



# Friday News Blast



August 28, 2020

*New guidance – **Planning a Safe Return to School in Nebraska and School Re-entry Process: Scenario Planning** are hot off the press and available at [www.launchne.com](http://www.launchne.com). Check these and so much more out as you begin your 2020/21 School Year Planning.*

*Please see our SPED website at [www.education.ne.gov/sped](http://www.education.ne.gov/sped) as well for all the updated guidance and information related to special education and early intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continuously be updating our page with the most recent guidance and adding resources.*

## **PEaK Project Reminders**

The 2019-2020 PEaK Project closed July 31, 2020. All funds should already be spent. To close out the 2019-2020 PEaK Project, no written report is required, however, the [Final Financial Report](#) is due no later than September 11, 2020

## **Special Education Reporting System (SPEDFRS) - Opens September 1, 2020**

Special Education Financial Reporting System (SPEDFRS) will open September 1, 2020 – October 31 @ midnight. **Join Zoom Meeting – scheduled for Tuesday, September 01, 2020 @ 10:00 -10:30 a.m. Central Standard Time (<https://educationne.zoom.us/j/4024712637>); Meeting ID: 402 471 2637 (to be recorded)**

This submission generates reimbursement payments for School Age Special Education and Transportation costs. This data collection is accessible through the NDE Portal.

- **NDE Portal** at <https://portal.education.ne.gov/Site/DesktopDefault.aspx>
- **User Manual** includes “New Features” by section: [https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/SPEDFRS\\_UserManual.pdf](https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/SPEDFRS_UserManual.pdf)
- **2019-2020** Special Education Reporting System (SPEDFRS) **Presentation** 08/25/2020 ([VIDEO](#)) ([PDF](#))
- Special Education (SPED) Reporting Information **website** for additional **SPED information**: <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/special-education-reporting-information/>
- Annual Financial Report (AFR)– District Reporting <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/annual-financial-report-school-district/>

## **Upcoming Virtual GOLD Trainings & Misc. GOLD Information**

**September 8-9<sup>th</sup> GOLD: Key to Responsive Planning** ([Register Here](#))

**September 10-11<sup>th</sup> GOLD: Using your Observations of Children to Individualize Instructions** ([Register Here](#))

**September 10-11<sup>th</sup> Administrative Support using GOLD Data** ([Register Here](#))

**November 5-6<sup>th</sup> GOLD: Using your Observations to Individualize Instruction** ([Register Here](#))

**November 10-11<sup>th</sup> GOLD: A Key to Responsive Planning (Home Visitor Breakout Session on day 2)** ([Register Here](#))

**November 12-13<sup>th</sup> GOLD: Administrative**

Please notify GOLD administrators to ensure that children receiving early intervention services are exited on their 3rd birthday. The [Part C GOLD Exit Checklist](#) is attached to assist in that process.

As a reminder, all children birth through kindergarten eligible age, served by a public school district or ESU are required to have an NDE Student ID/ADVISER ID. This identification number must be reported on the child's Teaching Strategies GOLD profile. The GOLD administrators are responsible for ensuring that these identification numbers are within each child's profile. Please refer to the [Results Matter TA document](#) for further clarification on ADVISER ID's

Fall GOLD Checkpoints are due October 31<sup>st</sup>

## **STEMIEFest Registration Now Open!**



Announcing the registration for the first virtual STEMIEFest is now open! This FREE virtual conference convenes STEM and inclusion experts to engage participants in learning about evidence-based practices in STEM and inclusion of young children with disabilities (birth to five), excite families, practitioners, and young children in exploring, making, and tinkering through our MakerFest, discover STEM-focused books through our Storybook Conversations, and showcase early STEM videos and games from museums, researchers, and other organizations through our Media Cubbies. The event includes a variety of 'live' and

asynchronous interactions and learning opportunities between 1-4 pm EST every day and free explorations at all other times between September 14-18, 2020.

Please feel free to pass along the information to others in your network.

Problems viewing?: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stemiefest-2020-tickets-117655086531>

### **2020 Virtual Para-educator Conference**



November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Conference Registration is free this year!

Registration will be open September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please Spread the word!

### **Para-educator of the Year Nominations**

You are encouraged to nominate an outstanding para-educator for recognition as a Nebraska Para-educator of the Year. Para-educators who demonstrate the highest standard of performance in carrying out their assigned responsibilities should be considered for nomination.

The award recipients will be announced at the 31st Nebraska Virtual Para-educator Conference scheduled for November 10, 2020.

Please take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by para-educators and honor an outstanding individual.

It is highly encouraged that schools acknowledge the winning paras with on-site school recognition.

Nomination Deadline is September 30, 2020.

Link to the Nomination form: <https://forms.gle/2dwANuxK1LS2a1D6A>

## NeMTSS Summit 2020



As the State of Nebraska has experienced many disruptions in their “normal” way of doing business, The NeMTSS Team has made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person 2020 Summit. However, The Team is excited to announce our 6 week Summit Series that will be brought to virtually. Similar to our 5 week summer series, the virtual series, “Moving Forward into the Unknown,” will feature sessions to help schools promote success and wellness for students and staff.

Visit [nemtss.unl.edu](http://nemtss.unl.edu) for more information on the six weeks, beginning August 13th, that are FREE to all who register and gain you access to live and recorded sessions focusing on:

**WEEK 4 (September 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>): Creating a Climate of Support**

**WEEK 5 (September 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>): Prioritizing the Core**

**WEEK 6 (September 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>): Putting the Pieces Together Moving Forward**

The Virtual Summit will bring messages from National Experts around Social Emotional Learning and is intended for all educators with tracks focused on Administration/School Leaders, Instruction, and Early Childhood. Many of the days have concurrent sessions that will bring specific support information to sessions in the different track to those who may be looking for support in those specific areas.

We are excited to bring these amazing presenters and their messages to Nebraska Schools and Educators and hope that you will join us for 6 exciting weeks!

### **Flex Funding Projects 2020/21**

It has come to the attention of the Office of Special Education that School Districts were not aware of the modified submission deadline for the 2020/21 Flexible Funding Projects of July 15, 2020. Although this due date was indicated on the Grant Management System for Districts, the information was not shared through our normal means of communication. Thus, the deadline for submission of 2020/21 Flexible Funding Projects is extended to August 31, 2020. This change has been made within the GMS portal. School Districts who originally were asked to submit the CDC late submission request will not be penalized for late data on the annual, district determinations.

Should you have questions regarding your Flexible Funding Project submission, please contact Greg Prochazka at [greg.prochazka@nebraska.gov](mailto:greg.prochazka@nebraska.gov).



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