

September

NESC NEWSLETTER

605-783-3607

NESC.K12.SD.US

@NESC.SD



UPCOMING EVENTS

Courtney Heath - 3

Christina Flora - 9

Melissa Gent - 27

Alysha Johnson - 27

Sara Bingen - 28



NESC Happenings

Building and Surplus

We still have some items in our old storage room (band room) that are available to staff. **All items need to be claimed by staff by Monday September 29th.**

Any remaining unclaimed items are available to staff for personal use and need to be claimed by **Monday October 6th**. All remaining items will be disposed of the following week.

The previous ECSE/Technology room will be converted to a group meeting room over the next few weeks. If you need a place to work, the psychologists office now has drop in work spaces. There is more work to be done to make it cozy and comfortable.

Car Talk by Becky

Title

XXXXXX



Tidbit by Tiffany

Requisitions



When completing requisitions, please send them to your supervisor. The supervisor will approve and then send them to Tiffany.

Please include a link to the specific item you are requesting in your email to your supervisor. If you are submitting for multiple items send a wish list attached in your email.

Directions to complete the requisition form:

Requested by – list the employee requesting the item or list the full department if it goes to everyone in the department

Name of company – list the company where the purchase is being made.

Website – website link to company

Justification – explanation of need for item *If a PO is required please note this under this section.

Item # – list item # if available

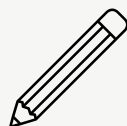
Description – list out the items needed in detail

Quantity, Unit Price and Total – list each of these out

Grand Total – total your requisition

Assistant Director

Medicaid



NESC bills Medicaid for OT, PT, and SLP services given to a student with Medicaid. This is an important program – not just in the short term as a source of revenue (bringing over \$30k of revenue in calendar year 2024) but also in the long term because districts applying for extraordinary cost funds are asked whether they have exhausted all available sources of revenue, including Medicaid billing.

OT, PT, and SLP Providers: As you attend IEP meetings for children you'll serve, please ask whether these children have a Medicaid number. If they do, please ask parents to complete the [consent to bill Medicaid](#) form (which should include the child's Medicaid number, the parent's signature, and where the child is doctoring). When you get that information, please send it to [me](#).

Quote of the Month

Our past prepares us for our future! The challenges we face often become the lessons we teach. And our core struggle often becomes a catalyst for our mission and purpose in life.



NESC Staff Highlight

Nikki Heggeland

Nikki Heggeland has been with NESC since August of 2018. Nikki began as an Educational Evaluator and found that she loved conducting evaluations. She then went back to school to be a School Psychologist. This Spring, Nikki graduated with her Specialist in School Psychology and has recently been accepted into a PHD program. Congrats Nikki on your accomplishments!

Welcome to NESC!

Please Welcome Roger Jones to our Lake Preston Pathways program. Roger and his wife, Barb live in Lake Preston. Roger has been a great addition to our classroom.

Important Dates

10/1 NESC Board of Advisors Meeting
 10/1 Sunshine Committee Meeting 3pm
 10/3 NESC Office Duct Cleaning
 10/7 Social Committee Meeting 3pm
 10/8 Test of Dyslexia Training
 10/9 New Special Education Teacher Virtual Meeting
 10/15 OT/OTA Department Meeting
 10/15 Leadership Team Feasibility Committee meeting 3pm
 10/17 Psych/Ed Eval Dept Meeting
 10/17 Functional Academics Training Part 3

Parent Resource

STAR Autism Support's September Newsletter offers ways to introduce community helpers, such as police, fire fighters and hairstylists to students who have autism. Many students have anxiety around community helpers and providing proactive strategies helps students know what to do in the community. Familiarity with community helpers not only builds confidence but also supports safety and self-advocacy. You can find the newsletter [HERE](#)

Technology for Focus

Brain.fm scientifically engineers sound to help your brain enter, and stay in, deep work mode. As confirmed in a recent study, Brain.fm's technology literally modifies brain waves to boost your focus and productivity, within minutes of listening.

Brain.fm is made to work with ADHD brains—not against them. And if you're ADHD-free? Then Brain.fm is going to help you be focused and productive

Click the link below for a free month
[Get one free month of focus](#)

Director Message



Where does NESC get it's Money?

Have you ever wondered where NESC gets the money it uses to run our operation? Unlike school districts, our cooperative does not generate state revenue based on enrolled students.

NESC is funded primarily through federal and state special education funds. The NESC districts have signed an agreement to allow NESC to be the fiscal agent for those funds and those funds pay for your salary, benefits and other costs.

Any costs that are unable to be covered by federal and state funds are taken care of through assessments to our member districts. Each district is assessed a percentage based on their enrollment/child count numbers.

When NESC raises costs for any service or for any new service, it almost guarantees that those costs will be directly passed along to our districts.

As the next legislative session looms in the distance, South Dakota is facing a revenue shortfall. People in South Dakota are just not spending money at the same rate as we have in the past. Our sales tax and property taxes are the two main ways that our state generates funds to pay for public services, like education.

Despite a law that requires the state to provide school districts with funding that equals the rate of inflation or 3%, which ever is less, we were given a 1.5% increase last year. Some are concerned that we could see a funding freeze or cut this year. These cuts and freezes will cause pain to our member districts, particularly our smallest districts.

There are always opportunities that come from tough times and adversity. If you are not attune to what happens out our state legislative level, this year may be a good time to pay attention.

USD Autism Courses

SPED 592: Autism Characteristics and Diagnostic Overview (2025-2026).

Online Learning -- The focus of this course will be to introduce information about identification, characteristics, and diagnostic criteria for autistic students or those suspected of having autism. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact samantha.duncan@usd.edu

SPED 592: Autism Spectrum Disorders Behavior Basics (2025-2026).

Online Learning -- The focus of this course will be to introduce information the behavioral principles often utilized in educational settings. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact samantha.duncan@usd.edu

SPED 592: Autism Spectrum Interventions Overview (2025-2026).

Online Learning -- This course aims to provide training and assistance to South Dakota educators, administrators, other related professionals, and graduate students interested in learning more about intervention practices specific to autistic individuals. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact samantha.duncan@usd.edu

ADHD Training

SPED 592: Dr. Russel Barkley Professional Training Series.

Online Learning -- This course aims to provide training and assistance to South Dakota educators, administrators, other related professionals, and graduate students interested in learning more about Executive Functioning and ADHD. Many of the cognitive deficits associated with ADHD lie in the domain of executive functioning in neuropsychology. The focus of this course will be to promote a better understanding of the nature of ADHD symptoms, the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, and the modifications necessary for its use with special populations. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact samantha.duncan@usd.edu

Math Instruction

On-Demand Webinar: How to Design and Deliver Effective Math Instruction

Check out this free and on-demand webinar, "How to Design and Deliver Effective Math Intervention." Learn more about the five essential components of math intervention and gain skills in designing and delivering effective math instruction.

The [Learning Library](#) is packed full of learning opportunities for you to tackle at your own pace.

https://learn.exceptionalchildren.org/products/how-to-design-and-deliver-effective-math-intervention?utm_content=header

Sped Forms



Earlier this month, student information was uploaded from information from Infinite Campus into Sped Forms. Each student was assigned a resident district and was given a fake case manager. The district Sped Forms administrator should have then assigned students to the correct Plan Manager in the district.

To gain access to students for whom you see, the Plan Manager, District Sped Forms Admin or Tim, Anneke or Brenda can give you access to that student. You can obtain edit access, that allows you to edit documents or view access which allows you to see documents but not edit them.

Because the information that was uploaded into sped forms may have contained errors, Plan Managers will need to check the demographic information to ensure that it is accurate.

When writing IEPs, the Plan Manager will need to "Validate" the IEP in order to enable printing. The validation ensures that all areas of the IEP have been addressed. In some areas, such as accommodations or state testing, if items are not checked or if text is left blank, the program assumes it has not been addressed. One must address all areas on the IEP to validate.

If you have fake students that need to be deleted, please send Tim Frewing the name and he can delete them from the NESC list of students.

All new evaluations should be written in Sped Forms. All providers will use Sped Forms to create one report that will be given to parents.

Law to Learner

Law to Learner: Developing Compliant and Student-Centered IEPs. Online

Webinar -- This course will provide training and assistance to participants in the development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that is legally sound and meets the individual needs of each student. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact samantha.duncan@usd.edu

Suicide Prevention

New approved youth suicide prevention training

In May, the Board of Education Standards approved CALM Conversations on Access to Lethal Means as a youth suicide awareness and prevention training under the requirement per SDCL 13-42-71. Educators may now take advantage of this training by contacting Lana Loken at Lost&Found. As a reminder, verification of training completion is conducted through accreditation reviews in lieu of educator certification. For questions, contact Andrea Effling.

IEP Trainings

Special Education Process: Referral through IEP Development Training

Online Learning -- This is an on-demand course designed to help Special Education staff, related service providers, administration, and staff understand the special education process from referral, eligibility, and IEP development. Each module has a recorded video(s) and associated PowerPoint. Participants may choose to watch one or more videos that interest them and use as a reference throughout the year. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact Melissa.Flor@state.sd.us

Law to Learner: Developing Compliant and Student-Centered IEPs. Online Webinar. This course will provide training and assistance to participants in the development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that is legally sound and meets the individual needs of each student. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact samantha.duncan@usd.edu

25-26 Testing Dates



The 2025-26 testing windows can be found on the [DOE Assessment website](#).

Tested Grade Levels

2025-26 Test Windows

SD ELA and Math Assessments

Subject: English Language Arts, Math
3-8

Mar. 30 – May 8, 2026

SD ELA and Math Alternate Assessments

Subject: English Language Arts, Math
3-8, 11

Students with most severe cognitive disabilities

March 9 – April 24, 2026

ACT

Subject: English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing
11

Window 1:

Feb. 24-27, Mar. 2-6

Window 2:

Mar. 10-13, Mar. 16-20

Window 3:

Mar. 24-27, Mar. 30-31, Apr. 1-3

SD Science Assessment

Subject: Science
5, 8

Mar. 30 – May 8, 2026

SD Science Alternate Assessment

Subject: Science
5, 8, 11

Students with most severe cognitive disabilities

Mar. 30 – May 8, 2026

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Subject: Reading, Math, (every other year)
4 and 8

Only a sample of schools is chosen

Jan. 26 – Mar. 20, 2026

SD English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS 2.0)

Subject: Reading, Writing,
Speaking, and Listening
K-12

For students identified as English Learners

Jan. 27 – Feb. 27, 2026