



MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Mid-State Messenger

October 2022

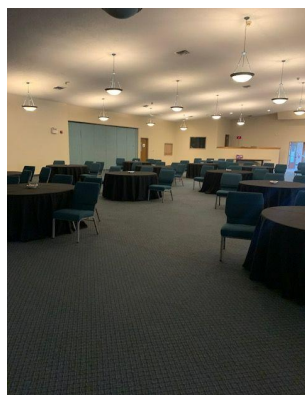
Physical Therapy Awareness Month



Help celebrate Physical Therapy Awareness Month by promoting all the wonderful things our Physical Therapy staff do for students! On behalf of Mid-State Special Education, we would like to thank **Amy Ashmore, Carie Downs, Kelli Evans, Jane Goeken, Lauren Hirner, Megan Lilley, and Deanne Perry** for their exceptional work across our 13 member districts!

Expanding Horizons

Litchfield CUSD #12 has purchased a new unit office building that will serve many purposes throughout the years. Not only does it support the unit office staff, but it also houses our technology department, has a lounge area large enough to host meetings/trainings, a large conference room where district-wide meetings and trainings are held and a back portion where the ROE Revive program is up and running. The conference room will also be hosting jazz band and choir concerts, student recognition events (FFA, NHS), our spring musical, ROE Professional Development events, SCC principals and athletic directors meetings, and Title I family nights. Litchfield's life skills programs will also soon be taking advantage of the commercial size kitchen and have plans for starting a business.



Making a Difference Award

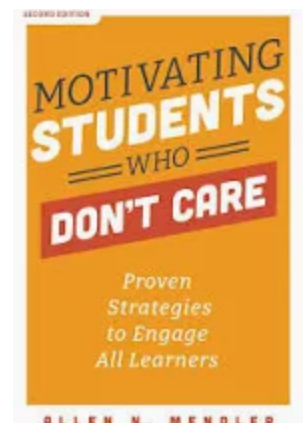


At the Mid-State Special Education Governing Board meeting on August 24th and the Executive Committee meeting on September 21st, Dr. Becky Schuchman was recognized with the "Making a Difference" award on behalf of the Mid-State Governing Board, Executive Committee, and administration. Dr. Schuchman, Superintendent of Carlinville CUSD #1, served as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. She is commended for her ongoing leadership, dedication, support of the organization, and especially for her efforts in gaining input and consensus among district leaders. Her leadership has had a positive impact in all of the 13-member districts as we work together and strive to meet the educational needs of all children knowing that we are stronger together than alone and have many benefits from our collective knowledge and resources.

October Book Study

It's not too late to sign up for the October Book Study, *Motivating Students Who Don't Care*. Sign up at: <https://www.midstatespec.org/professional-development/>

Optional zoom meetings are scheduled for: 10/3, 10/11, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31 from 3:30-3:50 pm. Zoom links are provided on the flyer, which can be found when registering for the training. 10 professional development credit hours are provided for completing 3 assignments from the choice board. Order your book and get ready to join Bobbi Fisher on October 3rd!



Positive Behavior/Positive Culture is in full swing at Panhandle School District



In honor of **National Principals Month** we are showing what our principals do to keep their schools focused on uplifting their students! The students had the opportunity to uplift their principals, uhm, or tape their principals to the wall. The picture above is just the beginning of the process. Every class/student was given the opportunity to add a piece of tape to support our principals, a couple feet off the floor. Panhandle and many other schools in the area are creating more and more opportunities to focus on what we are doing well. As we are all aware, focusing on positive behavior increases student connections to the school community, increases instructional time, reduces office referrals, reduces exclusionary discipline, improves consistent attendance, higher academic achievement, and most importantly, improves overall school climate. We applaud all the administration who are allowing your students to do crazy things in order to build a positive school environment. Thank you for providing the structure and the skill to keep all of us in line and on the right track. We support you, even if on some days we need a little extra tape to get things done!



Year 1 Mentoring & Induction

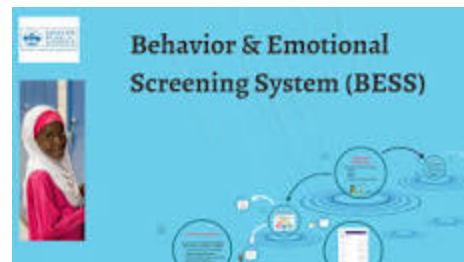
Year 1 Mentees have been busy this school year learning procedures and how to write IEPs! Mentees have already had four sessions. Topics covered include: "IEP Process", "Steps for Annual Review", "Change Sheets", "Duplicating IEPs", "IEP Student Info, Conference Summary, and Notice of Conference", "IEP Data Collection", "IEP Goal Updates", and "Writing Legally Compliant IEP goals". Meetings have been held in person and virtually. This year the Mentoring & Induction Program has added video tutorials found on the Mid-State website under RESOURCES, EMPLOYEES, MENTORING/INDUCTION.

<https://www.midstatespec.org/resources/employees/>

Check out the new videos! Even with the teacher shortage, we have a large group this year for Mentoring Year 1 and our training program has never been better!



Behavior & Emotional Screening System (BESS)



Litchfield School District recently completed its first-time social-emotional screening for all students in grades 3-12. Just like the Hillsboro school district, LCUSD has started implementing the BESS (Behavior and Emotional Screening System). The BESS is a self-report screener that gives insight into whether students are at-risk for, or already present with, social-emotional or mental health concerns. Less than 15% of districts in the United States screen for such concerns, and two of them are Mid-State districts! This screening is part of a larger initiative brought forth by the Emotional Support Team (or, esTeam) to bring expanded mental health services to LCUSD. EsTeam recently added a new social worker, a behavior analyst, and a SEL Coordinator/Counseling Intern in order to respond to the needs that are indicated from data collected on the BESS.