

Stanley County School District #57-1

Coordination/Transition Plan

Fort Pierre, SD

2014-2015

Mission:

To prepare and challenge students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens in a global society.

Coordination Team

Michelle Glodt	Elementary Principal, Title 1 Contact, SCSD
Krystal Simons	Special Education Director, SCSD
Sue Glodt	Oahe Child Development Center/Head Start
Danielle Youngbluth	Oahe Child Development Center/Head Start
Ashleigh Baker	Kindergarten Teacher, SCSD
Leah Peterson	Early Childhood Teacher, SCSD
Jeri Wilcox	Speech Clinician, SCSD
Christy Schilling	Pre-school/Daycare Provider
Shannon Schweitzer	Parent

Program Development

Children moving into kindergarten when they reach the age of five experience a major milestone in their life. To assist with this transition, the Stanley County School District has safeguards in place to help assure that students entering kindergarten are developmentally ready for this step. These safeguards include that the student is developmentally ready to enter kindergarten. Many services are provided prior to, during, and after kindergarten to continue a successful transition.

Transition Team Meeting:

Date:

Participants/Agenda

Coordination/Collaboration

The Stanley County School District will coordinate Title 1, Special Education, Head Start, and other preschool programs to transition children into kindergarten. Representatives from these various entities will serve on the Transition Team. A minimum of one meeting will be held annually.

Head Start/Preschool Programs:

Prior to Kindergarten Roundup (Kindergarten Screening) held in the district, SCSD will contact these agencies to provide information regarding upcoming transition activities. An Interagency Agreement

between the Stanley County School District and Oahe Child Development Center (Head Start) is developed and reviewed annually.

Special Education Services:

Transition meetings for students on IEPs entering kindergarten will be conducted with parents of each student. These transition meetings may include service providers, parents, kindergarten teacher, building principal, and special education director.

Communication

Communication between the school, parents, and early childhood agencies will be an on-going process. Parents and agencies serving prospective students will be notified of transition activities. Notification of Kindergarten Roundup and Early Childhood Screenings will be made available to parents through a variety of methods including: mailings to preschool and Head Start programs, announcements in school newsletter, district website, newspaper, and radio.

Transition Process

The purpose of the Transition Plan is to make sure parents are informed that the school district is ready to assist them as their child transitions into kindergarten. The plan will help parents know what the school's expectations are, what services are available, and how to get help when they need it.

Early childhood: Stanley County School District serves student with disabilities beginning at age 3 if they are identified with a disability.

The district has a child-find procedure which helps to identify qualifying students. Services available in early childhood include: speech, PT, OT, and if needed cognitive services with a certified teacher who work on teaching the children skills to be successful in kindergarten. To ease the transition to kindergarten, the IEP team meets prior to the kindergarten year to discuss accommodations and needs each child might have.

Head Start: Two documents, an Interagency Agreement and Transition Plan, guide the district and Head Start staff and parents in the areas of referrals/screenings, communications, service coordination, training and resources, and transitions.

Parents are offered:

- **Assistance in becoming their child's advocate**
- **Assistance with communicating with their child's teacher and service providers**
- **A transition book**
- **Information about Kindergarten Roundup**
- **An opportunity to speak to a district kindergarten teacher about expectations and ask questions**
- **Assistance with preparing documents required by the school system**

Kindergarten Roundup: A district-wide Kindergarten Screening is conducted in the spring of each school year. The screening serves three purposes: Parents gain insight on the developmental levels and readiness of their child, federal program requirements for early identification and intervention are maintained, and district staff gather preliminary numbers of students to begin planning for fall classes. Parents and incoming students are scheduled. Students are screened by kindergarten teachers, and the speech clinician is available for speech concerns. Parents complete required paperwork and enrollment information. At the conclusion of the screening, parents receive a summary of the screening and a report

to parents. In addition, program options available for students entering public school are discussed in relation to the developmentally appropriate placement for their child.

Transfer of Records

Head Start transition specialists coordinate the transfer of records with the school district to ensure that relevant records are transferred. Head Start staff meet with every parent in the spring to discuss the transition plan and needs for their child as he/she moves into their program to the Stanley County School District. This transition plan includes areas for the parents to work on with their child, seeking parent permission to share information with the school district, etc.

Early childhood staff transfer records in-district as needed.

A cumulative folder is started for all children attending Kindergarten Roundup. All records (copies of birth certificates, immunization records, etc.) and school forms collected at that time and all screening documents are placed in the cumulative folder.

Professional Development

Joint transition related training will be organized with school staff, Head Start staff, and other early childhood programs as needs are identified. These may include early childhood topics, kindergarten readiness issues, developmentally appropriate practices, early childhood/kindergarten expectations, and/or assessments.

Parent Involvement and Education

Prior to students entering the public school, publications are often made available through Head Start and private preschool programs for distribution to parents. For example, copies of the brochure *Building Blocks: A Guide to Reading Readiness* (produced by the South Dakota Parent Resource Network) are shared.

A variety of information regarding Kindergarten readiness is provided to parents at Kindergarten Roundup.

A minimum of one Title I meeting is scheduled each year. Parents receive information on the Title I program and specific ideas on topics such as helping their child to read.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Parents of kindergarten students will be surveyed asking for feedback on their experience with Kindergarten Roundup. Kindergarten teachers and the Coordination/Transition team will evaluate the responses /results of the surveys and consider changes and/or modifications to the district Transition Plan and Kindergarten Roundup.

An annual meeting will be scheduled each spring to review, evaluate, and revise the Coordination/Transition Plan. Parents, the district and sending agencies will be involved in the evaluation process. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed.