



Friday News Blast



10-18-2019

OSERS Director Steps Down

Johnny Collett, the Education Department's assistant secretary in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), is leaving his post at the end of the week, a department spokesperson said. His duties will be taken over by Mark Allan Schultz, who will serve as acting assistant secretary. Schultz joined the Rehabilitation Services Administration, within OSERS, as a commissioner in August after serving as a deputy commissioner at the Nebraska Department of Education. Johnny was with the office for almost two years and led OSER's Rethink Special Education initiative.

Special Education Hours per Week Reporting

It has come to our attention that there have been questions with vendors and districts on how to report Special Education Hours per Week and School Hours per Week on the SPED record as well as how this applies to Part C Early Intervention children when reporting student information in the SIS. We would like to provide some clarification on Special Education Hours per Week for the October 1 child count reporting.

NDE uses the Special Education Hours per Week and the School Hours per Week on the SPED record to determine the percentage that the student, ages 3-21, spends in the regular education classroom. This information is, in turn, used to determine the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for the student to fulfill IDEA Part B Data collection reporting requirements. Because SPED Percentage is only needed for those students, ages 3-21, who are in a Public School setting, students who are in any other setting can have the same number submitted for both the SPED hours and the School hours. **This data collection was applied to Part C children, ages 0-3, this year and should have only been applied to Part B, 3-21 settings.** If the Student Information System vendor your district uses allows for an input to be blank or for zero to be submitted for Part C children, that is allowable. If not, districts should submit 1 for both the SPED hours and the School hours for the Part C child's SPED hours. If you have additional questions, please contact Robyn Gonzales (robyn.gonzales@nebraska.gov) or Cole Johnson (cole.johnson@nebraska.gov).

Structured Literacy Webinar

Abby Burke and Rhea Hochstein hosted a reading webinar on October 8, 2019, Understanding Structured Literacy. The recording is available at: <https://youtu.be/fXK5o9oVleM>

Enjoy your weekend, looks like some beautiful Fall weather.

Steve and Amy