

# EDUCATIONAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Region 9 Master Calendar](#)

10/14 8:00-11:00am  
Related Services Meeting

10/25 2-4pm  
Educational Services Staff Meeting

SPED Directors Meeting and Roundtable with Lori Gerky is on the following dates:  
December 2nd

January 27th, & April 7th  
All from 8:30 to 10:00 with Roundtable with Lorie Gerkey from 9:00 to 9:30.

Tech Bits Mini  
Every Wednesday at Noon  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Educational Services  
Webpage and Calendar  
[CLICK HERE](#)

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

*By Dahn Freed*

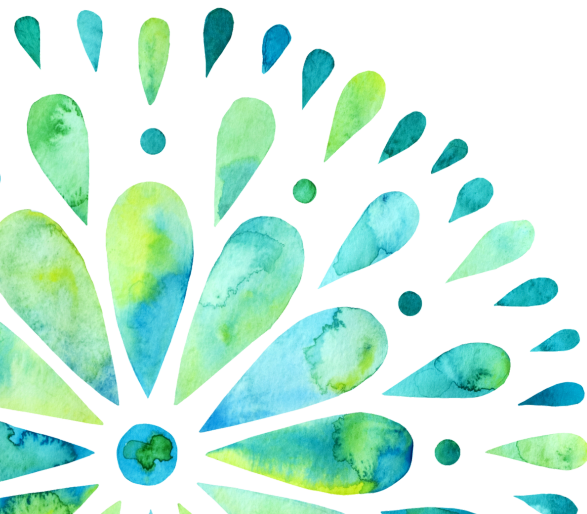
Region 9 has spent the past thirty-seven years supporting member districts with shared staffing, contracting, and professional development. In the past 18 months, there was a disruption and shift to how those services have been provided. Then, in the midst of all of this pandemic, multiple initiatives and expectations have come from the Public Education Department (e.g. MLSS, UDL, LETRS, etc.) It is a lot to manage! We now have more direction about how MLSS fits into the big picture with all of these initiatives.

The good thing is, Region 9 can help support putting the puzzle pieces together. We have an excellent staff of educational coaches to assist you.

I am also excited that we are in a position to start working with Student Assistance Teams (SAT) again. One thing that has not changed, is the role of SAT as a problem-solving team to support the instructional and intervention processes for students. This includes the responsibility for developing and implementing legally compliant Section 504 plans for students with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

Region 9 can help with navigating this sometimes difficult-to-understand requirement. We will be planning a 504 training for November with Walsh Gallegos Law and updating the Section 504 forms. Keep an eye out for the registration.

In the meantime, please reach out if you have questions about Section 504 and SAT. We would love to help!



# READY, SET...VIRTUAL ACADEMIC COMPETITION!

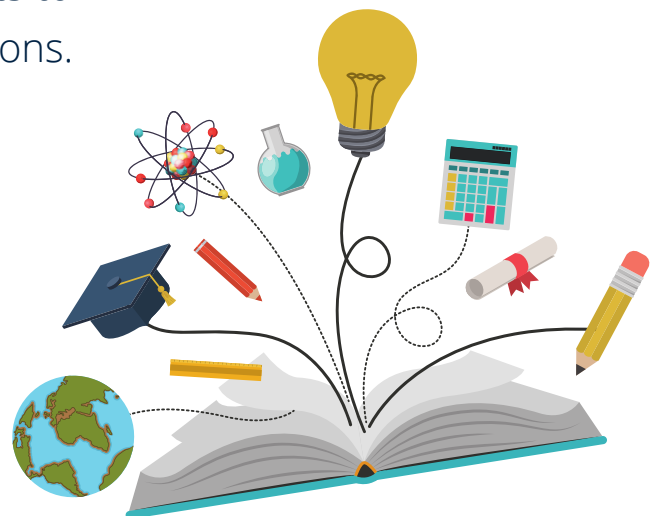
*By Jennifer Johnson*

MATH INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

A team from Region 9 has been working to help create a “Virtual Academic Competition” for the eager students and coaches we serve. We are excited to get this adventure started and let the students get back to competitions they have longed for and missed.

Although it will not look exactly like the competitions in the past, we are hoping that we can come together and make the best of a situation. Details are close to being finalized, with the goal of having our first Virtual Academic Competition in December 2021.

We are thankful for opportunities that will allow for this new format and the eagerness of Region 9 team members, coaches, students, and districts to finalize rules, schedules, and tech preparations. Go Teams Go!



# MOTHER NATURES BROOM

*By Bryan Dooley*

R9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As our October winds sweep in change, it is a good time to reflect on what is in our personal toolbox. It might be time to clean out the old tools that you tried and were not successful and look for new innovative methods to implement. Challenge yourself and your students!

If you are looking for some new ideas and tools, make sure to take advantage of programming and resources from Region 9. We have a Tech Bit series for technology. This is where you can find fresh ideas and learn about new technology, applications, and programs to engage your students both in the classroom and virtually.

You can find the Tech Bits calendar of events on our Region 9 web page. [CLICK HERE](#).

Explore and participate in our Region 9 Tech Bits Sandbox for Teachers. We are currently implementing a new way of delivering this training. Teachers will watch a pre-recorded training, then participate in a live virtual session where they can practice playing with the tools with guidance from trainers. The goal is for you to learn about new technology and walk away with an online tool ready to use in the classroom the very next day! These will be bi-monthly one-hour sessions. This is still in development. More information is coming soon.



*“If you don't  
fail, you don't  
learn, and if  
you don't  
learn, you  
can't change,”*

*- Peter Tabichi*

# EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

## Staff Highlights

Toby Smith  
Child Find Coordinator



I was born and raised in the small farming community of Farwell, Tx. My husband, Chad and I met in Clovis at the Curry County Fair. We rode the ferris wheel together and have been going in circles for the 41 years since. We lived in Midland, Tx for 10 years where my husband worked in the energy industry as a systems analyst and I was a stay-at-home mom with our 2 daughters. Our family has called Ruidoso "home" since 1991, engaging in very diverse and "eclectic" careers over the years. After working in Roswell for the past several years, where I was employed with the Roswell school district as a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA), I am excited to now be "back home" and a part of the Region 9 team!

I enjoy home remodeling/building, refinishing furniture, long walks and hikes with my husband, reading, opportunities to serve others, summer and fall evenings on our deck, and being "Nonni" our 3-year-old grandson.

*Toby Smith is the Region 9 Child Find Coordinator. She works with our member districts to support developmental screening for PreK students, vision and hearing screening for students in the SAT process, helps set up kindergarten registration/child find round-ups in the spring, and is part of the team developing the virtual academic competition.*



Donna Moore  
Educational Diagnostician

This is my 23rd year in education. I did all kinds of things prior to my calling into education from being a secretary to being a Financial Analyst for Conoco where I got to live in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. I taught special education for 15 years, was a Special Education Director (I'm sure that's where all the gray hair came from) for 6 years, and a full-time diagnostician for 2 years. I came to Region 9 two years ago and love it here. I enjoy reading and crocheting.

Lately, I've taken the afghans I've made to the animal shelter to send home with adopted dogs. I'm married and have three children - one dog and two cats that rule the house.

*Donna is a Certified Educational Diagnostician who provides technical assistance resources to districts regarding IDEA and special education evaluation procedures.*

*We are Region 9 Proud!*

# DOSSIER IN OCTOBER

Almost half of the month is done and gone, but there is still plenty of dossier training on the calendar to choose from.

- 10/14/2021 @ 3:30 pm, Strand C Overview & Q&A, Brian Clark, REGISTER HERE
- 10/19/2021 @ 10:00 am, Strand A Q & A/Strand B Coaching Session, Candice Barrera, REGISTER HERE
- 10/19/2021 @ 4:15 pm, Q & A Strand C / Follow Up, Martha Sanchez & Pamela Hunnicutt, REGISTER HERE
- 10/21/2021 @ 3:30 pm, Strand B Overview & Q&A, Brian Clark, REGISTER HERE
- 10/27/2021 @ 4:15 pm, OPAL Overview & Strand C, Pamela Hunnicutt, REGISTER HERE
- 10/28/2021 @ 10:00 am, Strand B Q & A / Strand C Coaching Session, Candice Barrera, REGISTER HERE

Click here to go to the [Dossier Coaching Website](#)



Educational Services  
Webpage and Calendar  
[CLICK HERE](#)



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<https://www.rec9nm.org>



### Our Mission

A Community Member  
Educating • Supporting • Serving



### Our Vision

Providing exceptional services to  
children, families, and  
communities across New Mexico



### Our Motto

Serving Kids • Priority One!