

Getting Personal With ... Gary

Gary Lewis is SpEd Forms's due process consultant and leadership committee chair. He's been on the leadership team since 1991.

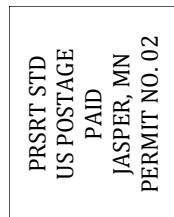
Gary is looking forward to doing some projects this spring, like painting the front steps and putting a fence around the garden to keep out rabbits. Over the winter, a family of rabbits moved into Gary's backyard, selecting his shrubs as their winter food.

This spring, Gary will also be replacing some shrubs.

In the News Standards-Based Needs

The next quarterly update (due April 24th) includes needs statements for every Reading and Math standard benchmark. These needs statements can be selected and added to goal specific PLAAFP statements on the 2011 IEP. The change will make it easier to write standards-based goals.

Thanks to Mary Ruprecht for her work on the needs statements!



SpEd Forms

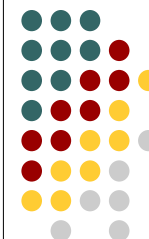
PO Box 1
Jasper, MN 56144
Phone: 866-796-1848
Fax: 866-796-5468
www.spedforms.com



Simply Powerful Special
Education Software

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SpEd Forms Calendar

- April 17** Recent improvements list email due.
- April 19** WebEx review of recent improvements.
- April 24** SpEd Forms quarterly update due.



Focus on ... Mankato Public Schools



Jo Gangestad can't remember how long she's been the SpEd Forms contact person at Mankato Public Schools or how she got the job.

"I was probably on a committee for a report or something, and I ended up with the position. But that was a long time ago."

What Gangestad does know, however, is that she loves her work, which includes training new and returning teachers on SpEd Forms, troubleshooting technical issues, and developing new tools.

"I really enjoy being able to help the Special Education staff work more efficiently and use their time more wisely. That way, they can spend more of their time with students."

In her trainings last fall, she was able to save time herself by using some of the online training materials created by Mark Oehrlein, SpEd Forms research and development staff.

"I just adapted the materials Mark created to our district. I didn't have to create anything new. It was great!"

Currently, she's also working with Mark to build a custom report for Child Outcomes that she hopes will be useful for Special Education staff in the district.

Gangestad, who has a degree in speech pathology and early childhood education, has been working in Special Education at Mankato Public Schools for 30 years and has used SpEd Forms since it was a standalone product. Over the years, SpEd Forms has become increasingly interactive and responsive to teacher's needs, says Gangestad.

"I get a lot fewer calls from teachers these days, but that's okay."

From the FAQ Files Completing Browser Setup

It's good practice to complete the browser setup at the beginning of the year and after holiday breaks. This is when most major changes are likely to be made that may require the browser setup to be done again.

When entering Custom Drop Downs via the Administration Menu for all users or the Teacher Menu for your own use, ensure that the Values for each new custom drop down option are unique. To ensure each option is unique, use the same text that is in the "Display" text box in the "Value" text box.

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Happy Spring!

