

SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICES: RELATED SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Monthly Board Report

November, 2015

For more information, please contact George Winterscheid

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The Low Incidence Regional Program grant and the NWRESD Deaf/HH program are supporting a free 6-week session of basic American Sign Language (ASL) classes for parents, staff, and community members. Classes are being held at NWRESD's Hillsboro office. Classes will be Thursday evenings from November 5th through December 17th, with no class on Thanksgiving. Classes will be taught by Emily Selee, NWRESD Teacher of the Deaf/HH. Registration can be found in English and Spanish at http://bitly.com/ASL_Classes_2015 Please contact Laurie Harrison, Coordinator of Deaf/HH Services, with any questions.

This month, our Autism Spectrum Disorder team of specialists began a training series designed to increase skills around behavior support planning. The training includes strategies for behavior progress monitoring, foundational behavior skills training, functional behavior assessment, and developing behavior support plans. The training was originally developed for the ASD team, but we opened it up to staff in our agency and local districts. Participants represent diverse professions and come from all four counties.

The "Closing the Gap" conference for assistive technology was attended by NWRESD staff members Janine Mobley, Jennifer South, and Shannon Henry, from October 12th – 16th. The focus of the conference was to learn how to better help children access their school environment and to help assistive technology teams to support school districts. The valuable information gained from this national conference will be shared out with relevant NWRESD and district staff members.

The NWRESD Deaf/HH program at Groner Elementary School in Hillsboro SD has expanded, this year! Now serving children from kindergarten through grade 7 (and looking to add an 8th grade next year, along with the rest of Groner Elementary School) there are nine Deaf/deaf and hard-of-hearing students who receive direct instruction from a teacher of the deaf/hh in this language-rich environment. Sign language interpreters support students when they are mainstreamed with hearing teachers and students, and an ASL Assistant provides academic support and language modeling for students when self-contained.