

Memo

To: Dr. Susan Flanagan, Interim Superintendent

From: Kennedi Strickland-Dixon, Ed. S., Director of Special Education

CC: Board of Education

Date: 4/13/2012

Re: Special Education Department Update

Professional Development-SOLO 6

Staff members from the Special Education Department attended a professional development session in the area of assistive technology. Training was provided by a representative from SOLO 6. SOLO 6 is an assistive technology product current being use by PAEC and other districts in the cooperative. SOLO 6 is primarily used with students who have deficits in fine motor skills and visual acuity. SOLO 6 provides students with audio texts and voice activated activities. The product allows access to online literacy collections that students can access from home or a local library. The product also assists with graphic organizers and many skills needed to complete written assignments. SOLO 6 is being used in five schools in District 89.

Chicago State University Cohort

District 89 established a cohort with Chicago State University in the area of Special Education in 2008. The first cohort of students graduated with a Master's Degree in Special Education in 2010. The second cohort of students have completed all of the coursework required to obtain a Master's Degree in Special Education, Commencement exercises have been scheduled to take place in May.

Parent Workshop

District 89 will conduct a workshop for parents on April 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The workshop will take place at the District Office. Sunny Chico will serve as the presenter for the workshop.