



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services
Directors of Private Approved Special Education Facilities
Directors of Charter Schools

FROM: George P. Dowaliby, *Chief*
Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services

DATE: June 25, 1999

SUBJECT: *Update #17*

It is hard to believe that my first year anniversary with the Bureau has arrived! It has truly been a pleasure working with the SDE and Bureau staff as well as with all of you. Only by working collectively will we continue to make progress toward the goal of improving educational services for students in Connecticut. Please accept my appreciation for your support in this endeavor. I hope you have an opportunity for a little rest and relaxation this summer.

OSEP RESEARCH PROJECT

As some of you know, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is conducting two longitudinal studies and has selected districts throughout the county, including Connecticut, to participate in the studies. The two studies are the Study of Personnel Needs in Special Education (SPeNSE) and the Special Education Elementary Longitudinal Study (SEELS). OSEP has contracted with WESTAT, a private research corporation to conduct both studies. Individual letters have been sent to those districts and intermediate educational units selected. I have reviewed information on these study designs and encourage you to participate. These studies will provide some very important information to OSEP and to the field of special education, and your participation is critical. I have been assured that the confidentiality of participants will be carefully maintained. No local education agencies, schools, or respondents will be identified in any reports.

SAFE HOMES

Enclosed is a copy of an advisory memorandum regarding education services for children who are placed by the Department of Children and Families in newly established programs known as "safe homes." Please call Art Carey at (860) 807-2032 if you have any questions regarding the procedures delineated in this memorandum.

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FORWARDING EDUCATION RECORDS TO LONG LANE

Recently, we have received a decision in the Smith v. Wheaton class action lawsuit, which clarifies issues related to forwarding education records to Long Lane. Enclosed is an advisory memorandum from the Department, which delineates new procedures, derived from the court's decision, which all local school districts must follow.

IEP APPROVALS

Thank you for the prompt submission of your district's proposed IEP. These have been reviewed and districts will be contacted **later this month** regarding approval or corrections that may be needed. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Louise Thompson at (860) 807-2030.

PROGRAM REVIEW

Just a reminder for those districts that have not undergone Program Review since the reauthorization of IDEA, the following six year projected review cycle is being followed:

1999-2000	EASTCONN region
2000-2001	CREC region
2001-2002	LEARN region
2002-2003	ACES region
2003-2004	CES region
2004-2005	ED CONNECTION region

During the school year prior to your district's review, the Bureau will provide all districts in the region to be reviewed an orientation to the process, samples of forms used in previous reviews, issues found in the region recently reviewed and any clarity of regulations or procedures that may be helpful to the district in preparing for the review in the subsequent school year.

The Bureau encourages you to utilize the materials it has available to self-assess your district prior to the year(s) preceding your scheduled review. If you would like further information, please contact Anne Louise Thompson, Program Review Coordinator at (860) 807-2030.

PUPIL SERVICES ORIENTATION

The Connecticut State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Special Education Resource Center (SERC) and with professional associations, will be offering various orientation programs for new pupil services personnel. Dates and topics are listed below. You will receive a mailing including agendas and application materials just prior to the beginning of the school year.

Please note that the two sessions on Introduction to the PPT Process are designed for all pupil services personnel who have significant Planning and Placement Team responsibilities. The October 7th session will be held in the SERC classroom in Middletown. The November 19th session will be held "downstate," at a location to be announced.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Thursday, September 23	General Orientation for New <i>School Social Workers</i>
Tuesday, September 28	Assessment and Confidential for New <i>School Social Workers</i>
Thursday, October 7	Introduction to the PPT Process for <i>Pupil Services</i>
Tuesday, October 12	Orientation for New <i>School Counselors</i>
Wednesday, October 27	Orientation for New <i>School Psychologists</i>
Friday, November 19	Introduction to the PPT Process for <i>Pupil Services</i> (same as 10/7)

If you need further information, please contact Bob Lichtenstein at (860) 807-2042.

NEW CONSULTANT

Brian Cunnane joined the Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services earlier this month as a new Associate Education Consultant. Brian's 20 plus years in education reflect a diverse background, including positions as a psychologist, private school director and an LEA director.

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ENCLOSURES INCLUDE

- Circular Letter: C-21- *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and Statewide Alternate Assessment Requirements*

cc: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education
George A. Coleman, Associate Commissioner of Education
Edward Preneta, Council on Developmental Disabilities
Bonnie Moran, Special Education Advisory Council
Nancy Prescott, CT Advocacy Center
Superintendents of Schools
Hearing Officers
SDE Staff