



Friday News Blast



2-7-2020

PEP Conference – May 1st and 2nd

Save the Date – see *attached* flyer

2019-2020 Year-End ADVISER Workdays

ADVISER Workdays have been scheduled at each ESU for 2019-2020 Year-End reporting. Please follow this [link](#) for the calendar and registration.

Each workday consists of a brief presentation in the morning with the majority of the day focused on providing time to work on 2019-2020 ADVISER Year End data with SIS Vendor and NDE staff onsite to assist. Districts can go to any ESU that works best for their schedule and may attend as often as needed.

District staff that would benefit from attending and that NDE encourages to attend: Data Steward, Special Education staff and Administrators.

What is IEP Meeting Facilitation?

IEP Meeting Facilitation is available to assist teams in the effective development of an Individualized Education Plan. IEP Facilitation is an optional process that State Education Agencies or school districts may provide to parents and schools. Families and schools agree to have a facilitator at the IEP meeting. The facilitator helps with communication among team members and does not make decisions about the IEP. The facilitator's role is to:

- To ensure that during an IEP meeting, the IEP team addresses all matters on their agenda.
- To facilitate the meeting process so that all team members participate and are given the opportunity to provide input.
- To assist the IEP team to collaboratively reach decisions about a student's program.
- If disagreements arise during the meeting, a facilitator can help the team clarify and resolve them.

The data-based *attached* contains a listing of trained facilitators in Nebraska. The highlighted members serve as Trainer of Trainers and are available to build experience and training in collaborative problem solving, communication and conflict resolution. If you have questions relating to facilitation, please contact Rhea Hochstein at rhea.hochstein@nebraska.gov

Nominations Being Accepted for Dr. Frank Turk Excellence in Education Award

Teresa Coonts would like to share information from the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) regarding the Dr. Frank Turk Excellence in Education Award specific to educators who have improved education for students in Nebraska who are deaf or hard of hearing. Let's try to get an excellent educator nominated for this great award.

Board Chair Jeremy Fitzpatrick announced at the Full Board meeting on Friday, Dec. 13, the creation of the 'Dr. Frank Turk Excellence in Education Award'. This annual recognition award is for educators in the community who have made significant contributions to the improvement of education for students in Nebraska who are deaf or hard of hearing. The award recipient will be named annually during the last week in May.

The award is created in honor of Dr. Frank Turk with nearly half a century of experience in leadership and education roles including Gallaudet University, Superintendent at South Dakota School for the Deaf and state director of the North Carolina Services for the Deaf, before coming to Nebraska and serving two full terms on the NCDHH Full Board of Commissioners. Dr. Turk is known as the "Father of the Deaf Youth of America" in his work on leadership training activities at schools across America. He co-founded the National Association of the Deaf's famous Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) for teenagers with leadership potential.

Criteria:

- The recipient must be in the education field as a teacher, mentor, supervisor, speech pathologist, and/or training director in the related fields listed
 - o The recipient must work in the state of Nebraska, working with Nebraska students
- The recipient should embrace innovative approaches designed to foster teaching and a dedication to excellence in the deaf and hard of hearing community
- The recipient is someone who has exhibited outstanding leadership throughout his or her career in the following areas of but not limited to: scholarship, teaching, administration or service

Selection Committee - A member/representative of the following organizations:

- NCDHH Full Board
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Association of the Deaf
- Nebraska VR

How to apply: More information including a nomination form may be found on our website at: <https://ncdhh.nebraska.gov/resources>

Assistive Technology Partnership Education Program

The Assistive Technology Partnership Education (ATP/Ed) Program provides statewide services to IFSP and IEP team members working with children and students with disabilities birth to 21 who are receiving services within school systems. The ATP/Ed program supports

teams through various programs. Please view the *attachments* above to learn more about the Scope of ATP/Ed Services, and Using AT4ALL.

K12 Student Engagement

The student engagement project has a plethora of resources providing evidence based practices to support educators in improving student behavior and reducing exclusionary discipline. There are resources that will help strengthen educators' competence to collect data in order to evaluate and support the students they serve. The materials were created to be used by a variety of professionals with minimal training. Since the project was funded by the Nebraska Department of Education materials can be widely disseminated, free of charge. You will find materials that can be used for individual students, classrooms, school-wide, district-wide and materials can be adapted to any grade level.

This month's highlighted brief is: Anger Management - <https://k12engagement.unl.edu/anger-management>

Do you have any students who struggle with anger management? If so, check out this strategy brief that provides some information and support to teach anger management. Teaching students how to control their emotions and behavior can have a big impact on creating a safe environment for students and staff reducing the incidents of school violence.

Thanks to all who have been able to join the joint conference these last two days. We have been very fortunate to have Laurie VanderPloeg as the guest speaker, a great opportunity for all. Enjoy your weekend.

Steve and Amy