

# Special Education Nuggets

April 2022



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## Items from the State Director of Special Education:

### Parent, Family and Community Engagement Webpage

*Audience: Administrators, Home School Liaisons, Families*

New resources on the [Agency of Education Parent, Family, and Community Engagement webpage](#) include information for families and educators on the Special Education Parent Involvement Survey, opportunities through the Governor's Institute of Vermont summer programs and Peace at Home parenting classes. Find other resources focused on strengthening family engagement, including AOE guidance, short articles, videos and studies.

Contact: Nancy Hellen at [Nancy.Hellen@vermont.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hellen@vermont.gov).

### 4th Annual Youth Summit Driven for Youth by Youth "Education, Empowerment, Equity"

Hear members' stories around self-advocacy. Join in the conversation to help effect change on pressing issues identified by Youth Advocacy Council members.

May 19th, 2022 - 9am to 12:30pm Virtual Zoom Event

For more information, contact [Hannah Peach](#)

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## OSEP RESOURCES

Nothing at this time

## Nugget Notations

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Directors,

When you have a chance, please send your Nugget Notations to the [AOE.SpecialEd@vermont.gov](mailto:AOE.SpecialEd@vermont.gov) so that we may share the work, out of the box thinking, recognition of individuals or groups within your districts.

**Simple format submission**

SU/SD:

Individual or Group:

Details on Recognition (1-3 sentences):

**Nothing at this time**

## Professional Development Opportunities

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### SPECIAL EDUCATION RULE CHANGES

**April 2022**

**Functional Skills**

**Pre-recorded Webinar: TBA**

**Live Office Hours:** April 25, 2022, from 9-11:30 a.m.

**Virtual via Microsoft Teams:**

[Join on your computer or mobile app](#)

Call in Number: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: 141 072 950#

**May 2022**

**Adverse Effect**

**Pre-recorded Webinar: TBA**

**Live Office Hours:** May 2, 2022, from 9-11:30 a.m.

**Virtual via Microsoft Teams:**

[Join on your computer or mobile app](#)

Call in Number: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: 395 042 092#

## Extended Special Education Team - Updates:

### Interagency/Home Study:

Nothing at this time

### Independent Schools

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Nothing at this time

### Early Childhood

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#### Early Childhood Special Education

#### ECSE Resource Spotlight

#### Adaptations & Teaching Practices in STEM (From STEMIE OSEP TA Center)

All children can engage in STEM learning. With intentionality and the use of appropriate adaptations and teaching strategies, adults (e.g., family members, practitioners) can facilitate and/or individualize STEM learning and experiences within daily routines and the environment.

- [A Guide to Teaching Practices](#)
- [A Guide to Adaptations](#)

#### Preschoolers with Visual Impairments and Additional Disabilities: Using Universal Design for Learning and Differentiation

This [article from the Division for Early Childhood's \(DEC\) Young Exceptional Children](#) focuses on strategies including UDL and collaboration with other professionals to support preschoolers with visual impairments access meaningfully in visual or auditory, and tactile information. Drs. Deborah Chen and Jamie Dote-Kwan share examples and strategies on how to consider children's interest, sensory abilities and preferences, as well as adaptations and modifications to the materials, activities, and instruction to ensure all children, especially those with visual impairments can fully engage and participate within classroom routines and activities. **This article can be downloaded for free until May 1, 2022.**

## Storybook Conversations in STEM with Young Children with Visual Impairments

In partnership with [Kansas Deaf-Blind Project at Kansas State School for the Blind](#), STEMIE developed two video demonstrations on engaging young children with visual impairments in storybook conversations using Pat Hutchins' *Rosie's Walk* (2022).

The video offers a look at how to prepare children for a shared book reading experience. The book offers an opportunity for children to learn about spatial and positional concepts. While the demonstrated strategies are effective for children with visual impairments, they are also useful for sighted children. Learn about practical strategies and tools for dialogic reading with young children with significant disabilities including those who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind in this archived STEMIEFest 2021 session by the Kansas Deaf-Blind project and Kansas State School for the Blind.

- [STEM Video Demonstration: Rosie's Walk](#)
- [Storybook Conversations: Rosie's Walk](#)
- [STEMIEFest 2021 Presentation: Storybook Conversations & Visual Impairments](#)

## ECSE Webinars and Community of Practices

The Early Education Team is providing free virtual webinars and communities of practice on early childhood special education topics throughout the 2021-2022 School Year. Resources on previous and current topics, including a fluid Q and A document, can be found on the [ECSE Padlet](#).

- The ECSE Community of Practice (COP) on the topic of Early MTSS will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at 2:30 pm.
- The April ECSE Webinar and Community of Practice will focus on the [DEC Recommended Practices](#) which provide guidance to practitioners and families about the most effective way to improve the learning outcomes and promote the development of young children, birth through age 5, who have or at risk for developmental delays or disabilities.

Call in and online links for upcoming webinars are posted below.

Topic and Teams link	Date	Time	Call in Option
<a href="#">Early MTSS Community of Practice</a>	April 6, 2022	2:30- 3:30	<a href="#">+1 802-828-7667,,121797746#</a> United States, Montpelier Phone Conference ID: 121 797 746#
<a href="#">DEC Recommended Practices (Webinar)</a>	April 15, 2022	9am-11am	<a href="#">+1 802-828-7667,,81254018#</a>
<a href="#">DEC Recommended Practices Community of Practice</a> *Please note that this CoP is two weeks after the Webinar.	April 29, 2022	10am-11am	<a href="#">+1 802-828-7667,,773263108#</a>
<a href="#">TBD Webinar</a>	May 13, 2022	1pm-3pm	<a href="#">+1 802-828-7667,,616390717#</a>
<a href="#">TBD Community of Practice</a>	May 20, 2022	2pm-3pm	<a href="#">+1 802-828-7667,,729504610#</a>
<a href="#">Final Webinar and Community of Practice</a>	June 3, 2022	9am-11pm	<a href="#">+1 802-828-7667,,941795337#</a>

## Data News

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### Child Count Verification Reports

Signatures are being accepted via DocuSign electronic signature system. Special Education Directors, please look for an email from "Andrew McAvoy via DocuSign" and entitled "Please Docusign: SU###.pdf." Please sign by April 15. If you have not received your verification report via email, please [contact Cassidy Canzani](#).

### Special Education Finance

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## **IDEA-B Local Education Agency Plan FY2023**

The completed assurances are to be uploaded in the GMS with your FY2023 IDEA Part B grant application due July 1, 2022. Link to the form:

[Local Education Agency Plan FY23: Assurances for IDEA Part B | Agency of Education \(vermont.gov\)](https://www.vermont.gov/education/idea-part-b)

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Jennifer Perry](#).