



Friday News Blast



1-31-2020

Office Administrator Special Education Position

As you are probably aware, Steve Milliken will be stepping down from his position as Administrator for the Office of Special Education, but will remain with NDE as Deputy Commissioner for the Student & Client Success & Services Division.

If you or anyone you know, are interested in applying for this position, information will be available at the State Jobs website later this afternoon. Please use this [link](#) to access the website.

Part B Parent Survey

The Parent Survey for the 2019-2020 school year will open on **February 1st** and close on **May 1st**. This will allow ample time for districts to use all avenues to obtain responses from parents—parent teacher conferences, IEP meetings, and any other means of providing access to the survey by the parent.

If it is your survey year, your special education director or superintendent will receive a unique link from NDE Research and that specific link. Your district will use that link for submission of surveys. Please note that parents do need to have access to paper and pencil versions as well and Spanish will be available as needed. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Contact Robyn Gonzales (402-440-1651) Robyn.gonzales@gmail.com

Special Education Post-School Outcomes- Open **January 27**, Due Date: **February 28**

The report for submitting contact information for students with a disability who exited special education in 2018-2019 school year is located on the NDE Portal under the Data Collection tab. Accurate student contact information will assure your students will be contacted and included in this required Post School Outcome collection. Please be sure to scroll down on the report to enter each student's contact information as indicated. This collection is considered for each school district's annual federally required "determination". Contact: Theresa Hayes (402-471-4304) theresa.hayes@nebraska.gov

Physical Education Guidance for Individuals with Disabilities

In a collaborative effort between the Office of Special Education and the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment the "Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities – A Guide for Best Practices" was developed. The writing team of Nebraska education professionals worked collaboratively to create this guidance that provides best practice information, as well as, resources for program development in physical education for individuals with disabilities. You can access this guide through either of the links below. A PDF version is also *attached*.

<https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/PE-for-Individuals-with-disabilities-Guide-FINAL.pdf>

<https://www.education.ne.gov/pe/>

SPED Summer Transition Programs

The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education, is releasing the application for SPED Summer Transition Programs (Previously, Nebraska VR Summer Programs). Please see *attached* SPED Summer Transition Programs RFP.

The Nebraska Department of Education - Office of Special Education requests proposals for the development and implementation of innovative short-term programs to provide career exploration and personal development opportunities for transition students with disabilities during the summer of 2020. Funding is contingent upon the availability of federal dollars. The Office of Special Education intends to establish a cooperative agreement with a limited number of qualified applicants for a period of up to 4 months (May 2020 - August 2020) to provide supports through a summer project for students with disabilities, aged 14-21 years, to be enrolled in school during the 2020-2021 school year that would align with their post-secondary goals and pre-employment transition services being offered throughout the school year.

Request for Proposal Schedule

Notice of Request for Proposals: January 31, 2020

Pre-proposal Meeting by Zoom: March 3, 2020

Proposal Due Date: March 16, 2020

Notification of Selected Proposals: April 15, 2020

MSLBD Conference Kansas City

The annual **Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavioral Disorders** will be held February 27-29 in Kansas City. It provides a discussion of issues, controversies, methods, and strategies of interest to professionals working with students with emotional/behavioral and mental health needs. Four TED Talk like short keynote speeches address "cultivating passion for a sustained career", and fourteen half day workshops and other presentations address a range of topics for educators working with students with behavioral needs. For information:

<https://mslbd.org/symposium-conference/>

A New Free Magazine- ReThinking Behavior

ReThinking Behavior is a new free, online only magazine for educators intended to provide support and affirmation to those who work with students with emotional, mental health or behavioral needs. It presents personal stories of educators, parents and youth, as well as current information about practice, policy and research in serving youth with behavioral needs. *ReThinking Behavior* is a magazine and not a research journal, published three times per year by the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders which sponsors two annual conferences. Articles are written in a non-technical, readable style.

The most recent issue is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/w7sd84z> and includes an article by Matt McNiff.

Sign up for a free email subscription, and view previous issues at: <https://tinyurl.com/sj4jb8l>

(Email addresses are not shared with anyone else.)

The weekend looks to be nicer than we've seen in a while. Enjoy the warmer weather!

Steve and Amy