



# South Dakota Education Service Agency Region 7 Newsletter

*Serving school districts in the Black Hills area and southwestern South Dakota*

*Summer 2005*

## **Keep That Disk Safe**

*by Roxanne Everhard*

**We** are wrapping up this school year and next year seems a long way off. While planning those long, relaxing days of summer vacation, it is important to be completed soon. **That task is to designate someone at your school to receive your school's data disk and to keep it safe and secure.**

Once the Department of Education completes the compilation of data from the Dakota STEP test, they will be sending a disk to each district with results for each student in the district.

It is very important that each district designate a person to receive and be responsible for the disk. Additionally, the information should be reviewed for accuracy. Any errors need to be reported to the state in a timely manner so that corrections can be made. Last year, some districts discovered too late that incorrect information may have put them into the School Improvement category unnecessarily.

Your school should also contact your ESA representative once the disk is checked and any corrections made. The ESA is planning to use the disk to generate the DAT/SAT report (also known as the MAPLE Analysis report) for your school. These reports have an easy-to-read and understand representation of where your school is now and projections for future years based on the data disk information.

All ESA 6 & 7 schools are eligible to receive these reports regardless of whether they are an improvement or not. Those schools that are conducting data retreats will receive scheduling priority for the generation of these reports.

The reports are utilized during the data retreats and during the development of School Improvement Plans.

## **SD READS**

*by Barb Rowenhorst*

**We** are very fortunate to have received funding for our last year of SD READS. We had three successful years as AREA and at the end of 2006, will have completed three successful years as SD READS - for a total of six years of literacy professional development opportunities.

During the 2005-06 school year, we will continue as a partner project under ESA 6 and ESA 7. We are currently contacting administrators and teachers in ESA 6-7 to register for next year's training. Once that has been completed, we will gear up for our final year.

Thanks to all of you for your supportive words in response to questions from the Department of Education and the legislature. We feel that we have a wonderful professional development system, but it's always nice to hear it from the administrators.

## **New Teacher Certification Rules**

**N**ew rules concerning teacher certification and renewal credits take effect on July 1, 2005.

For specific information about changes go to the South Dakota Department of Education's website [www.state.sd.us/deca/OPA](http://www.state.sd.us/deca/OPA) or contact Deedra Gesinger at (605) 773-6934 or Jantina Nelson-Stastny at (605) 773-5470.

We're looking forward to working with the ESA 6 & 7 staff, administrators, and teachers during the upcoming school year

## ATOMIC LEARNING

by Tammy Bauck

During the 2005 TIE conference, it was announced that the South Dakota Department of Education had finalized a 14 month agreement with Atomic Learning to provide their web-based services to all South Dakota K-12 schools for free.

This statewide agreement provides South Dakota teachers, students, and parents with 24 x 365 access to Atomic Learning's ([www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com)) award winning web-based software training and tutorials. The training is delivered via short (one to three minute), easy-to-understand movies that provide personal, on-demand answers to those 'How do I do that?' questions.

Atomic Learning, Inc. was formed in 2000 by a group of technology educators with a mission to create useful online products focused on teaching people how to effectively use technology. Atomic Learning delivers a library of thousands of short, easy-to-view-and-understand tutorial movies that can be used as an integral part of a professional development program, a valuable curriculum supplement, and an anytime/anywhere software training resource.

For more information, visit their website at: [www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com). A user ID and password are necessary to access the videos. Contact Gay Pickner at South Dakota Department of Education for this information—[Gay.Pickner@state.sd.us](mailto:Gay.Pickner@state.sd.us).

## ESA 6 & 7 Work Groups

by Micky Wienk

Personnel from ESA 6 and 7 and the partner projects have been working together to develop strategies for filling the needs of both region's schools during the 2005-06 school year. The work plans for both regions were reviewed and refined. Planning focused on strategy books and guides for helping schools during data retreats, school improvement planning, professional development, and classroom-based assessment.

**The following personnel will be working together to serve the needs of the schools in both regions:**

### Region 6 Education Specialists

Lucy Atwood ~ (605) 856-2151  
Tammy Bauck ~ (605) 224-6287  
Roxanne Everhard ~ (605) 259-3567  
Craig DeTample ~ (605) 224-6287  
Micky Wienk ~ (605) 394-1876

### Region 7 Education Specialists

Sandy Gaspar ~ (605) 394-1876  
Pam Lange ~ (605) 394-1876  
Debbie O'Doan ~ (605) 394-1876  
June Preszler ~ (605) 394-1876

### Partner Projects

Jamie Morris - Project ENRICH ~ (605) 224-6287  
Laurie Bedford - Project ENRICH ~ (605) 394-1876  
Lori Laughlin - SD Parent Resource Network ~ (605) 394-1876  
Barb Rowenhorst - SD READS ~ (605) 718-4356  
Marcia Torgrude - AIMS and TIE Membership ~ (605) 394-1876

## Curriculum Mapping Grant Recipients

**Congratulations to the following ESA 6 and 7 schools that were awarded Curriculum Mapping Grants for the 2005-06 school year—**

- Stanley County School District
- Todd County School District
- Hot Springs School District
- New Underwood School District
- Newell School District

## Core Reading Programs

by Debbie O'Doan

ESAs across the state are supporting schools in making curriculum decisions about core reading programs. If your district is considering a new elementary reading program, please contact your ESA educational specialist.

A common question is—Are there differences between Reading First and SD READS, and if so, what are they? These programs, though both are found throughout the state, are very different in their make-up.

Reading First is a grant that was awarded to 14 districts across the state; schools that had low test scores and some other demographic factors were encouraged to apply. Reading First schools have a tough reading goal—All students will be proficient in reading by the end of 3rd grade.

Reading First is not a curriculum. There are no “recommended” texts or materials or “approved programs” in Reading First; however, they must be Scientifically Research Based and provide instruction in essential areas of reading for the majority of the students. Reading First is Prevention Oriented and Results Focused. No Reading First Grant time or money can go to Reading Recovery. Reading First schools must adopt a core reading program that includes the critical elements of the five areas of reading.

SD READS is focused on Instructional Strategies and Professional Development. It is not a reading program.

ESA staff have tools to help districts find and evaluate core reading programs. The tools offered are in the form of websites of other states that have evaluated and scored core reading programs.

For more information on reading programs in your district, please contact your ESA representative.

Is your school considering a new elementary reading program?  
Let your ESA representative help!

# Core Reading



## Websites For Teachers and School Administrators

<http://doe.sd.gov/administrators/index.asp>

Online with the SD DOE for applications, registrations, assessment, testing, awards, certification, data and reporting, distance learning, educations support services, and a wealth of other important information.

<http://doe.sd.gov/teachers/index.asp>

Online with SD DOE for information about assessment, testing, awards, certification, content standards, curriculum, data and reporting, professional development opportunities, and a wealth of other important information.

<http://www.southdakotapd.com>

South Dakota Professional Development is a clearinghouse of staff development opportunities provided by South Dakota not-for-profit education partners.

<http://doe.sd.gov/pressroom/news.asp?ID=10>

Healthy Schools Competition. Governor Mike Rounds challenges South Dakota schools to vie for a Governor's Healthy School Award in the 2nd annual competition. Winners receive a \$5,000 award. Requests for applications must be made by public school superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, or assistant principals. The deadline for submitting applications is May 31. To request an application, contact the Department of Education's Coordinated School Health Program at (605) 773-3261 or e-mail [kari.senger@state.sd.us](mailto:kari.senger@state.sd.us).

## There Is Still Time!

by Laurie Bedford



Project ENRICH would like to encourage anyone who is interested to register for the following courses:

- *One Size Does Not Fit All: Instructional Strategies for Diverse Classrooms*
- *Moving Every Child Forward: More Instructional Strategies For the Diverse Classroom*
- *Parents Count Too: Developing Partnerships with Parents*
- *Struggling Readers Can Comprehend*

The courses will begin June 6 with four weeks of online classes. There is one face-to-face session required which will be held in Pierre or Rapid City the week of July 11 - 14, 2005.

There is still an opportunity to register for the following courses working with Kathie Nunley's brain research and layered curriculum.

- *The Student's Brain: A Developmental Perspective* (A study group to coincide with the Kathie Nunley workshop held in October.)
- *Instructional Strategies for the Brain Friendly Classroom*

The course syllabus and registration for each of the above classes is located at [www.enrich.tie.net](http://www.enrich.tie.net) or by contacting Laurie Bedford at (605)394-1876 - email [lbedford@tie.net](mailto:lbedford@tie.net).

Online registration is complete on May 31; please call Laurie Bedford to register after that date.

## Dates for ESA 7 Advisory Council Meetings

The Advisory Council established the following dates for the ESA 7 Advisory Council to meet in Pierre during the 2005 - 06 school year:

- October 21
- January 20
- April 28

### ESA 7 Can Help You & Your School with. . .

- Data analysis
- School improvement and professional development planning
- Curriculum mapping
- Technical assistance in completing the Consolidated Application

### Contact an ESA 7 staff member in your area-

- **Northern Hills:** Pam Lange  
[plange@tie.net](mailto:plange@tie.net)  
or Micky Wienk [mwienk@tie.net](mailto:mwienk@tie.net)
- **Central Hills:** June Preszler  
[jpreszler@tie.net](mailto:jpreszler@tie.net)
- **Southern Hills:** Debbie O'Doan  
[dodoan@tie.net](mailto:dodoan@tie.net)
- **Program Director:** Sandy Gaspar  
[sgaspar@tie.net](mailto:sgaspar@tie.net)