U.S. Department of Education announces new OSEP director
Laurie VanderPloeg has been appointed to direct the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. She is the president of Council for Exceptional Children. Her background includes working in special education as a teacher, administrator and instructor in higher education. For more information about OSEP’s new director, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/bulletins/21210df#link_1.

ACT has stopped providing disability information to colleges
ACT has made the decision to discontinue including information about disabilities in its score reports to colleges. ACT officials made the decision while in the midst of a lawsuit filed by students with disabilities. The lawsuit claims that the students were stigmatized; the plaintiffs are requesting the case be certified as a class action case. Even though ACT has made the change, the students still plan to continue fighting the case. To read more about the case, go to https://tinyurl.com/y8ogjt5m.

Q & A
To ensure that the appropriate staff members receive their students’ IEP accommodations, can the accommodations be given to all staff regardless of whether they have contact with the student? According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a student’s confidential records can only be released to school officials with legitimate educational interest. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to give the information to staff who do not work with the student.

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.
Events
The Oklahoma State Department of Education Office of Special Education Services is offering **Secondary Transition Planning training** through the OU Zarrow Center. On Nov. 6, the training will be geared towards special education teachers who work with students with mild/moderate disabilities at Douglass Learning Center in Lawton. For more information go to [https://tinyurl.com/y9et7d2h](https://tinyurl.com/y9et7d2h). For those who work with students who have severe/profound disabilities, a training has been scheduled at Tulsa Tech - Lemley Campus on Nov. 9. To register go to [https://tinyurl.com/y8byxryb](https://tinyurl.com/y8byxryb). Districts may be reimbursed for substitutes and mileage through Project 613 Funds. To take advantage of this opportunity, districts will need to submit a request through the Grants Management System on Single Sign-On. Contact Felicia Denton at Felicia.Denton@sde.ok.gov or (405) 522-9562 for more information.

**Youth Mental Health First Aid** will prepare you to recognize and respond to the warning signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in adolescents and link them with appropriate treatment and support. This training will be Nov.13 at OU-DHS Training Center in Norman. [https://www.nrcys.ou.edu/youth-mental-health-first-aid](https://www.nrcys.ou.edu/youth-mental-health-first-aid)

**Crisis Prevention Institute Training** will be Dec. 4-7 in Tulsa. The Crisis Prevention Institute is an international training organization that specializes in the safe management of disruptive and assaultive behavior. [https://tinyurl.com/y9dtvcvu](https://tinyurl.com/y9dtvcvu).

Resources
Are you looking for a threat assessment model? Look no further. The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center has a model online titled “**Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model.**” Go to [https://tinyurl.com/y7rejwgw](https://tinyurl.com/y7rejwgw) for a guide that provides an overall picture of an effective threat assessment model.

Do you need **real data to use in the classroom**? The U.S. Census Bureau has real data, along with math activities, history activities and state facts for students. It is all free! Check out the website at [https://tinyurl.com/yd3ql7f6](https://tinyurl.com/yd3ql7f6).

**Quote**
“He who thanks but with the lips thanks but in part; The full, the true Thanksgiving comes from the heart.” J.A. Shedd

**Questions or Comments**
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