

THE SPECIAL EDITION

APRIL 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Team,

As we head into the final seven weeks of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued dedication to our students, families, and each other. This time of year can feel like a sprint to the finish, but I know we're more than capable of finishing strong together.

As a reminder, all IEPs should be finalized and any outstanding paperwork must be submitted to the Cooperative Office no later than Thursday, April 11. Your attention to these deadlines helps ensure we remain in compliance and continue to provide high-quality support to our students.

At this time, the Cooperative is navigating two formal complaints. As a result, there will be some upcoming system changes to strengthen our practices and support structures. Please stay tuned for further communication. Updates and guidance will be shared as changes are finalized.

Let's make these final seven weeks the best yet. Continue to support each other, stay focused on what matters most, and take pride in the incredible work you do every day. We are in the home stretch, and I am confident we will finish the year with excellence.

With appreciation,

Erica Bammes
Director of Special Education



MARCH KUDOS WINNER ✨



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
DIANA PHILLIPS!
NOMINATED BY EVERYONE
HERE AT THE COOP.**

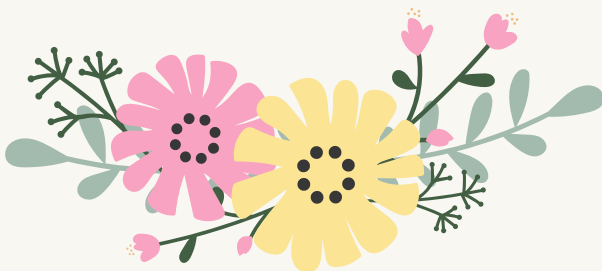
KUDOS TO...



Diana Phillips, MIS Clerk at the Coop ~ To list everything that Diana does for the cooperative would be impossible! She supports educators, related service providers, office staff, and others in numerous ways. Her depth of knowledge about all things WebKIDSS, KSDE Sped Reporting, and special education processes and procedures is an amazing asset to our cooperative staff. Her depth of love and dedication to the cooperative's students and staff members is one of the many admirable things about her. The world is truly a better place because she is in it!

Doug Davidson, Gera Steele, and Michael Peterman have stepped in to help us fill a low incidence teacher vacancy at Wamego Middle School for the 2024-25 school year. Their willingness to and flexibility in covering this classroom has been greatly appreciated this year!

Stephanie Hegarty has filled a "new to us" role here in the cooperative of IEP Writer this year. She has worked to help teachers gather & interpret data, write goals, and assist in reviews of IEPs to ensure compliance, and more! Stephanie has done a wonderful job of jumping into a role that has never been in place here in our cooperative and has worked to problem solve through any issues that came up throughout the year to best assist staff with all things IEP related.



APRIL FUN FACTS

- April's birthstone is a diamond, which symbolizes beauty, strength, happiness, and longevity
- April has two birth flowers, both the daisy and the sweet pea. The sweet pea signifies blissful pleasure, while daisies represent childhood innocence, loyalty, and purity.
- National Pillow Fight Day is April 5.
- April 7 is National No Housework Day! Whoopy!!
- "Houston, we've had a problem"! April 11, 1970 Apollo 13 launched from Cape Kennedy. Fifty-six hours later, she suffered a catastrophic explosion that crippled the ship. Fortunately, the astronauts were able to return home unharmed.
- On 15 April 1912 the Titanic, believed to be unsinkable, hit an iceberg and sank 2 hours and 40 minutes later. Unfortunately, there were too few lifeboats to save everyone and only about 700 of the 2,224 passengers were rescued.
- April 20 is Easter Sunday.

Human Resources Information



It is a requirement to have a TB test on file within 30 days of employment for every employee. **[Click this link](#)** to get the form, or you can also access the form on our website, USD320.com. Go to the MORE tab on the right at the top of the page, then to STAFF. Find the FORMS tab on the left side of the page, then to CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH. Courtney will be sending out emails to those whose form is still needed. Contact Courtney at the District Office, 785-456-7643, if you have any questions or concerns.



SAVE THE DATES

2025-2026 Back to School Meetings

Welcome Back - New Certified Sped Staff/Providers

Wednesday, July 30 - PLC Building
8:30am-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm
(lunch on your own)

ALL Certified Sped Staff/Providers

Thursday, July 31 - PLC Building
8:30am-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm
(lunch on your own)

New Para Training

Friday, August 1 in PLC Building
8:30am-Noon: Orientation
1:00-4:00pm: Required Videos

ALL Para Training

Monday, August 4
8:30am-4:00pm
(1 hour lunch on your own)
****Location TBD****

Trainings for ALL Certified Sped Staff/Providers

Wednesday, September 10 - 8:30-noon (elementary) & 1:00-4:30 (secondary)
Wednesday, November 19 - 8:30-noon (secondary) & 1:00-4:00 (elementary)
Wednesday, February 4 - 8:30-noon (elementary) & 1:00-4:30 (secondary)
Wednesday, April 15 - 8:30-noon (secondary) & 1:00-4:00 (elementary)
****Location TBD****

2025-2026 NCI Training Dates

Initial Trainings - 8:30am-3:00pm

- Tuesday, July 29 - PLC Bldg.
- Friday, August 1 - WHS Commons
- Tuesday, August 5 **
- Friday, September 19 **
- Friday, October 10 **
- Monday, November 10 **
- Monday, January 5 **
- Friday, March 6 **

Refresher Trainings - 8:30am-Noon

- Wednesday, July 30 - WHS Commons
- Wednesday, August 6 **
- Tuesday, September 22 **
- Thursday, October 16**
- Monday, January 19 **

**** Location TBD**

JOB OLYMPICS RESULTS

Here are the pictures and the results from the competition! Wamego High School had a fantastic showing, with Dalton Goff earning 1st place in Composing an Email, 2nd place in Stocking, and 3rd place in Custodial. Grace Bettencourt took home 1st place in Personal Information, while Bentley Brown secured 1st place in Sorting Mail and 2nd place in Host/Hostess. GH also had an impressive performance, winning 1st place in Rolling Silverware and 3rd place in Facing Shelves. Wabaunsee High School had great success as well, with Anthony Cherry earning 1st place in Shredding and Canyon Schmitz placing 3rd in both Shredding and Identifying Jobs. Every student from the Coop placed in at least one event—an outstanding achievement! Congratulations to all participants on their hard work and success!



END OF YEAR CHECK-OUT DATES FOR 2024-25

It's hard to believe our Coop check-out process will be here before we know it. An email from Robin will be coming soon about sign-ups and the checklist. Every sped teacher and provider **MUST** complete the check-out process at the Coop. REMINDER: You will meet with Coop office staff and do a final reflection meeting with Erica.

***All paperwork and files must be complete by your check-out appointment.**

****The IEP Due Date is Friday, April 11!****

Check-out dates and times are as follows:

USD 320

Tuesday, May 20 - 8:30-11:30 am and 1:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 21 - 8:30-11:30 am

Thursday, May 22 - 1:00-4:00 pm

USD 329

Wednesday, May 21 - 1:00-4:00 pm

USD 323

Thursday, May 22 - 1:00-4:00 pm

Friday, May 23 - 8:30-11:30 am and 1:00-3:30 pm



NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO REVIEW YOUR CASELOAD AND REMAINING IEP DUE DATES

Be sure to move up IEPs as needed to help ease the spring marathon. Reminder, the due date for all regular IEPs is April 11th. Only new placements, EC transitions, or move-in IEPs should take place after April 11. Looking ahead to fall 2025 IEPs, any annual IEP that is due on or before September 15 should be held in the Spring by April 11. Every team member in the Coop appreciates this so they are not scrambling with a beginning of the year IEP when students transition to them. Thank you for planning ahead.



The End-of-Year Staff Appreciation Breakfast will be here before we know it! Paige will soon begin working on the annual PowerPoint presentation and wants to highlight all the special moments and milestones from our USD 320 and Special Education Co-Op families. Please use [THIS FORM](#) to share any significant events that have taken place this year so we can celebrate them together!

CELEBRATIONS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ginny Gillmore - 2
David Hill - 4
Jackson Goodmiller - 7
Michelle Kirk - 8
Jeff Stuewe - 10
Olivia Fry - 14
Cindy Johnston - 14



Suzette McGuire - 16
Gloria Lewis - 16
April Shipp - 17
Savannah Barvais - 23
Sara McCarter - 24
Raleigh Willi - 25



HAPPY NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

We LOVE our Occupational Therapists!
YOU'RE THE BEST!

THANK YOU to
Amanda Marfield
Krystal Nelson (OTA)
Olivia Fry
for all you do for our students!



Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Diana Phillips
Jennifer Nider
Diane Miles
Robin Laughlin

GRATEFUL AND BLESSED

FOREVER
Thankful
ALWAYS
Grateful
ABUNDANTLY
Blessed



"Great things happen to those who don't stop believing, trying, learning, and being grateful."

ROY T. BENNETT

Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.



EXPECT
NOTHING

APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING

Even Though
the world may be in chaos right now,
I'm still truly grateful to have the gift
of a new day, a home, fresh air, sunlight,
food, water, friends and **LOVE**.
May I never take those things

For Granted.

Daily Dose
Of Inspiration



A friend is
someone who thinks
you're a good egg
even though you're
slightly cracked.

there are
so many
beautiful
Reasons
to
be
HAPPY.