Conference on Behavior Issues for School Leaders

October 9 & 10, 2014

Hosted at
University of Kansas Edwards Campus
B.E.S.T. Conference Center
Overland Park, KS
WELCOME

On behalf of the Planning Committee of the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders we welcome you to the 2014 Conference on Behavior Issues for School Leaders. In planning this meeting, we recognize the critical role that competent and caring school leaders play in addressing the issues related to student behavior in schools. We hope to share with you information and effective practices across a wide range of issues and topics, and offer opportunities to network with your colleagues on these topics.

As with our earlier conferences we chose the specific topics for this conference based on a survey of building leaders - your peers - across our states. Based on that feedback, we have included a discussion session with the keynote speakers and continued the pre-conference workshops. We look forward to socializing with you at “A Night on the Town,” we are offering transportation from the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Overland Park to Prairiefire & Corbin Park shopping and entertainment district, 135th Street between Lamar Ave and Nall Ave. Participants will enjoy the engaging places to shop, dine, and be entertained. The shuttle is complementary, there are no hosted activities, and participants are free to explore their choice of dining and activities within the area.

We hope this format meets your needs. Make sure you let us know whether we have hit the mark by filling out the Conference Evaluation Form. We also invite you to assist us in planning future meetings like this one by completing the Topic Survey Form. This form gives us valuable information as we seek to plan topics and sessions that speak to your greatest area of need. If you are interested in becoming part of our advisory board that will give direct input to the planning committee, please visit with one of our committee members. Attendees may request a letter verifying attendance at the conference registration desk for submission of continuing education credit.

As you may know, the planning committee also offers a large national conference in February for a wide range of professionals who serve students with significant social, emotional or behavioral needs. We hope that you will provide information about that conference to your staff.

Think, share, discuss and enjoy!

The Planning Committee
2014 School Leaders Conference Planning Committee

Linda Geier, Co-Chair, Positive Behavior Supports Coordinator, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Marc Benedetto, Co-Chair, Westside Community Middle School, Omaha, Nebraska
Terry Bigby, Kansas City Kansas Public School District
Joyce Downing, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri
Lisa Bowman-Perrott, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas
Catherine DeSalvo, Wagner Middle School, Boys Town, Nebraska
Susan Dillinger, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas
Doug Eicher, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Missouri
Deb Griswold, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
Joan Johnson, Lee’s Summit School District, Lee’s Summit, Missouri
Reece Peterson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska
Cindy Scarbrough, Marysville Junior High, Marysville, Kansas
Carl Smith, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
Cheryl Young, Montana State University, Billings, Montana
Keri Frey, MSLBD Manager, Hickman, Nebraska

2014 Advisory Board Members

A special thank you to several individuals who helped provide input regarding issues, trends, and topics that they see as being the most relevant to school leaders and their behavior management teams for this conference.

Sherry Dumolien, USD 232-DeSoto, Kansas
SuAnn Grant, Fort Leavenworth & Easton, Kansas
Kevin Miles, Bellevue Public Schools, Bellevue, Nebraska
David Sheppard, Marion County SPED Coop #617, Kansas
Richard Talbott, Lebanon High School, Missouri
Karen Westhoff, Cooperating School District, St. Louis, Missouri
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. Registration/Information Desk Open BEST BUILDING LOBBY

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 1ST FLOOR BEST BUILDING

Workshop #1 Empowering Teachers to Prevent and Manage Problem Behavior: Putting Theory into Practice BEST ROOM 130

The focus of this presentation is putting theory into practice. This presentation will explain the theory behind effective principles of behavior management and then explain how those principles work in practice. These principles will include effective strategies for school-wide positive behavioral supports and how to empower teachers to prevent and manage problem behaviors within their own classrooms.

Philip Nordness, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Special Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha and John Cannon, Principal, USD 405, Lyons, Kansas

Workshop #2 Forty Intervention Strategies for Building Student Engagement to Reduce Disciplinary Exclusion and Dropout BEST ROOM 135

Reducing the use of exclusionary discipline consequences (suspension and expulsion), and reducing student dropout are national goals and are related! This session suggests over 40 strategies, which schools can use as part of a school improvement planning process for both goals. “Strategy briefs” describe each intervention strategy, identify how the strategy fits a three-tiered model of intervention, and describes evidence regarding effectiveness. Strategies describe many interventions related to improving student behavior and graduation rates.

Reece Peterson, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Workshop #3 Putting the Pieces Together: Promoting Academic, Behavior, and Social Success for Students with Autism BEST ROOM 125

As the prevalence of individuals diagnosed with Autism continues to rise, school leaders need to be equipped to respond to student, staff, and parent needs. This session will cover the social, communication and behavioral needs of students with Autism, as well as how these impact their academic progress. The session will also include effective, research-based practices for educating students with Autism. Community resources available to staff and parents will be explored. The importance and power of having open, honest, and respectful relationships with parents will be discussed. Finally, a variety of legal and ethical issues that exist regarding the education of students with Autism will be presented.

Shari Hardinger, M.S.Ed., MSSL, Autism Behavior Specialist, Shawnee Mission Kansas School District

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch provided for Workshop Participants BEST CONFERENCE CENTER

Participants
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 9, 2014
CONFERENCE BEGINS

8:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.  Registration/Information Desk Open  BEST BUILDING LOBBY

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  KEYNOTE SESSION 1  BEST CONFERENCE CENTER
How to Coach Teachers to Improve Classroom Management
Success for students with behavior challenges does not happen by accident, it requires intentional efforts by school personnel beginning with the school leaders. Leaders need to provide meaningful coaching for teachers that is individualized to the teacher’s strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Van Acker will discuss key ideas on coaching teachers to improve classroom management based on his 40 years of experience as an educator, researcher, advocate, and consultant.

Richard Van Acker, Ed.D., Emeritus Professor of Special Education University of Illinois at Chicago

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.  SET I - CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TOPIC A  A Discussion and Interaction Session with the Keynote, Not Repeated  BEST CONFERENCE CENTER
This session will feature Dr. Van Acker and is set aside for dialog, discussion, and audience questions.

TOPIC B  Innovations = Meaningful Outcomes  BEST RM 130
Technology innovations increasingly are viewed as the critical tool for student success from everything to the Common Core to state assessment. This session will focus on innovations (including Apps, mobile devices) that increasingly alter student outcomes in behavior, social emotional development, adaptive skills, and of course, academic achievement. Participants will explore how frameworks like Universal Design for Learning, when aligned with innovative solutions, can alter meaningful inclusion for struggling learners and those with disabilities. Participants will leave with a list of innovative solutions, ideas to embed them in educational interventions, and ways to further evaluate learner outcomes as a result of the technology tools.

Sean Smith, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas, Lawrence

TOPIC C  The Effect of Disability, Race, and SES on the Length of Time Until Suspension, and What To Do About It  BEST RM 135
This presentation presents survival, and hazard rates of disciplinary exclusions of students with and without disabilities. These results provide information on the amount of time that passes within a school year for certain groups to receive a suspension. These results are then used to inform times necessary to screen students within a multi-tiered system and planning interventions.

Mickey Losinski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

SET I Concurrent Breakout Sessions continued on next page
The Legal Consequences of Clicking “Send”.

Although intended to make life easier, emails, text messages, tweets, social networking posts and other forms of electronic communication have potential legal implications. Electronic communication can be considered a business record, a public record, and education record, a special education record or a hearing exhibit. Before clicking “send,” you should consider which category the communication falls into and the implications of that classification. Attorney Karen Hasse will help you make that determination through a review of recent special education cases that address the five categories and their legal significance. You’ll get practical suggestions on how to continue to use these technologies to serve students without jeopardizing your legal position.

Karen Haase, Esq., Harding & Shultz, P.C., L.L.O., Lincoln, NE

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. 
Break with Refreshments

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SET II – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TOPIC B 
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TOPIC E
Understanding the Legal Implications for Students with Disabilities Related to Bullying and Harassment.

This interactive session will provide a review including examples from legal cases involving bullying and/or harassment of students with disabilities. Guidance and risk management strategies for the prevention of such situations will be included in the session.

Michael G. Norris, Esq., Norris & Keplinger LLC, Kansas City, MO area and Erin Dugan, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Olathe Public Schools, Olathe, KS

6:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Social Event – “A Night on the Town”
See Conference Registration/Information Desk for details and complementary transportation from the hotel.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014
CONFERENCE CONTINUES

7:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Registration/Information Desk Open  BEST BUILDING LOBBY

7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.  Continental Breakfast  BEST CONFERENCE CENTER

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.  KEYNOTE SESSION 2  BEST CONFERENCE CENTER

It’s Bigger Than That: A District Leader’s Perspective on Inclusion
Dr. Weast has spent 35 years as a school superintendent in districts small and large. His perspective on meeting the needs of students with behavior disorders is not based on direct classroom experience and admits that the horizon looks different from that vantage point than it does at the schoolhouse level. “What I hope you will take away from our time together is a fuller understanding of the complexities and competition inherent in meeting the needs of every child, and potential solutions to the structural and cultural obstacles to the singular challenges of delivering on that promise for children with special needs, from preschool to high school.”
Jerry D. Weast, Ed.D., Founder and CEO Partnership for Deliberate Excellence, LLC, North Potomac, Maryland

9:30 – 9:45 p.m.  Break  BEST BUILDING LOBBY

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.  SET III - CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TOPIC F  A Discussion and Interaction Session  BEST CONFERENCE CENTER
with the Keynote, Not Repeated
This session will feature Dr. Weast and is set aside for dialog, discussion, and audience questions.

TOPIC G  Integrating Reading, Math, Behavior and Social Domains to Achieve Positive Student Outcomes  BEST RM 135

Comprehensive, Integrated, Three-tiered (CI3T) models of prevention address academic, behavioral, and social supports and interventions. When designed, implemented, and evaluated with high fidelity, CI3T models are associated with positive student outcomes. Schools that embrace academic, behavioral, and social supports on a continuum within prevention-based models benefit from general and special education collaboration, universal screening of academics and behavior, data-based decision making, and professional development opportunities.
Linda Wilkerson, M.S.Ed. Tertiary Behavior Support Coordinator TASN and Kelcey Schmitz, M.S.Ed., Behavior Specialist, TASN, Lawrence, KS

SET III Concurrent Breakout Sessions continued on next page
TOPIC H
Obesity and Asthma and Headaches, Oh My!*
Physical Health Problems of Youth with Behavioral and Emotional Difficulties
The psychosocial challenges facing youth with behavioral and emotional issues are well-documented; however, the physical health of these youth has been largely overlooked. This session will describe the complex interplay between behavior, emotion, and physical health. We will review recent research examining physical health problems among youth with emotional and behavioral difficulties and consider the possible implications of comorbid mental and physical health problems in school settings. Recommendations for working with youth with both behavioral and medical issues will be provided, including practical suggestions for collaborating with medical professionals; incorporating physical health problems into individualized education plans; and educating administrators, teachers, and families on how to address physical health problems within an educational setting.

Tori Van Dyk, M.A., Doctoral Candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

TOPIC I
LEGAL STRAND
Behavior Intervention Plans: A Legal Analysis of Issues
This session will present the IDEA 2004 requirements for Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs) and provide a review of the case law pertaining to BIPs. The case law on seclusion and restraint will also be overviewed, with a discussion of the presenter’s recent manuscript, Seclusion and Restraint Practices with Students with Disabilities: A Legal Analysis of Issues & Recommendations for Professional Practice. A specific case involving seclusion and restraint – for which the presenter served as the Administrative Law Judge – will be highlighted.

Susan Larson Etscheidt, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education at the University of Northern Iowa and served as an administrative law judge for special education appeals in Iowa from 1991 to 2010, Cedar Falls, IA

10:45 – 11:00 p.m. Break

BEST BUILDING LOBBY

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. SET IV – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TOPIC G
Integrating Reading, Math, Behavior and Social Domains to Achieve Positive Student Outcomes
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Tori Van Dyk, M.A., Doctoral Candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

TOPIC J

LEGAL STRAND, Not Repeated

What Color is Your Discipline?

The U.S. departments of Education and Justice have joined forces to issue guidance on how school leaders can ensure that discipline policies are written and applied in a manner that does not discriminate against racial or ethnic groups. A “Dear Colleague Letter” issued in January, emphasized every school’s obligation to fair and nondiscriminatory discipline and pledged that the departments would continue to investigate all complaints received. This session will give participants a deeper understanding of the legal implications of the “Dear Colleague Letter” and provide suggestions on what schools and districts can do to ensure compliance with the law while maintaining safe and secure learning environments. In addition to legal standards for liability, participants will learn what to expect if a complaint is filed with OCR. Alternatives to suspension and expulsion will also be presented.

Cynthia Lutz Kelly, Esq., Topeka Public School, House Counsel and Linda J. Geier, School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Coordinator, Tulsa Public Schools

12:00 p.m.  

Box Lunch

12:25 – 1:45 p.m.  

PANEL SESSION

Lunch and Learn: Alternatives to Disciplinary Consequences

School leaders are charged with ensuring a safe learning environment for all students. At the same time, it is the responsibility of schools to reach and teach students who, sometimes, present extremely challenging behaviors. This discussion will allow participants to join in a “real” discussion centered on putting theory into practice: How do we put the alternatives demonstrated throughout the conference into place in our unique settings?

Panel: Susan Larson Etscheidt, Cynthia Lutz Kelly, and Reece Peterson, Moderator

2:00 p.m.  

Conference Adjourns
2014 Conference on Behavior for School Leaders

List of Presenters

John Cannon  
USD 405  
Lyons, Kansas  
jcannon@usd405.com

Erin Dugan  
Olathe Public Schools  
Olathe, Kansas  
dugane@olatheschools.org

Susan Larson Etscheidt  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa  
susan.etscheidt@uni.edu

Karen Haase, Esq.  
Harding & Shultz, P.C., LLO.  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
www.hslegalfirm.com

Cynthia Lutz Kelly, Esq.  
Topeka Public School  
kellency@topeka.k12.ks.us

Linda Geier  
Tulsa Public Schools  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
geierli@tulsaschools.org

Shari Hardinger  
Shawnee Mission Kansas School District  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas  
sharihardinger@smsd.org

Mickey Losinski  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, Kansas  
mlosins@k-state.edu

Philip Nordness  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Omaha, Nebraska  
pnordness@unomaha.edu

Michael G. Norris, Esq.  
Norris & Keplinger LLC  
Overland Park, Kansas  
www.nkfirm.com

Reece L. Peterson  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
rpeterson1@unl.edu

Kelcey Schmitz  
Kansas’ Technical Assistance System Network (TASN), Lawrence, Kansas  
www.ksdetasn.org  
kschmitz@keystonelearning.org

Sean J. Smith  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas  
seanj@ku.edu

Tori Van Dyk  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
tsmith18@huskers.unl.edu

Richard Van Acker  
Emeritus Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois  
vvanacker@uic.edu

Jerry D. Weast  
Founder and CEO Partnership for Deliberate Excellence, LLC, North Potomac, Maryland

Linda Wilkerson  
Kansas’ Technical Assistance System Network (TASN), Lawrence, Kansas  
www.ksdetasn.org  
lwilkers@kumc.edu