

Director's Desk

While the summer countdown has begun - we all know that there is still so much to do! At this point in the school year we want to make sure that students are set up for continued success over the summer for those that may require additional support through Extended School Year services. It is also an important time to make sure due process is up-to-date and ready to close out the year.

Our team at NLSEC would like to thank all of our districts for an amazing school year! Summer is the time to recharge and we're so fortunate to have a "fresh start" every fall. Take these next few months to relax, read, play, think and take care of yourself so that you can be the best version of yourself upon return to your students. We are excited to see you at our Back to School trainings in August - but for now - HAPPY SUMMER!

Ensure the team knows a student's hearing and vision status!

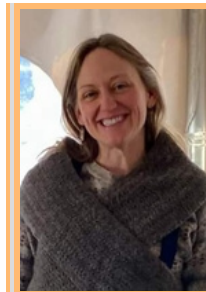
No one wants to get to the end of a special education evaluation and discover that a student can't hear or see well. Work with your school nurse and know the results of a recent hearing and vision screening prior to, or no more than a week into the 30-day timeline. Ruling this out will ensure that the team has enough time to move forward and results will be valid OR have enough time to bring a sensory team member (D/HH or B/VI teacher) on board to determine how to best move forward with evaluating the student.

APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

The recognition raises awareness about autism acceptance and promotes inclusion and connectedness for people with autism. Social and community support can help people with autism achieve optimal health and reach their full potential. For more information visit the [CDC website](#).

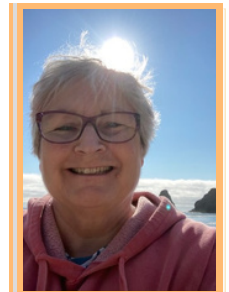
Featured Teachers - Britt Johnson & Sally Bruesewitz

Britt, a Special Education Teacher in Willow River Schools, was nominated because she is an advocate for her students and her unwavering dedication and passion for teaching shines through daily. Britt inspires and motivates all with whom she comes in contact with.



[Read Britt's full article here](#)

Sally was nominated because she cares deeply for her student's education, providing effective behavior management and individualizing instruction for each lesson. Sally has worked as a Special Education EBD Teacher in McGregor Schools for 8 years.



[Read Sally's full article here](#)

Infinitec

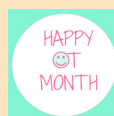


List of Webinars for
May 2024

MN ATforAll



A statewide website with AT items available to checkout



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT) MONTH



Did you know that April was occupational therapy (OT) month? The NLSEC OTs would like to celebrate by asking YOU the following question:
How is OT involved in your district?

We are offering a \$20 gift card to Starbucks to one randomly drawn name of those who complete this [Google Form](#). The winner will be drawn on May 6th.

AT UPDATES

Region 3 AT Newsletter -
April 2024

Featured articles:

- Secondary Transition Planning Checklist
 - PACER and Transition
 - Infinitec Webinars on Transition
- [Click here to view the April issue!](#)



NLIC ANNUAL REPORT



The Northern Lights Interagency Council developed this resource for parents and highlights the interagency work in our region made possible by the partnerships with our schools, local sector, and agency partners.

[Click here for the electronic version.](#)



MENTORING DAY 2024

Mentoring Day was a huge success!! We had 223 students from 14 school districts attend. This was our first year incorporating a College and Career "Exploreathon" with 31 businesses participating. We had 60 presenters conduct 67 presentations for students; ranging from career topics to post secondary options to independent living skills, community integration opportunities and more! We had 21 parents attend from a variety of school districts and engage with 7 different presenters, learning about secondary transition planning, county services, VRS supports, guardianship and supported decision making, along with other area supports and services. This event continues to be very beneficial for our students as well as the communities our students and families reside in. Thank you to everyone for your support!



ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE IN STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND

Promoting independence in students who are blind is a crucial responsibility for the skilled paraprofessionals who work with them. However, it can be tempting to provide immediate assistance to these students. To effectively foster independence, here are some helpful resources to learn tips on how to support your students:

1. Perkins.org: "[Promoting Independence: 19 Ways to Step Back](#)" - This resource provides 19 practical strategies to encourage independence in students who are blind.
2. YouTube Video: "[Supporting Independence in Students Who Are Blind](#)" - This video offers insights and techniques for promoting independence in students who are blind.

By utilizing these resources, you can enhance your ability to effectively support and empower students who are blind to become more independent.

GRADUATION IS UPON US!



It is an exciting time for many high school aged students as graduation nears. For those students that are graduating, aging out or exiting out of their 18-22 programs, don't forget to complete a [Summary of Performance](#) for each student accompanied by a Prior Written Notice. It is best practice to provide those students and their families with a copy of their SOP, PWN, final IEP, progress report and evaluation. These documents can be used by them to access adult services of their choosing. For additional support, you can access this [webinar](#) to support the due process side of graduation. Any questions you can reach NLSEC's Secondary Transition Coordinator, Jessica Knutsen at jknutsen@nlsec.org.