

September 11, 2020

Please see our SPED website at 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

GOLD Reminder – 1st Year Pre-school Teachers Using GOLD



Reminder that all preschool teachers in their first year of using GOLD need to complete two online modules by September 30th. These two modules each take a total of two hours to complete. The modules are located in the Develop Tab of their GOLD account. The modules are titled: GOLD Introduction and Introducing MyTeaching Strategies.

You can track their completion of these two modules by visiting your Report Tab and generating the Online Professional Development report. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter!

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>

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 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 6 (September 15th and 17th): 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!

Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science



Mark your calendars and be prepared for a lively webinar featuring Dr. Louisa Moats on September 28, 2020! The free event is supported by the Nebraska Dyslexia Association and NDE, Office of Special Education. Dr. Moats will summarize the highlights of her updated paper for the AFT (Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science, 2020), with a focus on what needs to happen to bridge the divide between the world of scientific reading research and typical reading instruction practices. Her presentation is 4:15-5:15 P.M., followed by a Q and A. Share this Save-the-Date with your educators, administrators, and others interested in sound literacy research. <https://events.education.ne.gov/events/louisamoats/>

Upcoming Virtual GOLD Trainings & Misc. GOLD Information

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

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

November 12-13th 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 31st

2020 Virtual Para-educator Conference



November 10th, 2020

Conference Registration is free this year!

Registration will be open September 10th. 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>



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