

From Dena's Desk



Welcome to March when the days get even longer and a spring break looms ahead! This month I want to remind everyone of the special education due process involved when an IEP team is supporting a student with significant behavior needs. As with any students receiving special education services, there is a continuum of specialized instruction, support and services that are required to be provided to these students through their Individual Education Plan. If a student's needs rise to the level of a team (incl. parents!) conversation about Setting 4 services at the Northern Lights Academy, due process is a right for students. Please review the attached [procedures](#) as a reminder of following this due process. IEP managers should alert their Special Education coordinator right away when supporting a student with significant behavior challenges!

Help Me Grow Data over the years

The MN Dept. of Education released the following data to show the large increase in Help Me Grow referrals during the month of January 2023 with 2,476 referrals across the state. That was the highest January referral count on record! Helpmegrowmn.org is a website where anyone can refer an infant or toddler they are concerned about not meeting developmental milestones. Your school district's B-2 Early Intervention team receives the referral and determines how to support the concern from there.



Due Process Tip

The PLAAFP: Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance. Each IEP needs to include a statement of the present levels of academic achievement including reading, writing, and math, even if the student is achieving at or above grade level in one or more of those areas. A student's functional performance present levels must also be described, as well as how the disability affects the involvement and progress in the general education curriculum.

Featured teacher is Emily Corrin!

Emily was nominated by a colleague because she is a creative, hard-working, extremely organized, thinks outside the box, and is willing to go the extra mile to make sure she meets her students' individualized goals and objectives.

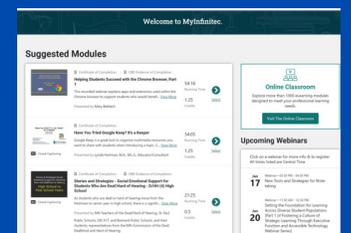
[Read the full article.](#)



Infinitec

Featured webinars:

- Positive Behavior Change Part 1: Increasing Positive Behaviors - March 7, 2023 3:30
[Registration link here](#)
- Helping Students Manage Themselves in Class! - Elementary Edition: Tools for Teachers to Facilitate Self-Regulation, Planning, Executive Function, and Organization Skills! March 23, 2023 at 3:30 [Registration link here](#)



[Full list of March webinars here](#)

AT UPDATES

Highlight: Low Tech Kits

Easy and practical solutions in one box! Items such as pencil grips, colored overlays, jumbo crayons, raised line paper and more. There are 3 kits available: one geared for elementary students, one for middle school students and one for high school students.

- Check out with a [NLSEC AT Team member](#) for 6 weeks
- [Full list of items in kits here](#)



MOTOR TIP



The benefits of using a short pencil

- Builds strength in the hand for increased endurance in writing/coloring tasks
- Promotes a tripod grasp
- Improved control of the pencil and in-hand manipulation skills
- Encourages motor planning needed for legible written work

Thank you School Nurses!



We can't thank you enough for your hard work and dedication to students!

NLSEC Employment Opportunities



- [NLSEC ECSE Coordinator](#)
- [NLSEC Special Education Coordinator](#)

Application closing date is March 14, 2023

Parent Advisory & Family Support Committee

The Parent Advisory and Family Support Committee is gearing up to present at Mentoring Day. For the Parent Strand, several speakers are lined up to present on many topics such as secondary transition, social security/disability benefits, county services, guardianship/supported decision-making, assistive technology, and vocational rehabilitation services. The committee is looking to get the word out again about our Parent Coaching initiative. Parent Coaches can support other parents by helping them learn more about navigating special education, sharing experiences, and even accompanying them to Individualized Education Planning meetings for their child. If you are interested in being a Parent Coach, attending the Parent Strand of Mentoring Day, or joining our Parent Support and Advisory Council, please email adillon@nlsec.org or visit the [Parent Advisory website](#).

Upcoming Events - NLSEC Calendar:

Mentoring Day - March 13, 2023 8:45-1:30 pm FDLTCC - [Mentoring Day Website](#)

