

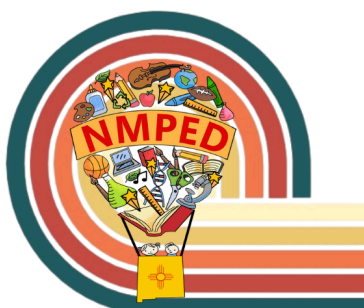
2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION Winter Director's Academy

PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITY

EVERY STUDENT EVERY FUTURE

DRAFT AGENDA | DAY 1 - Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Time	Sessions		
8:00 am-8:30 am	Check-In at Registration		
8:30 am-8:45 am	Welcome and Housekeeping - REC-9 Staff		
8:45 am-9:15 am	Welcome Introductions and Opening Remarks Deputy Cabinet Secretary Jill Vice and OSE Staff		
9:15 am-9:30 am	Break		
9:30 am-11:00 am	Keynote Speaker: Kevin Honeycutt		
11:00 am-12:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)		
12:30 pm-1:45 pm	New Directors Foundations for the New Director: An Overview of Regulatory Requirements <i>Dr. Melvina Edmister - Ruidoso</i> <i>Taryn Fogle - Hatch Valley</i>	Monitoring for Success: A Collaborative Approach to Supporting Student Outcomes in New Mexico <i>Randall Rapanut - OSE NMPED</i>	Diploma Pathways- Next Step Plan and Improving Graduation Rates for SWD <i>Ria Gill- OSE</i> <i>Judith Cruz-CCRB</i>
1:45 pm-2:00 pm	Break		
2:00 pm-3:15 pm	New Directors Foundations for the New Director: An Overview of Regulatory Requirements <i>Melvina Edmister - Ruidoso</i> <i>Taryn Fogle - Hatch Valley</i>	So, you have a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Now what? <i>Dr. Elizabeth Cassel</i> <i>Randy Rapanut</i>	Diploma Pathways- Next-Step Plan and Improving Graduation Rates for SWD <i>Ria Gill- OSE NM PED</i> <i>Judith Cruz-CCRB</i>
3:15 pm-3:30 pm	Break		
3:30 pm-4:45 pm	Strengthening Post-Secondary Transition Supports <i>Krystal Wood - OSE NMPED</i> <i>Charlene Chavez-DVR</i> <i>Alex Rios - UNM/CDD Project Search</i>	So, you have a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Now what? <i>Dr. Elizabeth Cassel</i> <i>Randy Rapanut</i>	Breaking Down Barriers: Special Education Strategies for Students Experiencing Homelessness or Foster Care.. <i>Simone Vann and Dana Malone- AIR NMPED</i>



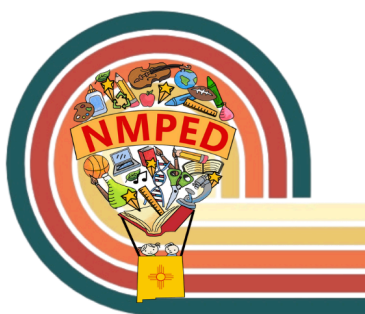
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DRAFT AGENDA | DAY 2 January 14, 2026

Time	Sessions		
8:00 am-8:30 am	Check-In at Registration		
8:30 am-8:45 am	Welcome from OSE and Overview from Day 1 Deputy Cabinet Secretary Jill Vice and OSE Staff		
8:45 am-9:45 am	All Member Presentation - FBA/BIP/Positive Behavioral Interventions: When are they required, and how do we do them well? Theresa Nicholls, PartnerEd Solutions, and Natalie Campbell, OSE NMPED (Confirmed)		
9:45 am-10:00 am	Break		
10:00 am-11:15 am	New Directors Moving from Reactive to Proactive Leadership. Pro-tips for planning in advance. Steven Starkovich - Alamogordo, NM CASE Sonia Lawson -	How to Avoid State Complaints and Information on Current Legal Cases Miguel Lozano - Deputy General Counsel, NM PED Natalie Campbell, Supervising Counsel, OSE NM PED	Supporting the Holistic Well-Being, Social-Emotional Learning, and Physical and Mental Health of Students with Disabilities in New Mexico Dr. Soña (Magdalena) Saiz - Safe and Healthy Schools NM PED
11:15 am-12:45 pm	Lunch (on your own)		
12:45 pm-2:00 pm	New Directors Moving from Reactive to Proactive Leadership. Pro-tips for planning. Steven Starkovich - Alamogordo, NM CASE Sonia Lawson	How to Avoid State Complaints and Information on Current Legal Cases Natalie Campbell, Supervising Counsel, OSE NM PED	Support for Students, Teachers, and Parents in the Educational Environment and Cultural Considerations: Autism 101 for Directors and Administrators Dr. Maria Mendez - UNM CDD
2:00 pm-2:15 pm	Break		
2:15 pm-3:30 pm	Introduction to the Medical and Educational Diagnostic Interagency Network (MEDIAN) Project: Strategies for Special Education Leaders to Enhance and Expand Autism Evaluation Capacity Dr. Marybeth Graham Dr. Ann Branscum	Breaking Down Barriers: Special Education Strategies for Students Experiencing Homelessness or Foster Care. Simone Vann and Dana Malone- AIR NMPED	Support for Students, Teachers, and Parents in the Educational Environment and Cultural Considerations: Autism 101 for Directors and Administrators Dr. Maria Mendez - UNM CDD



2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION Winter Director's Academy

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DRAFT AGENDA | DAY 3 January 15, 2026

Time	Sessions		
7:30 am-8:00 am	Check-In at Registration		
8:00 am-9:15 am	Introduction to the Medical and Educational Diagnostic Interagency Network (MEDIAN) Project: Strategies for Special Education Leaders to Enhance and Expand Autism Evaluation Capacity NMSU Dr. Marybeth Graham Dr. Ann Branscum	How to Support and Keep Your Special Education Teachers: Higher-Education Opportunities, Recruitment, and Retention Chandler Farnsworth- NM HED Lisa Faith, Teach New Mexico	Systems Shape Behavior: Leadership for Inclusive Schools Jennifer Bossow
9:15 am-9:30 am	Break		
9:30 am-10:45 am	A Special Education Director's Guide to Supporting EL Students with Disabilities Kirsi Laine, Student, School, and Family Support Division NM PED (Confirmed)	Cradle to Career - Supporting Preschoolers to Graduation Parentally placed preschoolers and proportionate share, understanding Part B to C, updates on universal childcare in NM Lucia Garcia - ECECD Leah Davidson - ECECD Monica Terrazas - Childcare Bureau Monica Santistevan - OSE NM PED	Systems Shape Behavior: Leadership for Inclusive Schools Jennifer Bossow
10:45 am-11:00 am	Break		
11:00 am-12:15 pm	A Special Education Director's Guide to Supporting EL Students with Disabilities Kirsi Laine, Student, School, and Family Support Division NM PED	Leading Well: Sustainable Self-Care and Wellness for Education Leaders LeeAnne Gandy, Director of Leadership Development, Cooperative Educational Services (CES)	Monitoring for Success: A Collaborative Approach to Supporting Student Outcomes in New Mexico Randall Rapanut - OSE NMPED