U.S. Department of Education investing $2.5 million toward virtual reality
The U.S. Department of Education is investing $2.5 million in Virtual Reality Opportunities to Implement Social Skills. For details about VIOSS, go to https://tinyurl.com/y6w5bbww.

Oklahoma DRS files lawsuit against federal government
The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services has filed a lawsuit to block Fort Sill Army post from ending its contract with a vendor that employs workers who are blind. For more information about the case, go to https://tinyurl.com/ycwdlvlv.

Immature students more likely to be labeled as having ADHD
A Harvard University study links students who start school at a younger age than their peers and attention deficit disorder diagnoses. The researchers believe that students who may just be immature are being labeled with ADHD. https://tinyurl.com/y7noobq8

SEP asking for stakeholder input
The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Office of Special Education Programs is rethinking results-driven accountability and would like to hear from you. For more information, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/bulletins/21bc1e2#link_1.

Ask your colleagues
Would you like to ask your colleagues about best practices? Email your questions to me at Sharon.Baker@careertech.ok.gov. If one of your questions is selected to appear in The Special Scoop, your colleagues’ responses will appear in the next month’s newsletter.

Resources
The University of Oklahoma is offering a scholarship for those interested in a Master’s Degree in Secondary Transition and Applied Behavior Analysis. The deadline for applications is February 1. To access the application, go to https://tinyurl.com/y6wb3xnm.
ABLE Tech provides **AEM/Bookshare Workshops** that help educators and families learn how to get accessible digital books from Bookshare, which serves individuals with print disabilities. Contact Kimberly Berry at Kimberly.Berry@okstate.edu for more information.

Using a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Education - Special Education Services has developed **Special Education Services Best Practices**. To view the document, go to [https://tinyurl.com/ybzz7jhy](https://tinyurl.com/ybzz7jhy).

😊 Events

OSDE - SES will provide **IEP Goals and Progress Monitoring Training** Jan. 11. This training will provide guidance in developing meaningful goals that can be monitored regularly to determine if progress is being made or if revisions are needed to a student’s educational programming. To register go to Friday, January 11, Sapulpa (Central Technology Center).

ABLE Tech - **AT Support Team Assessment Part 1 Training**

Participants will learn the process for consideration of assistive technology for students with disabilities, including legal requirements related to AT consideration. Hands-on learning will also help educators discover potential solutions available to help meet student’s IEP goals. The free training will be Jan. 17 at Cameron University in Lawton. [https://tinyurl.com/ya2z44fm](https://tinyurl.com/ya2z44fm)

**Counselors Only Conference** will be March 12 at Tulsa Technology Center Owasso Campus 10800 N. 140th E. Ave, Owasso. For more information, go to [SAVE The Date - 2019 For Counselors Only](https://tinyurl.com/ya2z44fm).

🔍 Quote

“… what New Year’s all about, getting another chance, a chance to forgive, to do better, to do more, to give more, to love more, and to stop worrying about what if … and START EMBRACING WHAT WILL BE.” Author unknown

❓ Questions or Comments

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Legal information provided by this newsletter is not intended to replace the advice of a technology center’s legal counsel.

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