 31st. Agenda will be sent out first thing Monday morning.

**Save the Date for “Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference”** – See attached flyer

**Support Services (Flexible Funding Option)** — **APPLICATION NOW OPEN** **Due Date: November 16**

Contact: Pete Biaggio (402 471-4308 or [pete.biaggio@nebraska.gov](mailto:pete.biaggio@nebraska.gov))  
Support Services (Flexible Funding Option) projects provide the use of special education funding for the “preventative” support services targeting “students not identified or verified as having a disability... but who demonstrate a need for specially designed assistance in order to benefit from the school’s general education curriculum.” Support Services -Flex Funding information and applications are now available in the Grants Management System (GMS). [NDE GMS Login](#)

## **Behavioral Health Resource Guide for Schools**

Attached are two, new documents discussing behavioral health resources for schools.

## **NE CMS School Health Affinity Group Update**

DHHS has released a report of a convenience sample survey of school administrators, school nurses, and special education directors statewide entitled, “Meeting the Needs of Students with Mental and Behavioral Health Issues.” Find the report here:  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/SchoolBasedServices.aspx>

A total of 319 responses to the survey were received. All six behavioral health regions were represented in the survey responses, ranging from Region 1 (9.1% of responses) to Region 6 (23.8% of responses).

Significant findings include:

- Over one-third (39.8%) of respondents indicated their schools work with community partners to facilitate mental health and behavioral health referrals for students.
- Three-quarters of respondents (75.24%) do not believe there are adequate community resources available within a range of 25 miles to serve students with mental health or behavioral health issues.
- When students have mental health or behavioral health issues, 61.44% of schools inquire about a recent medical visit, 41.69% inquire about a vision checkup, and 31.03% inquire about a dental visit. (Physical, visual, or dental issues all can be implicated in a child’s behavior.)

- Only 21% of respondents replied it was a routine practice to inquire whether the student with a mental or behavioral health issue is covered by health insurance. (Health insurance coverage is a gateway to accessing care.)

Many of us are involved in efforts to improve the availability of integrated behavioral health services, to help all children and their families access needed services as early as possible – across the state. On behalf of our small group working in the CMS School Health Affinity Group, we hope you find our report relevant, and we thank you for your interest!

Looks like it's going to be a beautiful Fall weekend, Enjoy! And thanks for your leadership.

*Steve and Amy*