

Greetings and Happy New Year,

Welcome to our Fourth Monthly Edition of the Collaborative Special Education Support Email List! *Jump to any featured update below by clicking on the link below.*

Help us improve our email list this year by taking this [short survey](#).

Click for an updated list of [professional learning opportunities](#) and view event fliers and notices in the [professional learning folder](#).

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About the Collaborative Special Education Support Email List

We welcome any person who teaches or supports students with IEPs with a focus on those that mentor, coach, and provide professional learning to educators at a school, district, CESA, institution of higher education, family support, or affiliated organization.

Refer others by sending them to the [DPI email list web page](#), scroll down to Special Education, and click on “collabsupportlist” to subscribe.

Welcome our New State Superintendent: Carolyn Stanford Taylor

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From Dr. Barb Van Haren, Director of Special Education, WI DPI

Congratulations to our very own Carolyn Stanford Taylor as the next State Superintendent for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Evers announced his intent to appoint Carolyn to complete his term on December 27th, 2019. Carolyn has served as the Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Learning Supports for the past 17 years, including special education, student services, and the two state schools. I cannot think of a better candidate to carry on college and career readiness, the important equity agenda and to serve the children of Wisconsin, especially our underserved student groups. Congratulations Carolyn! Find the press release here: <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2018/carolyn-stanford-taylor-be-appointed-next-state-superintendent>.

Welcome Jessica Moe to the DPI Special Education Team!

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We are pleased to share that Jessica Moe will be joining our team on Monday, January 7, as a consultant focused on continuous improvement supports, particularly for districts identified through LEA determinations and/or disproportionality.

Dr. Moe is currently serving as a principal in the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District. She has led district improvement efforts within an equitable multi-level system of supports and leveraging improvement strategies from Universal Design for Learning. She is a strong equity leader with a particular focus on race and ability status.

WSPEI Announcement: Family and Community Engagement Summit 2019

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Join WSPEI on April 12th, 2019 for the [Family and Community Engagement Summit – Supporting Families of Students with IEPs](#)! Dr. Karen Mapp, the author of best-selling articles and books, is coming to Wisconsin! Dr. Mapp will be our all day presenter and workshop facilitator April 12, 2019 at Park Hotel, downtown Madison, WI. This single day event will engage participants in intensive discussion and activity on the subject of Family & Community Engagement: Supporting Students With IEPs.

Dr. Karen Mapp will cover tough discussions that will guide participants through:

- 1) How to support families in the IEP process
- 2) School and district wide family engagement efforts
- 3) Linked-to-Learning Strategies

- 4) Supporting underserved families and families of color
- 5) How to work with community organizations that are already supporting families

[Register for the Family and Community Engagement Summit 2019!](#)

Access to Mental Health Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities

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This will be a distance event with community sites throughout Wisconsin.

Learn together; collaborate locally

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 8:30am to 12:30pm

Check-in begins at 8:00am/8:15 depending on the site.

This is a free event but you MUST register!

This is a web-based learning opportunity with the main presenters at UW Madison Waisman Center and webcasting to at least 24 sites throughout Wisconsin! The idea behind this is to learn together, apply locally. We will have four presentations followed by 15 minutes for discussion at each site after each presentation. Topics are: Barriers to accessing services in Wisconsin; Medicaid benefits; Talking with mental health providers (tentative); Supporting families. Additional information can be found in the flyers in the [professional learning folder](#) and at: https://www2.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/connections/future_meetings.php.

Topics:

- Barriers to accessing services in Wisconsin
- Medicaid benefits
- Talking with mental health providers
- Supporting families

Each presentation slot will be around 45 minutes followed by a 15 minutes discussion at each site. After a short break, we will start the next presentation.

The CoP partners (YOU) have opened up over 20 sites throughout Wisconsin so hopefully you can take part in a local viewing/discussion! If you had signed up to be a host site or if you are in an area without a site, please let me know and we will update our information.

CEUs are being offered to those that attend a viewing site. Please go to

<http://www.cvent.com/d/mbqgdm> for details.

You will be able to request a Certificate of Attendance if you sign-in at a viewing site and you request one after the event. Details where to request a certificate will be sent after the event. Confirmation of registration and other information will be sent after February 5th.

IF you have registered and you would like to change sites, please email Sonja Oetzel at soetzel@wisc.edu

AND check out an opportunity to learn what ADVOCACY is all about March 13th in Madison.

<https://familyvoiceswi.org/event/advocacy-for-change/>

To Register for the February 12th CoP ASD/DD: <https://go.wisc.edu/copfeb2019>

For more information: https://www2.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd//connections/future_meetings.php

Resources on Wisconsin's rule for determining Specific Learning Disability

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Over time, DPI has updated resources to assist schools in determining if students qualify as having a specific learning disability in alignment with Wisconsin state rule. Check out DPI's most commonly used guidance documents.

[Frequently Asked Questions about Making SLD Eligibility Determinations](#)

[SLD Technical Guide for Eligibility Decisions](#)

[Progress Monitoring for SLD Eligibility Decisions](#)

Instructional Resources for Students with IEPs who Participate in Alternate Assessment: Dynamic Learning Maps

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The **Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®)** professional development team will be providing four interactive webinars this spring to assist teachers with providing instruction to students that is aligned to the DLM Essential Elements in English language arts and mathematics. Each 45-minute webinar will begin with a 15-minute overview of the content followed by a 30-minute live question and answer session. Additionally, each webinar will be recorded and posted online for those who are unable to attend a live session. All webinars are free to attend and will be accessible via Skype for Business or telephone.

The first webinar was held on Wednesday, January 23 at 3:30 p.m. (Central) and covered topics in English language arts. This information was recorded and available on the Professional Development tab of the DLM website.

Full professional development site, visit www.dlmpd.com.

Wednesday January 23, 4:30 p.m. (EDT) – English Language Arts
Modules addressed: Beginning Communicators and Symbols

Tuesday February 19 at 4:30 p.m. (EDT) – Mathematics
Modules addressed: Measuring and Comparing Lengths and Perimeter, Volume, and Mass

Wednesday March 20 at 4:30 p.m. (EST) - English Language Arts
Modules addressed: Writing with Alternate Pencils and DLM Core Vocabulary and Communication

Tuesday April 16 at 4:30 p.m. (EST) - Mathematics
Modules addressed: Algebraic Thinking and Pattern's and Sequence

DPI OT and PT Evaluation System Survey 2019: Deadline February 9th

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We are currently developing the DPI OT and PT Evaluation User Guide for the 2019-20 school year. But first, we need feedback from Wisconsin OTs, PTs and the school administrators who conduct these evaluations. Your feedback will help us to understand how your district is implementing OT and PT evaluations, and it will also help us to more accurately compose the OT and PT Evaluation User Guide.

SURVEY link: [OT & PT Evaluation System SURVEY 2019](#) or you can access the SURVEY on the OT and PT Evaluation System webpage at [OT & PT Evaluation System Webpage](#).

Please complete survey by Monday, February 9th. Thank you for sharing your perspective!

Employment First Bill - Competitive Integrated Employment Plan, available for public comment

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As a result of 2017 ACT 178, DPI, DVR and DHS have formed a work group to develop a plan for interagency collaboration impacting competitive integrated employment for students and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin. The plan will be available for public comment starting on February 27, 2019. In person comments can be made on 2/27 from 11:00am-1:00pm CST at any [DVR WDA location](#). Online comments can be made on the DVR website through March 31, 2019. More information on the plan and comment process will be provided in the February update.

Transition Readiness Grants: Evidence-Based Practice Fund - Grant Opportunity

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School districts and charter schools are eligible to compete for funding that supports evidence-based practices related to successful transition from high school to beyond for students with IEPs. The \$1.5 million fund will support transportation options (including contracted services or vehicle purchases), Project Search tuition/supports, post-secondary tuition/supports for students, training for paraprofessionals and transition certificates for staff members.

Applications available: February 1, 2019

Applications due: March 1, 2019

Save the date for the Q & A webinar for applicants on February 14 - 9:30 a.m. CST (Webinar will be recorded)

Find more information and updates at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/13-transition/update>

Announcing the 14th Annual Essay Contest: Everyone Belongs: Celebrating Differences

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The Autism Society Affiliates in Wisconsin are proud to jointly host the 14th Annual Statewide Autism Essay Contest. The Annual Autism Essay Contest is designed to assist students in gaining a deeper understanding of autism and how their peers with autism experience the world. The contest provides a way for schools to facilitate a meaningful dialogue about how schools, teachers, and students can support those with autism in the classroom.

This year's theme: Everyone Belongs: Celebrating Differences

The Annual Autism Essay Contest is a great way to facilitate a meaningful dialogue about how schools, teachers, and students can support those with autism in the classroom. The contest is designed to assist students in gaining a deeper understanding of autism and how their peers with autism experience the world.

Divisions:

Essays will be divided into 4 groups, based on grade level. The contest reviewing committee will choose 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division. Visit our website for prompts according to grade level.

- Division 1: K-2nd grade
- Division 2: 3rd-5th grade
- Division 3: 6th-8th grade
- Division 4: 9th-12th grade

Prizes:

- 1st Place Winners in each category will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card
- 2nd Place Winners in each category will receive a \$75 Amazon gift card
- 3rd Place Winners in each category will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card

Teachers will be contacted by email by early-April if their student has placed. All 1st place winners will be honored at & invited to the Family Reception at the Autism Society of Wisconsin's 30th Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells on Friday, April 12, 2019.

Essay Submission Deadline: March 1, 2019

[Click here for more information.](#)

Submit Essays by March 1, 2019

Seeking School Principal Position at Wisconsin Center for Blind and Visually Impaired

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The DPI Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired ([WCBVI](#)) is currently seeking applicants for a full-time, year-round School Principal position. This position is located at [WCBVI](#), 1700 West State Street, Janesville, WI. The [WCBVI](#) operates a residential school for state residents ages three to twenty-one who are blind and/or have multiple disabilities. The school provides academic and career education on-site. This position will administer, supervise, and provide leadership for the educational program at WCBVI. Leadership duties will include supervision and assignment of instructional staff, implementation of educator effectiveness, allocation of resources, oversight for curriculum development and implementation, and enforcement of policies and practices, including incorporating DPI initiatives. [Apply or share](#) this position with someone that would be interested. The deadline to apply is Sunday, February 10th.

UDL Tip: Creating Accessible Presentations Webinar Resource

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Event Recording date: 12/7/18, Presenter: Luis Pérez, TA Specialist, National Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Center

Luis presented an excellent set of resources for creating accessible presentations, and handouts, for participants to more productively participate and learn. He gave step-by-step instructions (linked to resources in handout) for using some of the accessibility tools in Google Slides and Microsoft 2016+. He modeled the material presented and used a variety of techniques to engage participants in web-based presentations. This resource is well worth the time to listen to the one-hour recording (transcript provided), explore the helpful handout, and the review the slides. Find the materials in this Google Folder: [WI Accessible Presentation Materials](#)

Feel free to contact Luis with any questions at lperez@cast.org.

Webinar on Evidence Based Practices from the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI)

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The National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) is pleased to present a two-part webinar series: *Got Evidence? Where to Find and How to Use It to Make Sound Decisions About Evidence-Based Practices*. The term “evidence-based practice” in early childhood has its roots in evidence-based medicine and relies upon identifying and combining multiple sources of evidence to make decisions about services for young children and their families. The NCSI has created an interconnected suite of tools that explain the history and rationale behind using these multiple sources, where to look for evidence, and how to appraise and combine the evidence to inform the selection, implementation, and evaluation of specific practices for individuals or groups of children and families.

The first webinar (2/15/19) will introduce the suite of tools and engage participants in considering real world vignettes that illustrate their application in early childhood programs.

Register for webinar 1 here:

<https://wested.zoom.us/meeting/register/c62b33cb21c91fca66858a512be5123a>

The second webinar (3/1/19) will engage participants more deeply in using the tools to conduct the search for evidence, evaluate information from different sources, and synthesize it to make decisions about practices to implement and how to ensure they improve outcomes for the children and families in participants’ specific contexts.

Register for webinar 2 here:

<https://wested.zoom.us/meeting/register/d65df5f5fe78bf4666858a512be5123a>

For further information, please contact

Taletha Derrington, tderrington@air.org or

Monica Mathur-Kalluri, mmathur@wested.org

2019 Pre-Conference and Annual State-Wide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education: Accepting Proposals

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Join us for Wisconsin’s 26th annual Inclusion Institute on July 29-31, 2019 at the Westwood Conference Center in Wausau, WI! This event is sponsored by The Inclusion Institute, Inc. & Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Submit a proposal to present at the 2019 State-wide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education or the Pre-Conference. Proposals will be accepted through March 1, 2019. See the Proposal forms in the professional learning google folder or Visit the conference website at BeloinandBrandl.com to access and submit the electronic proposal form.

Contact Dr. Kim Beloin at: Beloin@att.net, visit the website at: BeloinandBrandl.com, or "Like" the Inclusion Institute on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/InclusionInstituteWI/> for further information and resources regarding this State-wide Inclusion Institute.

Research to Practice: Inclusive Communities Grant Opportunity

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Twelve districts - one from each CESA across Wisconsin - will be chosen to join the Research to Practice Inclusive Communities (RPIC) project. Each district will receive high quality evidence-based professional development to establish professional learning communities (PLCs) as the framework for implementation of the research-based innovation of Inclusive Learning Communities (ILC). Selected districts will additionally receive ongoing coaching and grant funding. Priority will be given to districts with preliminary identifications under ESSA and/or IDEA.

Project Vision: Each and every learner will thrive in welcoming and inclusive learning communities.

Project Mission: Support districts to strategically implement and sustain inclusive learning communities by providing funding, quality resources, training, and coaching support.

Applications available: January 7, 2019

For more information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/research-practice-inclusive-communities-rpic-project>

Applications due: March 7, 2019

Save the date for the Q & A webinar for applicants on February 14 - 10:00 a.m. CST

Preserving Early Childhood Conference

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March 12-14, 2019, Concourse Hotel, Madison WI

Registration is open for the 2019 Preserving Early Childhood Conference. The theme for this year's conference is: Developmentally Appropriate Learning: Play is the Way! We look forward to seeing you on March 12 -14, 2019 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison. For more information, please contact: Jennie Mauer at Jennie.Mauer@dpi.wi.gov.

Supporting Neurodiverse Students Website Upgrade

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Check out the following new and exciting resources at: <https://tinyurl.com/neurodiversitywi>

All Supporting Neurodiverse Students training materials, including conference session handouts

- New "Toolkit and Fun Stuff" drop down - where you can find
- Featured district programs across the state - find out how to become a featured district and or program
- SNS Statewide Trainer "Zoom Office Hours"

- Toolkit - Quick and easy resources on related topics including evidence-informed improvement strategies
- DPI handouts related to this work
- Make-it and Take-it recipes
- Frequently used interactive training tools and product information

Updated ES3 Grant information - Application for 2019-2020 school year grant cycle coming soon! Spend a few minutes exploring this valuable resource, and don't forget to share it with your colleagues, families and community partners!

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Regional Network (WATRN) Meetings

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WATRN offers FREE regional meetings around the state of Wisconsin, bringing together school professionals interested in topics, collaboration and learning about Assistive Technology (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Here is the [Winter Agenda](#) that includes topics that will be covered, locations/dates of meetings by region, registration, and facilitator contact information. Hope you can attend!