

SASSIE NEWS

Volume IV,
Edition 2

November 2007

Upcoming Events:

- **December 11**—
Deaf and Hard of
Hearing State
Roundtable
Chris Timothy
- **December 12**—
Visually Impaired
State Roundtable
Chris Timothy
- **January 11**—
Students with
Significant Disabili-
ties Focus Group
Chris Timothy
- **February 6**—
Deaf and Hard of
Hearing State
Roundtable
Chris Timothy
- **February 7**—
Visually Impaired
State Roundtable
Chris Timothy
- **February 13-15**—
Autism/Asperger
Educator Conference
Jocelyn Taylor
- **February 29**—
Utah Recruiting Fair
Bruce Schroeder
- **March 7**—
Students with
Significant Disabili-
ties State Conference
Chris Timothy
- **April 10-11**—
Positive Peer Power
Conference
Chris Timothy
- **April 15**—
Deaf and Hard of
Hearing State
Roundtable
Chris Timothy
- **April 16**—
Visually Impaired
State Roundtable
Chris Timothy
- **May 16**—
Students with
Significant
Disabilities Focus
Group
Chris Timothy

Utah Recruiting Fair

Utah Council for Exceptional Children will be arranging the annual Utah recruiting fair on Friday, **February 29, 2008** at Murray High School in Murray School District from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Additional information will be coming in December.

Autism/Asperger Educator Conference

Join us for the Autism/Asperger Educator Conference! Sessions will focus on supporting teachers in their efforts to educate students ages 0-21 with Autism Spectrum Disorders through social skills, strategies, STAR, TEACCH, SCERTS, ZIGGURAT, PECS, P.L.A.Y., ABA, Assistive technology, Book reviews, and more! The conference will be held **February 13-15** at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center.



Upcoming Events

Students with Significant Disabilities Focus Groups

The meeting last month was very successful. We discussed many issues pertaining to the "Possibilities" for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Information and books were sent out to those on the list who were not able to attend, so that they may be up to date with the group as they attend future meetings. Please put these dates in your planners, and pass them on to your representatives for the focus group.

January 11, 2008 at USOE

March 7, 2008

(Significant Disabilities Conference)

May 16, 2008 at USOE

Visually Impaired State Roundtables

The dates of the upcoming Roundtables are:

December 12, 2007

February 7, 2008

April 16, 2008

Watch for flyers to come with specifics!

Deaf and Hard of Hearing State Roundtables

The dates of the upcoming Roundtables are:

December 11, 2007

February 6, 2008

April 15, 2008

Watch for flyers to come with specifics!

Positive Peer Power Conference

This is such an exciting announcement! The Positive Peer Power Conference will be for teams of three from the LEAs: the teacher, the peer tutor, and the student. It will be full of information about how to have a successful peer tutor program. Secondary schools are invited to attend. It will be held at the Provo Marriott. Watch for complete information about the conference to come. This conference is being held **April 10-11**.

Students with Significant Disabilities State Conference

Don't forget! The Students with Significant Disabilities State Conference is being held March 7, 2008 at the Provo Marriott.

UPIPS Year-1 Data

UPIPS Year 1 LEAs –
Off-site data is due by



UPIPS Letters

All LEAs in the UPIPS process: Please review your UPIPS letters for upcoming deadlines.

Special Education Rules

The Big Black Book of Special Education Rules is at the printer. We expect the first printing order to be completed by approximately Nov. 12. In the interest of preserving trees and our budget, please consider whether any individuals or settings would be able to use a copy of the rules on CD rather than a hard copy. CDs are significantly less expensive.

2008-2009 Discretionary Personnel Preparation Grant Applications

2008/2009 Discretionary Personnel Preparation Grants Application Information is now available. The Special Education Section of the State Office of Education is requesting a letter of intent for proposed discretionary projects. Letters of Intent are due on December 1, 2007. Full Grant proposals are due January 18, 2008

There are 2 Priority Areas:
(1) Personnel Preparation: The purpose of this priority is to support projects that will improve and/or develop programs that provide personnel preparation for special education teachers and related servers to enhance the supply of highly qualified and highly skilled personnel serving Utah's students with disabilities.



(2) Access to the General Curriculum / Numeracy: Based on the May 2007 Utah Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) results indicates that 65% of Utah's students with disabilities did not achieve a proficient score in the area of math. This has underscored the need for innovative, proactive instruction and interventions in delivery models that leads to student success in the general curriculum and numeracy.

You can download a packet of Information at
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/data/applications.htm>

3-Tier Model of Reading Instruction

There extra copies of the following CD's Utah's 3 Tier Model of Reading Instruction and Tourette Syndrome. If you wish extra copies, please contact Nancy Adams at 538-7906.

Secondary Class for the Striving Reader

Language Arts Curriculum is currently working on developing guidelines for a Secondary class for the Striving reader. This should help with secondary students who are struggling with reading in the content areas.

TBI Roundtable

The TBI roundtable members are being finalized, if your LEA is not represented and wish to be represented, please contact Nancy Adams at 538-7906
We are looking at having our first meeting in December or early January.

December 1 Child Count

Due to December 1 falling on a Saturday this year, our December 1st count will really be a December 3rd count. We will use Monday December 3, 2007 as the cut off for data submission to the clearinghouse.



LEA Application

Your LEA Application is past due but still being accepted. Get your application which is on the Special Education web site, into Cal Newbold or Sandy Cox ASAP

Wendy Carver Speaking Out on Assessment

An unintended consequence of requiring districts to complete an exemption if they go over 1% **proficiency** on Utah's Alternate Assessment (UAA) is that many districts are considering how to decrease the number of students who are assessed using the UAA. There is no restriction on the number of students

who can take the UAA (participation), just proficiency. I would not be too concerned about going over 1% in the future. If the UAA is the appropriate assessment for a student then that student should take the UAA even if it takes the district over 1%. All that happens if you go over 1% is that at a district

level (not student or school level), is that the scores over 1% are converted to non-proficient. The student's score still says proficient and so does the school score. If you were one student over the 1%, then the overall proficiency score would be one less. Assuming that the scores of students who take the

UAA would be non-proficient on the CRT and any scores over 1% would be non-proficient, the score would be non-proficient in either case.

If you have questions, please contact me at wendy.carver@schools.utah.gov or at (801) 538-7639

Translation of Special Education Rules



The State Office is planning on translating the new Special Education Rules into Spanish. Additionally, Richard Gomez from Educational Equity, will be sending out a new survey within the next month that will ask what other languages will need to be included with the translation.

Please be sure to respond to that survey so that we will know which other languages we will need to include with the translation, or let the State Office know which languages will be needed.



“There aren’t any icons to click. It’s a chalk board.”

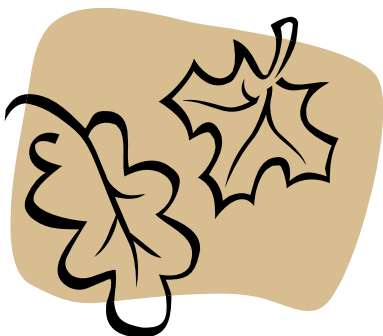
Utah to be Included!

Utah has been chosen with fourteen other states to be part of an Accessible Instructional Materials Consortium (AIM Consortium). This will be a great advantage for our state in the efforts to make alternate format materials accessible to our students.

Congratulations to Christine Timothy, the AIM State Coordinator, and to Lorri Quigley, the AIM Project Director. Watch for trainings and information on how to access alternate formats for your students!

SLD Eligibility Guidelines

Minutes of SLD eligibility guidelines workgroup are posted on the special education website under <http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/inforesource/disabilities.htm#ldmeeting>



STAR Tutoring Opportunities

Sue Okroy has been receiving requests for STAR tutoring training for special educators. Sue Okroy is willing to provide STAR tutoring training to special educators who would like to have the training.

We can conduct one for only special education teachers or they can attend any of the trainings as they are announced. If you wish to have a training for only special education teachers, please contact Janet Gibbs at 538-7716.



Update on WJIII-NU, WRAT4-PMV

The test selection (estimator disc) committee has been reviewing assessments for achievement and those that state they can be used as progress monitoring instruments. Tools that state they are for progress monitoring are reviewed using the same criteria as the Student Progress site. Progress monitoring tools will not be added to the estimator disc.

WJIII-NU

WJ has produced solid psychometric materials in the past. At this time, Riverside has not been able to provide the committee with much information on **WJIII-NU** assessment. They have given some conflicting information regarding the technical components of the

instrument. **WJIII-NU** has 3 protocols and it is stated that the instrument can be used in a tiered instruction process and used to monitor progress. Until Riverside provides the committee with the data to support their claims the **WJIII-NU** will not be on the estimator disc nor can it presently be recommended.

WRAT4-PMV

WRAT4 is being promoted as a progress monitoring tool.

The following are the PROS and CONS of this instrument.

PROS:

- Software provided
- Simple to administer
- 4 forms
- Some tests may be group administered
- Provides national norms

CONS:

- Expensive
- Weak reliabilities
- Too few items to make instructional decisions
- No Native American or Asian American students used in norms
- There are more precise measures available
- There are less expensive measures available
- CBM just as effective
- No frequent progress monitoring (more than once every 5-6 weeks).

The committee will continue to evaluate this tool to ensure accurate information is provided.