

Connecticut State Department of Education

MEMORANDUM

Division of Educational Programs and Services
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TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services
Directors of Private Approved Special Education Facilities
RESC Executive Directors

FROM: Leslie M. Avera, Associate Commissioner *LMA*

DATE: February 20, 1997

SUBJECT: Update #6

Based on your input, we're changing the format of the Updates to distinguish between items that require action and items for your information. I'll also provide an index of issues covered, so you can more easily decide on the sections that you want to read.

This Update covers the following topics:

ACTION REQUIRED/ATTACHMENTS	FYI
IDEA Application	OSEP Monitoring
Draft Curriculum Frameworks and Guides	New Approved Facility
Supplemental Security Insurance - attached	Standing Orders for Medication Administration
Proposal/Application for Incentive Award - School Nursing Initiative (RFP attached)	Consolidated IDEA Application Timelines
Primary Mental Health Grant - RFP Alert	Speech and Language Assistants Legislation
	Consultant Positions
	Data Collection
	SERC Annual Report FY96

IDEA Application

Your district's/agency's completed **Consolidated Grants Application** for FY 1997-98 (ESEA, Perkins and IDEA-Part B, Sections 611 and 619) is due at the Department on April 25, 1997. You will need to plan your district's/agency's activities accordingly.

Application materials will be sent to your district/agency on/about **March 13, 1997**.

Application materials will be sent to your district's "**Contact Person**." Your district's/agency's "**Contact Person**" will coordinate your district's/agency's efforts in completing the FY 1997-98 Consolidated Grant Application.

A **Departmental "Contact Person"** will be identified and assigned to work with your district's/agency's "**Contact Person**." Through their joint efforts, your district's/agency's Consolidated Grant Application will be completed.

Each application packet contains information re: preliminary grant amounts for each individual grant (ESEA, Perkins and IDEA-Part B).

For the **IDEA-part B grants** the following will apply: (a) For the IDEA-Part B, section 611 (ages 3-21) grant, preliminary grant entitlements will equal your district's/agency's December 1996 child count times \$400.00/child. (b) For the IDEA-Part B, Section 619 (preschool) grant, preliminary grant entitlements will be equal to the current year's level. **Note:** In all probability, final IDEA-Part B, Section 619 grants for FY 1997-98 will be less than the preliminary grant since Congress "flat-funded" the preschool grant program - while the national 3-5 child count has increased. Particulars on the preschool grant will not be known until the Department's grant award is received from the federal government on/about July 1, 1997.

Draft Curriculum Frameworks and Guides

All nine (9) curriculum frameworks and four (4) curriculum guides in the areas of Mathematics, World Languages, Social Studies, and Physical Education are available for review and comment from Mitchell Chester, Chief of Curriculum and Instruction. Our staff are currently reviewing them to ensure that adequate consideration is given to students with special needs.

Supplemental Security Insurance

Attached is a memo from U.S.D.E. regarding changes in SSI which will result in some children, especially those with severe disabilities, losing their SSI cash benefits. For more information, you may contact the Social Security Administration at <http://www.ead.or/special.ed/frc.html>.

**Proposal/Application for Incentive Award -
School Nursing Initiative (RFP attached)**

Enclosed you will find a copy of the American Nurses Association's *Request for Proposals* for innovative school health projects to prevent and reduce behaviors that put adolescents at risk for HIV infection, STD's and unintended pregnancy. It is a small grant, but may allow a district to fund a creative project and enhance services for adolescent students. The due date is April 1, 1997.

**Primary Mental Health Program
(PMHP) Grant Update**

It is anticipated that the PMHP RFP will be ready for dissemination by March 31, 1997. The turn-around time this year will be short, approximately three weeks. A bidders meeting is planned for March 31, 1997, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the SERC Classroom at 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown. School districts that might be interested in learning about the grant are encouraged to send a representative..

OSEP Monitoring

Consultants from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U. S. Department of Education, conducted a follow-up monitoring visit in Connecticut during the week of February 3, 1997. The purpose of the visit was to confirm that corrective action had been taken by the Department of Education and that local school districts were implementing the changes called for as a result of the 1993 OSEP monitoring visit. Six districts were monitored by OSEP to examine documentation relative to such issues as: SED eligibility, provision of extended school year services, appropriate notice of transition meetings, availability of a full continuum for SED students, FAPE in the LRE and other topics which were covered in the fall training conducted by bureau consultants. OSEP will return to Connecticut next year for a full review.

New Approved Facility

Wellspring Foundation has recently been approved by the State Board of Education as a private special education facility. Wellspring is located at 21 Arch Bridge Road in Bethlehem, Connecticut and serves students with serious emotional disturbances ages 10 to 21 years. For more information contact Herbert Hall, Executive Director, or Susan Schoenbach, Education Director at (203 266-7235).

Standing Orders for Medication Administration

The Department of Public Health, Division of Community Regulation, and the Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services, are collaborating in developing an advisory that will be sent in the near future to school nurse supervisors and school medical advisors on the issue of "standing orders." Over the last two years, the Department of Public Health has not approved "standing orders" for medications in district policies and procedures on medication administration. However, based on new information, "standing orders" issued by school medical advisors for emergency medications and for over-the-counter medications will be allowed under

conditions to be delineated in the advisory. The school medical advisor and school nurse supervisor (or school nurses) should advise the district on this issue. Standing orders for medication administration in an unexpected emergency, for example, an order for epinephrine to be given for an anaphylactic reaction in a student or staff member with no prior history of such a reaction, can be life saving. Standing orders for over-the-counter medications, such as Tylenol for headache or menstrual cramps, or anti-bacterial spray for cuts and abrasions, are more controversial in terms of necessity and safe practice. Ultimately, the school medical advisor determines whether or not to issue such a standing medical order and, if issued, the school nurse determines when it is appropriate to implement the order. The nurse consultant at the Department of Public Health who will now be overseeing school district compliance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-212a and regulations 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-7, inclusive, is Margaret Sayers, 860-509-7541. Ms. Sayers and her supervisor, Linda Kinsella, will attend the school nurse supervisors meeting on April 9, 1997, to respond to questions on this issue.

Consolidated IDEA Application Timelines

Your district's/agency's FY 1997-98 Consolidated Grant Application, as previously indicated, is due April 25, 1997.

A **one-half day workshop** focusing on how to complete Consolidated Grant Application materials will be held on Thursday, March 13, 1997 at the Four Points Inn in Waterbury. Registration for that workshop will commence at 8:30 AM and the workshop will begin at 9:00 AM. Registration materials are being prepared and will be sent to your district's/agency's "Contact Person."

Your district's/agency's Superintendent/Executive Officer has received a communication dated February 6, 1997 relating to the timing and sequence of activities relating to the FY 1997-98 Consolidated Grant Application.

Dates associated with the FY 1997-98 Consolidated Grants Application Sequence:

April 25, 1997	Applications due at CTSDE
May 2, 1997	Application reviews commence
June 6, 1997	Application reviews completed
July 1, 1997	Preliminary Grant Awards Sent Out
July 15, 1997	Grant Awards received by the Department from federal government
Mid. Sept.	Final Grant Awards Sent Out

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Your district/agency will identify a "Contact Person" that will coordinate your district's/agency's Consolidated Grant Application for FY 1997-98. Likewise, the Department will assign a "Contact

Person" to work with your district's/agency's "Contact Person" to coordinate application information between your district/agency and the Department. Communication will occur between these two "Contact Persons."

Subsequent to issuance of preliminary grant awards, contact re: individual programs will be between individual program managers and individual program personnel at the district/agency level. This contact includes information related to the final individual grant awards and to any subsequent budget/program amendments over the duration of each particular program.

Bureau Chief and Consultant Positions

I have reopened the Bureau Chief position, since we received only a handful of applications. The announcement will appear in the next issue of Education Week; the closing date is April 1, 1997. The two (2) consultant positions have been posted and will be advertised in Connecticut newspapers; the closing date is March 7, 1997.

Data Collection

The Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services is currently conducting an examination of its collection, maintenance and use of data. The Bureau initiated this review in the hope of establishing new and more effective uses for the data the Department collects as well as insuring that policy makers at all levels receive the information they need. Over the course of the next few weeks, the Bureau will be looking at the way that it uses data, both internally for policy decisions and externally in the form of technical assistance and dissemination of information. The ultimate goal of this review is to make the Bureau more responsive to the needs of the state's districts and to assist the education of all of Connecticut's children.

SERC Annual Report

Attached is a copy of SERC's FY96 annual report, for your information. I know you share the high opinion we have for the activities SERC sponsors and the valued role of Marianne Kirner and her staff.

Until next month!

cc: Theodore S. Sergi
Betty Sternberg
Bonnie Moran
Edward Preneta
Frank Yulo, CAPSS
Patricia Luke, EMSPAC