

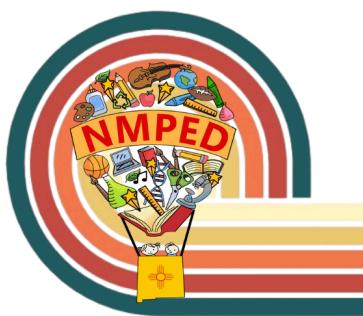


# 2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION Winter Director's Academy

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



# 2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION Winter Director's Academy

## PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITY EVERY STUDENT EVERY FUTURE

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	<b>Welcome from OSE and Overview from Day 1</b> Deputy Cabinet Secretary Jill Vice and OSE Staff		
8:45 am-9:45 am	<b>All Member Presentation</b> - 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	<b>New Directors</b> <b>Moving from Reactive to Proactive Leadership. Pro-tips for planning in advance.</b> Steven Starkovich - Alamogordo, NM CASE Sonia Lawson -	<b>How to Avoid State Complaints and Information on Current Legal Cases</b> Miguel Lozano - Deputy General Counsel, NM PED Natalie Campbell, Supervising Counsel, OSE NM PED	<b>Supporting the Holistic Well-Being, Social-Emotional Learning, and Physical and Mental Health of Students with Disabilities in New Mexico</b> 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	<b>New Directors</b> <b>Moving from Reactive to Proactive Leadership. Pro-tips for planning.</b> Steven Starkovich - Alamogordo, NM CASE Sonia Lawson	<b>How to Avoid State Complaints and Information on Current Legal Cases</b> Natalie Campbell, Supervising Counsel, OSE NM PED	<b>Support for Students, Teachers, and Parents in the Educational Environment and Cultural Considerations:</b> Autism 101 for Directors and Administrators Dr. Maria Mendez - UNM CDD
2:00 pm-2:15 pm	Break		
2:15 pm-3:30 pm	<b>Introduction to the Medical and Educational Diagnostic Interagency Network (MEDIAN) Project: Strategies for Special Education Leaders to Enhance and Expand Autism Evaluation Capacity</b> Dr. Marybeth Graham Dr. Ann Branscum	<b>Breaking Down Barriers: Special Education Strategies for Students Experiencing Homelessness or Foster Care.</b> Simone Vann and Dana Malone- AIR NMPED	<b>Support for Students, Teachers, and Parents in the Educational Environment and Cultural Considerations:</b> Autism 101 for Directors and Administrators Dr. Maria Mendez - UNM CDD



# 2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION Winter Director's Academy

## PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITY EVERY STUDENT EVERY FUTURE

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	<b>Introduction to the Medical and Educational Diagnostic Interagency Network (MEDIAN) Project: Strategies for Special Education Leaders to Enhance and Expand Autism Evaluation Capacity</b>  NMSU Dr. Marybeth Graham Dr. Ann Branscum	<b>How to Support and Keep Your Special Education Teachers: Higher-Education Opportunities, Recruitment, and Retention</b>  Chandler Farnsworth- NM HED Lisa Faith, Teach New Mexico	<b>Systems Shape Behavior: Leadership for Inclusive Schools</b> Jennifer Bossow
9:15 am-9:30 am	Break		
9:30 am-10:45 am	<b>A Special Education Director's Guide to Supporting EL Students with Disabilities</b>  Kirsi Laine, Student, School, and Family Support Division NM PED (Confirmed)	<b>Cradle to Career - Supporting Preschoolers to Graduation</b> 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	<b>Systems Shape Behavior: Leadership for Inclusive Schools</b> Jennifer Bossow
10:45 am-11:00 am	Break		
11:00 am-12:15 pm	<b>A Special Education Director's Guide to Supporting EL Students with Disabilities</b>  Kirsi Laine, Student, School, and Family Support Division NM PED	<b>Leading Well: Sustainable Self-Care and Wellness for Education Leaders</b>  LeeAnne Gandy, Director of Leadership Development, Cooperative Educational Services (CES)	<b>Monitoring for Success: A Collaborative Approach to Supporting Student Outcomes in New Mexico</b>  Randall Rapanut - OSE NMPED