

Staff Qualifications – Karen Taylor

Project Management:

- Regional Site Director for the federally funded Every Teacher (LOFTI) grant.
 - March 2003-October 2006
 - This was a federally funded three-year grant focused on the development of a statewide K-16 system that promotes, supports, and enhances the quality of South Dakota's educational professionals.
- Aberdeen Site Director for the federally funded Technology in Education Challenge for Rural America (TEC-RAM) grant.
 - September 1996-September 2000
 - TEC-RAM was a federally funded five-year TICG grant that was focused on improving teaching and learning.

Evaluation Facilitation:

- Lead evaluator for the Response to Intervention (RtI) Grant funded by the South Dakota Department of Education.
 - July 2011 – present
 - The focus of the SD RtI Grant is to enhance reading instructional strategies and interventions to match student needs and to use data to drive instructional decisions.
- Lead evaluator for the Positive Behaviors and Support Grant (PBIS) funded by the South Dakota Department of Education.
 - July 2011 – present
 - The focus of the SD PBIS Grant is to implement a broad range of systemic school-wide, group and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behavior with all students.
- Lead evaluator for the Dakota ASEETS Grant.
 - October 2007 – July 2012
 - Dakota ASSETS is a combination of a federal Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) grant for three years and a federal Transition to Teaching (TTT) grant for five years totaling over 5.1 million dollars. Both are focused on filling teacher shortages that exist in South Dakota's high need districts and schools.
- Project Manager and Lead Evaluator for the Title II D, Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education.
 - Spring 2005 – Summer 2011
 - The Title II D EETT Grant was focused on training teachers to technology integration as a tool to enhance teaching and learning.
- Served as Project Manager and Lead Evaluator for the Title II B, Math and Science Partnership Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education.
 - Spring 2005 – Summer 2006
 - The Title II B MSP Grant was focused on improving teaching and learning.

Staff Qualifications – Heather Schopp

Project Management:

- Services Coordinator for the South Dakota Disability Employment Initiative (SDDEI) for Round 2 and Round 5.
 - November 2011 - Current
 - Duties include but are not limited to data collection/management, creating and organizing sustainability projects, and grant implementation strategies
 - This is a federally funded three year grant awarded to South Dakota in 2011 and 2014. The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation in collaboration with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative aims to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits through the Disability Employment Initiative through partnership, collaboration, and systemic change.

Evaluation Facilitation:

- Evaluator/Data Collection and Organization for the Positive Behaviors and Support Grant (PBIS) funded by the South Dakota Department of Education.
 - May 2013 – present
 - The focus of the SD PBIS Grant is to implement a broad range of systemic school-wide, group and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behavior with all students.
- Evaluator/Data Collection and Organization for the Response to Intervention (RtI) Grant funded by the South Dakota Department of Education.
 - May 2013 – present
 - The focus of the SD RtI Grant is to enhance reading instructional strategies and interventions to match student needs and to use data to drive instructional decisions.