



# Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

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# Special Education Service Agency

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT & TRAINING  
**IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
SERVING ALASKAN SCHOOLS FOR 34 YEARS

## **OUR MISSION**

*SESA provides consultation and training to support the unique educational needs of individuals and the Alaskan communities that serve them.*

# SESA Grants

- ▶ Low Incidence Disability (LID)
- ▶ Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)
- ▶ Alaska Deafblind Project
- ▶ Alaska Center for Accessible Education Materials (AKCAM)

# Low Incidence Disabilities (LID)

- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Emotional Disabilities
- ▶ Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- ▶ Multiple Disabilities
- ▶ Vision Impairment

# Alaska Autism Resource Center

The AARC serves the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, their families, caregivers, and service providers throughout the state of Alaska. We provide information, referral, training, and consultation via on-site and distance delivery. The Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC) is a project of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) located in Anchorage, Alaska.



## RESOURCE CONSULTATION\*

- *\*AARC does not provide medical consultation*
- If you have a specific question or scenario, contact one of our autism specialists. They'll be happy to listen and help point you to local service providers, resources, or strategies that may help.
- [Schedule a Resource Consultation](#) with one of our Specialists
- Email your questions to [aarc@sesa.org](mailto:aarc@sesa.org)
- You can also view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page to see if the answer to your question is already posted, or you may submit a new question.



## INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- Check out our [resources page](#) for electronic resources and information
- Join our [Tip of the Month](#) email list
- [Request materials below](#) and we can mail them to you (for free!)
- If you can't find what you're looking for, email your questions to [aarc@sesa.org](mailto:aarc@sesa.org)



## LIBRARY

- The AARC Library is part of the Special Education Service Agency Library. [View the website here](#)
- Materials can be mailed anywhere in Alaska. You are only responsible for the cost of return shipping
- "The library has books, ebooks, videos, software, assessments, sound recordings, and equipment (assistive technology) available" - Library website



## TRAINING

- To request a training, please complete the [training inquiry form](#). Keep in mind:
- On-site trainings that require air travel must have a group of participants for the training. We will work with small groups!
  - Distance trainings (via Zoom or other technology) do not have a minimum participant requirement
  - All trainings are customizable
  - All trainings are FREE!
- [Learn more about AARC training here.](#)

# Alaska Center for Accessible Education Materials (AKCAM)

## What Are Accessible Educational Materials & Accessible Technologies?

Accessible educational/instructions materials (AEM/AIM) are print and technology-based educational materials that are designed or enhanced to make them usable by people with and without disabilities.

Some examples could include:

- A curriculum that has been converted to Braille
- A book that is made available through audio instead of text
- A worksheet that has been converted to large-print text
- A video that includes subtitles and descriptions

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that students who require materials in braille, large print, audio, and digital text have access to them.



# Alaska Deafblind Project

- ▶ The Alaska Deaf-Blind Project serves any individual from premature birth to age 22 with a hearing and vision loss as specified below. We serve those in urban as well as remote areas as well as individuals not enrolled in school and those in secondary school.

Note that the eligibility criteria for Deaf-Blind services are different than for SESA's hearing and vision impairments services, as it falls under the federal definition of Deaf-Blindness.

# Autism Impairment

- ▶ Eligibility

SESA autism Services are provided at no charge to eligible students with an educational eligibility in autism attending either Alaska public schools or Alaska homeschool programs. Eligible students are referred by the school's Special Education Director for SESA's review. Consultation services are then provided based on the student's need. Specialists provide training, recommendations on curriculum, and guidance on use of evidence-based practices to school staff.



# Emotional Disabilities

- ▶ SESA ED Specialists provide consultation, training and technical assistance in the area of emotional, social and behavioral disorders. Specialists work closely with staff at the school through on-site and distance delivery services. Our staff provide assistance to help schools conduct ecological assessments, functional behavioral assessments and a wide variety of other assessments with the goal of developing behavior intervention plans. SESA Specialists also assist schools in developing progress monitoring systems for students.
- ▶ **ELIGIBILITY FOR SESA'S EMOTIONAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM**

The Emotional Disabilities Program serves students in the following state disability categories: (For the specific requirements of each, view the Evaluation and Eligibility Section of the State Special Education Handbook.)
- ▶ Emotional Disabilities
- ▶ Other Health Impairment
- ▶ Early Childhood Developmental Delay (i.e., deficits identified in the area of social and/or behavioral domains).

# Deaf/Hard of Hearing

- ▶ **Who is eligible for SESA's Deaf and Hard of Hearing services?**
- ▶ **ALL of the following must be true**
  - ▶ Students from ages 3 to 22-years old.
  - ▶ Students enrolled in a public K-12 school.
  - ▶ The student has at least a 30 decibel bilateral hearing loss.
  - ▶ Live in rural areas that do not have access to a teacher of the deaf.
  - ▶ The student CAN have additional mild to severe disabilities.

# Multiple Disabilities

- ▶ SESA Multiple Disabilities Specialists work closely with school-based teams and other professionals to help develop and implement educational programs for students with moderate to severe multiple disabilities. Student programs are individualized to meet a student's specific needs based on best practices, present level of performance, and student goals. Specialists work with the team to create materials, develop activities, implement strategies and foster independence. Following a site visit, the team receives a report of the events from that visit, progress toward previous recommendations, current recommendations, and steps or strategies for specific tasks for staff to reference. Specialists are available to provide both on-site and distance support (Skype, Zoom, etc.).

# Vision Impairment

- ▶ **Services provided by SESA Vision Impairment Program** The SESA highly qualified, vision impairment educators support in the following areas of need:
- ▶ Provide functional vision exam.
- ▶ Assist with the development and implementation of student's IEP/instructional programs.
- ▶ Recommend intervention strategies.
- ▶ Demonstrate and/or teach specialized strategies to local school personnel, parents, and community.
- ▶ Assist district in obtaining specialized instructional materials and /or in adapting available material/equipment.
- ▶ Provide interagency liaison.
- ▶ Provide topical in-services and workshops.
- ▶ Provide orientation and mobility training of student and support staff.
- ▶ To be able to provide individualized support we complete a functional vision exam. The functional vision evaluation component entails a review of the student eye exam records from an optometrist or ophthalmologist, a review of records of previous functional vision evaluations, a discussion with staff of the visual strengths and weakness exhibited by the student, and finally a formal session of observation/ evaluation. How does the student function in various lighting conditions? How does contrast and color affect a student's ability to see? Does distance make a difference to the student? Are there any problems with depth perception, figure-ground, or visual complexity? What size print is most effective for a student when they are looking at a price tag? When they are reading a social studies book? The functional vision evaluation will help make the information from doctors eye exam in a controlled office setting useful in the school, home, and outdoor settings.

# SESA Referral

Please see the attached PDF's for specific SESA referral information.

Referrals are completed online and must be completed in one sitting. A SPED Director signature is required for all SESA referrals.

Questions?