

Special Education Programs (SEP)

Professional Learning Opportunities

SEP offers a variety of in person and virtual training opportunities throughout the year. Training is designed for administrators, special education teachers and service providers, however they are generally open to a broader audience if there is interest. SEP partners with other divisions and agencies to offer specialized opportunities and targeted topics.

Professional Learning Platform - allows users to register for offerings, participate in learning experiences, and access records of training completed through this system. <https://sded.sd.gov/>

TeachSD – is a monthly newsletter sent to SD educators through the DOE. Information includes teacher recognition, DOE happenings, and trainings. <https://doe.sd.gov/teachsd/archive.html>

Transition Services Liaison Project – is funding through DOE and VR that focuses on coordinated transition activities to assist with improving academic and functional achievement of students with disabilities to help facilitate their movement from school to post-school life. <https://tslp.org/>

Special Education Conference – held annually in March. The conference covers a wide range of special education topics. Information coming soon for the 2026 SPED Conference.

USD Trainings – SEP collaborates and sponsors disability specific trainings, including focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder and other high need areas that are provided to special education professionals across the state. <https://www.usd.edu/Academics/Colleges-and-Schools/sanford-school-of-medicine/Research-and-Outreach-Centers/Center-for-Disabilities/Continuing-Education-and-Training>

Deaf and Hard of Hearing trainings – SEP partners with South Dakota Services for the Deaf to offer a graduate level course to all educators focusing on supporting deaf and hard of hearing students in the classroom. Additional training will be developed to target paraprofessionals and be available on the learning platform.

SpedConnection subscription – SEP provides a subscription to all public-school districts to SpedConnections. This resource provides districts with guidance on all special education topics on the law and how to implement IDEA.

Monthly SPED Webinar – SEP hosts a monthly sped webinar for all special education professionals. The webinar focuses on upcoming changes to state or federal programs, provides information on existing resources, effective practices, accountability, data, and many other topics.

Topical Webinars – SEP typically offers three topical webinars a year focused on areas identified through questions that come to the region representatives, issues identified during accountability reviews and patterns emerging in dispute resolution.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Initiative – SEP supports districts through training and coaching for Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). Team trainings are held for districts in the summer and coaching and support through the year based on their length of implementation.