



Learning Opportunities

Winter 2017

As I look out my window, the leaves are changing colors, the wind is blowing, and the temperature is falling. When I drive across the ESU 4 area, I see farmers working hard to harvest the crops they have planted. I enjoy watching the change of seasons. We get to experience the natural transition from fall to winter. I'm always reminded that as things get hectic and busy, there is a need to take some time to relax and take a break.

We just finished writing our annual report, and I wanted to convey some of that information to you, our stakeholders. You can find a more detailed report on our website at www.esu4.org. When you get there, navigate to the "Who We Are" link and then drop down to "Public Info." From there, you can click on both our annual report as well as our annual report of activities.

Regarding ESU 4, did you know:

- ESU 4 covers 2,477 square miles in Southeast Nebraska.
- ESU 4 serves approximately 700 teachers.
- The student population of all ESU 4 districts totals approximately 7000 students.
- ESU 4 has a nine member board with 70 employees.
- ESU 4 school districts have saved almost \$200,000 through the ESU CO-OP program.
- Students within ESU 4 have scored higher on the NeSA test than the state average.
- ESU 4 supports students who are blind and visually impaired and their families statewide via the services offered through NCECBVI (www.ncecbvi.org).

As you continue through the year, please know that ESU 4 is here to support the work you do. For questions or comments, you are welcome to call (402.274.4354) or email (gregbke@esu4.net) me anytime.

You make a difference every day. Make the most impact by being your best today!

Happy Holidays,
Gregg Robke
Administrator of ESU 4

Inclement Weather: With the winter weather season in sight, we would like to share three locations we will use for announcing any workshop/meeting cancellations due to inclement weather:

- Local TV/Radio stations: KOLN/KGIN Channel 10, Lincoln/Grand Island; Sunny 101.3 FM and B103 FM
- Follow ESU 4 Facebook! Cancellations will be announced on our Facebook page.
- ESU 4 Website (www.esu4.org)

To register for a workshop go to our online registration page at www.esu4.org, then click on *Workshops* at the top right. Click on *Directions for logging into ESU 4's registration system*. You will find detailed directions on how to register for ESU 4 workshops. Please note that the system does not allow others to register you for workshops. You will have to register for the workshops you would like to attend. You will be able to cancel your registration if you find you are unable to attend.

ESU 4 is taking steps to courageously lead a dynamic revolution in education ...

- By providing interactive activities based on the Expanded Core Curriculum while families and educators are on campus at NCECBVI.
- Ellen, Suzanne and Jen learned from some of the nation's experts at the RtI Innovations Conference. They are eager to share learning with ESU 4 educators.
- The Technology Integration Group (TIG) met with 22 in attendance. The goal of TIG is to facilitate the growth of teachers as technology leaders in their respective school districts.
- By hosting the first "1st Monday Zoom" meeting with special education teachers and administrators as we address the idea of closing the achievement gap for students with disabilities, using the resource "Great Instruction, Great Achievement!"
- The Technology department continues to support local school districts with services such as internet access, network support, access to HelpDesk, on-site support, email filtering and CIPA filtering support and monthly LAN managers meetings for sharing and learning.

Professional Development

Suzanne Whisler

Jen Madison

Ben Hanika

Sue Knickman

Register online at www.esu4.org.
Registration fees are \$20 per person unless otherwise noted. Please register at least one week prior to the workshop.

Music Cadre
November 6, 2017
9:00 - 3:00
ESU 4

We are in the process of planning an exciting day of learning and collaboration for music educators. Dr. Lance Nielsen, Supervisor of Music at Lincoln Public Schools, will be here to visit about aligning music curriculum to the new NDE Fine Arts Standards. The schedule for the day will also include some time for differentiated professional development by meeting in small groups (i.e. Elementary Vocal, Secondary Instrumental). We hope that all music teachers will consider joining us for the day!

2017-18 ESU 4 Principals' Cadre
ESU 4

Join the ESU 4 team for this year's Principals' Cadre meetings! This is an opportunity for building leaders to network, discuss relevant issues, and share best practices in education. Save the dates for the year, and principals, watch your email for additional details.

- **November 14, 2017** - 9:00 - 12:00
Guest Presenter: Catie Niedemeyer, LMHP "Supporting Students with Behavioral Health Problems"
- **February 7, 2018** - 9:00 - 12:00
Guest Presenter: The Behavior Doctor, Dr. Laura Riffel "Tiers of Behavior Support"
- **April 5, 2018** - 9:00 - 12:00
Guest Presenter: The Behavior Doctor, Dr. Laura Riffel "Continuing the Conversation on Behavior Supports"

\$15 per person registration fee.

Technology Integration Group (TIG)
January 31, 2018
9:00 - 3:00
ESU 4

The goal of TIG is to facilitate the growth of teachers as technology leaders in their respective school districts.

Teachers of all content areas, grade levels, and technology skills are welcome and encouraged to be a part of TIG!

Counselors' Networking Sessions
February 28, 2018
11:45 - 3:00
ESU 4

Counselors, join your ESU 4 colleagues for lunch (11:45) and discussion (12:30)! Bring your suggestions, questions, and concerns to the networking sessions. Please note we welcome your suggestions for guest speakers.

\$15 per person registration fee.

Ron Coniglio: How to Write a TDA Seminar
November 17, 2017
8:30 - 3:00
ESU 4

This training is designed for teachers of grades 2 through 8 to empower them with the ability to teach their students how to recognize a Text Dependent Analysis question and be able to answer it effectively and concisely.

Leading this seminar will be renowned presenter, Ron Coniglio. Please join Ron for an action-packed day of practical, applicable and exciting strategies that will help you teach your students how to infer information from written text, revise inferential answers into text dependent analysis, formulate an answer in Bloom's analysis and synthesis levels, and extrapolate the information into a multi-paragraph TDA essay.

For more information and registration, please contact Ron at 402.476.6678 or wizardscastlepublishing@hotmail.com.

English Learner Program Review
December 1, 2017
9:00 - 3:00
NCSA (455 South 11th, Lincoln)

Rule 15 requires Nebraska districts to annually examine their English Learner programs and services. This session will provide guidance and work time for district teams toward completion of the review. Participants should bring a laptop/device, access to district data and documents related to EL services and their EL students' achievement.

There is no fee for this meeting. Please bring your lunch or plan to go out.

Professional Development (continued)

Suzanne Whisler

Jen Madison

Ben Hanika

Sue Knickman

CIP Workshop
December 5, 2017
9:00 - 3:00
ESU 4

This workshop is designed as a work day for district CIP teams. Don Loeske will be joining the ESU 4 team to support districts in their work and to assist teams who are preparing for an accreditation visit.

Title 1 Cadre
December 14, 2017
12:30 - 3:00
ESU 4

Title I teachers you won't want to miss this opportunity to network with your colleagues! Please bring your suggestions, questions, and concerns to the networking session. In addition, this will be an excellent time to share resources and learn from others in the group.

There is no registration fee for this cadre.

New Teacher Boot Camp Follow-Up
January 30, 2018
9:00 - 3:00
ESU 4

New teachers, please join the ESU 4 team and your colleagues for a day of learning and reflection. Follow-up topics include technology integration, supporting ALL students to increase learning, and your burning questions.

MTSS 101 with Dawn Miller
February 26, 2018
9:00 - 3:00
ESU 4

Join Dr. Dawn Miller for a day of learning about building a Multi-Tiered System of Support in your school. This training is for school teams who are new to implementing MTSS/RTI in their building or for teams who want to revive their MTSS/RTI process. Dr. Miller will give an overview of MTSS and provide insights and strategies for getting the process started in your school.

MTSS: Moving Teams Forward with Dawn Miller
February 27, 2018
9:00 - 3:00
ESU 4

If you're looking to take your MTSS/RTI process to the next level, you won't want to miss this training with Dr. Dawn Miller. Dr. Miller will provide school teams with insights and strategies for ensuring your MTSS/RTI process is systematic and effective at providing supports for all students. Strategies include the implementation of an Early Warning System to help catch struggling students early.

Save the date!

- The New Science Standards and Lesson Design K-5 - May 29, 2018
- The New Science Standards and Lesson Design 6-12 - May 30, 2018
- MTSS 101 Follow-Up with Dawn Miller - May 31, 2018
- MTSS: Moving Teams Forward Follow-Up with Dawn Miller - June 1, 2018
- The Behavior Doctor, Dr. Laura Riffel - June 4-5, 2018
- ESU 4 Data Retreat - June 7-8, 2018
- Standards Based Grading with Mitzi Hoback - June 11-12, 2018
- Principals' Retreat with Dr. Anthony Muhammad - June 15, 2018
- Motivating and Inspiring Students with Dr. Tina Boogren - June 18-19, 2018
- High Reliability Schools 101 with Dr. Phil Warrick - June 21, 2018

Special Education

Ellen Stokebrand

CPI (Crisis Prevention/Intervention) Training

1) New Staff/Certification Training

By using Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training as part of a comprehensive crisis prevention and intervention plan, you can learn how to defuse challenging and disruptive behavior before an incident escalates to a crisis situation. Successful implementation leads to a change in organizational culture, a change in adult professional behavior, and a change in staff relationships with both service users and stakeholders.

January 22-23, 2018

9:00 - 3:00

Location: TBA

Registration fee \$150.00 per person (includes training materials, meals and future recertification.)

2) Recertification Training

FULL DAY - January 29, 2018

9:00 - 3:00

Location TBA

(Registration by Invitation ONLY!)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

First Monday Zoom!!! - Join our monthly conversation to talk through supporting achievement and growth for students with disabilities. We'll begin at 3:30 and conclude between 4:15 and 4:30. Sessions will be recorded. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Monday, November 6, 2017

Updates from the Tri-State Law Conference: Change!

Monday, December 4, 2017

Defining: 1) Specially Designed Instruction, and

2) Data Monday, February 5, 2018

Monday, March 5, 2018

Monday, May 7, 2018

Please register for each session via the ESU 4 Registration website.

To receive the zoom link, you must be registered.

Dawn Miller Returns!!! -

Please refer to Professional Development information regarding Dawn's dates and information. She will be supporting ESU 4 and Nebraska's "MTSS Re-Boot" as we move forward with creating systems of support for students, both academically and behaviorally.

Monday, February 26 - MTSS 101 (for districts who are new to the process)

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

Tuesday, February 27 - MTSS Re-Boot and Re-Dedication

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

To register your teams, please refer to the ESU 4 Registration Website.

ESU 4 ASD Cadre!!!

Topics for this year will include "Circle of Friends!"

Tuesday, December 12 - ESU 4, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13 - ESU 4, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27 - ESU 4, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

--Registration is available on the ESU 4 Registration Website.

There is no cost to attend these ½ day trainings; co-hosted by the SE-ASD Project.

For more information, contact Aimee Daily

(adaily@esu4.net), Mary Flory (mary.flory@esu6.org) or

Jodie McConaughy (jmcconaughy@esu4.net)

Training Opportunities from the Southeast ASD Network for 2017-2018:

Please be sure to access our website... Southeast ASD Regional Training Site

For more information for ASD Training and webinars, please contact Mary Flory, SE-ASD Coordinator...

mary.flory@esu6.org.

ASD Webinar Reminders! This year, the ASD Network is again participating in the Tri-State Collaborative Webinar Series. These webinars will be recorded and posted on the Nebraska ASD Website. Link to 17-18 Webinar information... <http://files.constantcontact.com/7fd109d8301/142ba200-2966-4203-9a30-9bee314c1063.pdf>

Autism Internet Modules (AIM) ...

Autism Internet Modules (AIM): The Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network has partnered with the Ohio Center for Autism, the Autism Society of America, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the Geneva Centre for Autism, to support the development of a variety of user friendly, free, web training modules on issues related to autism spectrum disorders. For more information... <http://www.unl.edu/asdnetwork/training.shtml>

Special Education (continued)

Ellen Stokebrand

Region 4 Early Childhood Planning Region Team...

Planning Region Teams are an organized group of parents, advocates and representatives from school districts, agencies, educational service units, Head Start, and other relevant agencies or persons responsible for assisting in the planning and implementation of the Early Intervention Act in each local community or region. The Region 4 Early Childhood Planning Team meets every other month at the ESU 4 Office, Conference Room A. As this is an open meeting, visitors are encouraged to attend. To register, please contact Jodie McConnaughey (jmcconnaughey@esu4.net). Lunch is provided.

Dates:

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

****Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

1:00 - 3:30 p.m. - ANNUAL MEETING (Note change in time);

Family Resource Fair - 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. @ ESU 4 Learning Center (1109 R Street)

Student Health

Catrina Zentner

Ivon Johnson

Mary Jo Huettner

School Wellness Teams Training

December 4, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

It would be great for teams to include members from Food Service, Administration, Health & PE, Nurse and any other team member who is passionate about helping kids be as healthy as can be. Register online at www.esu4.org.

Questions? Email czentner@esu4.net or call 402-414-3040.

Nurses Networking Session

November 9, 2017

January 25, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

ESU 4 Learning Center

To register contact Catrina at czentner@esu4.net

NCECBVI

Sally Schreiner

A New Teacher of the Visually Impaired for ESU 4

We welcome Rachel Zahn to the outreach team at NCECBVI! Rachel is a teacher of the visually impaired serving several schools in the ESU 4 area. Prior to her role in outreach, Rachel served as a TVI at NCECBVI, after beginning her career as an English teacher in Texas. It's important to remember that if a student in your school has a verification of a visual impairment, a certified

teacher of the visually impaired must be involved with the student's team. Rachel is available for consultation, direct service, assessments, classroom observations, and can help to find materials appropriate for your student(s).

Contact Rachel if there is a student with a visual impairment in your district: rzahn@esu4.net or 402-873-5513.

Parent Workshops

Please share the following information with parents in your area:

Adapting Toys and Games for Your Child who is Blind or Visually Impaired

November 12, 2017

2:00-6:00 p.m.

NCECBVI

Need ideas for a birthday or holiday gift? Looking for toys or games specifically for students with vision loss? Would you like ideas to modify toys from 'off the shelf' to make it accessible for your child? Learn and share ideas with other parents and take part in this hands-on activity. There is no cost to attend. Students are welcome to attend and take part in social activities while parents attend the workshop. The workshop will be held from 2:00-5:00 p.m. with dinner served from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Transition Workshop for Parents of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

January 28, 2018

1:30-4:30 p.m.

NCECBVI

Parents will learn about transition and the IEP process, the Expanded Core Curriculum and its

relationship to transition, independent living, adjusting to college for people with disabilities, accessing accommodations through disability services, and agencies available to provide assistance. The workshop will be led by Leslie Wagner, NCECBVI Transition Specialist.

To register for one or both workshops, contact Tanya Armstrong: tarmstrong@esu4.net or 402-873-5513.

Paraeducator Training

Attention: Paraeducators!

January 19, 2018

12:30 - 4:00

NCECBVI

If you are working with a student with a visual impairment, we encourage you to attend a training at NCECBVI on Friday, January 19, 2018, from 12:30-4:00. The specific needs of students with visual impairments and additional disabilities will be discussed, along with strategies to use in functional and academic settings. The workshop will be led by Donna Hultman, mentor and consultant at NCECBVI. There is no cost to attend.

To register, contact Tanya Armstrong: tarmstrong@esu4.net or 402-873-5513.

Technology

Dustin Buggi Kim Robke Jake McCormick

Important Dates:

ADVISOR Ed-Fi Workday

November 7, 2017

ESU 4

9:00 - 3:00

TCadre:

December 6, 2017

ESU 4

9:00 - 3:00



ESU 4

919 16th Street
Auburn, NE 68305
402.274.4354
402.274.4356 (fax)
www.esu4.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheri Wirthele - President
Jeff Bacon - Vice President
Allison Hayes - Secretary
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Gary Schaffer- Member
Leslie Stevens - Member
Mary Stewart- Member
Lana Willman - Member

Vision of ESU 4:

Courageously leading a dynamic revolution in education!

The Mission of ESU 4 is impacting student learning through communication, accountability, and leadership.

Staff Directory

Administration

Gregg Robke
ESU 4 Administrator

Kathy Taylor
Admin Assistant

Accounting/Van Operation

Chuck Hummel
Accounting/Van

Pat Latta
Receptionist/Production Secretary

Professional Development

Suzanne Whisler
Professional Development Director

Jen Madison
Professional Development Director

Sue Knickman
Professional Development Administrative Assistant

Ben Hanika
Technology Integration Specialist

Special Education

Ellen Stokebrand
Special Education Director

Jodie McConnaughey
Special Education Assistant

Technology

Dustin Buggi
Technology Director

Kim Robke
Technology Coordinator

Jake McCormick
School Technical Support Specialist

Student Health

Catrina Zentner
Student Health Services Director

Ivon Johnson
Student Health

Mary Jo Huettner
Student Health

NCECBVI

Sally Giittinger
Administrator

Lynn Wurtele
NCECBVI Administrative Assistant

Cory Starner
Fiscal Assistant

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 4
P.O. Box 310
919 16th Street
AUBURN, NE 68305-0310

Educational Service Unit 4 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Gregg Robke, Administrator
Educational Service Unit 4
919 16th Street
Auburn, NE 68305
402-274-4354

If parents, employees, and students do not feel that their complaints regarding Title IX, Title VI, Section 504 have met with resolution at the local level, they can appeal their grievances to the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. This would be their final opportunity for resolution. This address needs to be readily available to parents, employees, and students for their appeals.

Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037
Kansas City, MO 64114
816-268-0550
Fax: 816-823-1404; TDD: 800-437-0833

