

*"Making connections
to achieve systems change"*

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e-News

North Central Regional Resource Center

IDEA General Supervision Enhancement Grants Teleconference

A "Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006" for the General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG)—H326X was published by the U.S. Department of Education on June 23, with a closing date for submission of applications of August 7, 2006. In order to meet this priority an applicant must demonstrate that the project for which it seeks funding will do one or more of the following: (1) develop alternate achievement standards aligned with the State's academic content standards; (2) develop high-quality alternate assessments that measure the achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities based on those standards; (3) report on the participation and performance of students with disabilities on alternate assessments; and (4) develop appropriate assessment accommodations that do not alter the established reliability and validity of the assessment instrument. To assist potential applicants with the application process, the Department will be conducting a teleconference on July 12, 2006 at 2:30 pm EDT to answer questions and to provide additional information related to this grant. The dial-in number is 1-800-473-8796. Eligible applicants include SEAs, and LEAs (including public charter schools that are LEAs under state law) if endorsed by the SEA to apply and carry out the project on behalf of the SEA, IHEs, other public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations. For further information, contact Larry Wexler at 202-245-7571.

Region 4 Alliance Conference Highlights

Alliance Region 4 Conference was hosted by the Ohio Coalition for the Education for Children with Disabilities on Mackinac Island, MI from June 20-23, 2006. Approximately 75 parent training information center and state-level staff from Region 4 attended this event. Presentations were given by Joe McNulty, Executive Director of the Helen Keller National Center; Susan Mikolic, Stepping Stones Mental Health Educational Consulting; Suzanne Ripley, Director of the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities; and Matt Cohen, Attorney at Monahan & Cohen in Chicago. Stephanie Petska (WI) and LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl (IA) paired with lead staff from the PTIs in their states to present information on the collaborative efforts between state agencies and PTIs. Ann Bailey also presented information on the SPP and how PTIs can support states with parent surveys.

Highlights from NCCRESt State Liaison Meeting

The National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt) held its State Liaison Meeting June 22-23, 2006 at its offices in Denver, Colorado. The meeting was attended by representatives from six states, as well as Kathy Chapman from the Mid-South Regional Resource Center and Tom Delaney from the North Central Regional Resource Center. The meeting participants reviewed NCCRESt technical assistance plans, district identification processes, a curriculum assessment tool, and presented ideas for a national forum.

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center Opens

The [National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center](#) (NSTTAC) is a new OSEP TA&D project at the University of North Carolina in partnership with the Special Education Programs at Western Michigan University and Appalachian State University. The NSTTAC's mission is to help youth with disabilities and their families achieve desired post-school outcomes and to ensure full implementation of IDEA. The NSTTAC will achieve its mission by helping states build capacity to support and improve transition planning, services, and outcomes for youth with disabilities and disseminate information and provide technical assistance on scientifically-based research practices. NSTTAC's emphasis is on building and sustaining state-level infrastructures of support and district-level demonstrations of effective transition methods for youth with disabilities. In addition, the NSTTAC will provide efficient and effective large-scale implementation and sustainability of research-based secondary transition. NSTTAC is organizing a national forum to take place in Denver, CO on September 20, 2006. For more information, click on the link above.

Recording for Access Center's Rtl Webinar Now Available Online

On June 20, 2006 the Access Center hosted a State Information Sharing Community web seminar titled "Implementing Rtl: Lessons from the Minneapolis Public Schools Problem-Solving Model." If you missed this informative webinar, or you would like to listen to it again, you can now listen to a recording of the event online. The Access Center has made available online the recording along with the PowerPoint slides and handouts from the presentation. This webinar was presented by Tom Hegrans, Ann Casey, and Doug Marston from the Minneapolis Public Schools. The presenters provided a brief history and an overview of the Minneapolis Problem-Solving Model and discussed how the model can be used as one approach to Rtl, authorized by IDEA 2004. To listen to the recording and/or download the presentation materials, [click here](#).

