U.S. Department of Education addresses use of restraint & seclusion
The U.S. Department of Education will launch an initiative to address restraint and seclusion in schools. To see the press release, go to https://tinyurl.com/y6uh4ssg.

2019 Oklahoma legislative bills address disabilities
Several bills relating to disabilities have been introduced for the 2019 legislative session. Senate Bill 48 addresses students self-administering replacement pancreatic enzymes for treating cystic fibrosis. Senate Bill 72 proposes the State Board of Education establish rules regarding the use of restraint and seclusion of children in public school districts. To view all of the bills and their details, go to http://www.oklegislature.gov/basicsearchform.aspx.

Get answers to FAQs about chronic absenteeism among students with disabilities
Oklahoma has included Chronic Absenteeism as an indicator in the school accountability system adopted under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Students with disabilities may have absences that should not count toward chronic absentee status. IEP and 504 teams should review and take into account the information provided in Chronic Absenteeism Students with Disabilities FAQs when discussing absenteeism. To view the document, go to https://tinyurl.com/ya2zeoch.

Study identifies Down syndrome milestones
The American Journal of Medical Genetics Part A recently published findings from a study that shows people with Down syndrome never stop learning. The study provides expected milestones based on a survey of more than 2,600 parents of people with Down syndrome. To read more about their findings, go to https://tinyurl.com/y79ptatk.

Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council rebrands
The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council is now the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma. Over the next several months, it will be rebranding its office, brochures and website. You can view the new look at https://vimeo.com/301075017.

Aquatica Orlando becomes an official certified autism center
Aquatica Orlando has collaborated with The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards to become the first water park in the world designated as a Certified Autism Center. The park staff are trained in sensory awareness, motor skills, autism
overview, program development, social skills, communication, environment and emotional awareness. The water park, owned by SeaWorld, has incorporated many resources for families and children with autism. https://tinyurl.com/ydxpcuhw

**FDA warning against the use of sensory jewelry**
The Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers to avoid using sensory jewelry. According to the FDA, the jewelry is associated with choking, strangulation, injury to the mouth and infection. https://tinyurl.com/y7r6cnou

**OAMCTE Essay Contest**
Do you know a student who could use some extra cash? Oklahoma Association of Minorities in Career and Technology Education is hosting an essay contest with prizes ranging from $100 to $250. If you have students who enjoy writing, encourage them to contact Carolyn Leach for essay criteria, eligibility information and deadlines. Carolyn Leach can be reached at 918-746-8533 or leachca@tulsaschools.org.

📚 **Resources**

**Powerful Class Opening Activity:** Rose and thorn check-in is a quick activity from Edutopia that gets your class started and gives everyone a voice. https://tinyurl.com/yb2f9yvs

**Organizing Students for Learning:** Ten simple strategies for helping students who struggle with executive function skills like organization and prioritization. https://tinyurl.com/y9mnvua4

😄 **Events**
The Oklahoma Parents Center and the Oklahoma State Department of Education have announced two upcoming Regional Behavior Institutes in March 2019. The OPC will be holding the Institutes in Enid on March 7 and Bartlesville on March 14. For details, go to https://tinyurl.com/y7ny32m7.

The **For Counselors Only Conference** will be March 12 at Tulsa Technology Center’s Owasso Campus. Registration can be found at https://tinyurl.com/yc8ep9uv.

🔍 **Quote**
“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Martin Luther King Jr.

❓ **Questions or Comments**
Sharon Baker, M.Ed.
Disabilities Services Specialist
Career & Academic Connections
Phone: 405-743-5596
Sharon.Baker@careertech.ok.gov

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