

VIII. A.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

DATE: January 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Report of the State Advisory Council for Special Education

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) at 20 USC 1412(a)(20) requires that each participating state create an advisory panel for the purpose of providing guidance with respect to special education and related services for students with disabilities. Section 10-76i of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) requires that the Board of Education meet at least annually with the State Advisory Council (SAC) for Special Education. For the past eight years, representatives of the SAC have reported to the State Board of Education regarding its activities and priorities.

Brenda Sullivan, 2009-10 Chairperson of the SAC, will represent the Council at the State Board of Education meeting on January 5, 2011. She will review the activities of the SAC for the past year, key issues on the Council's agenda for the coming year and policy recommendations for the Board's consideration as outlined in the attached report developed by the Council.

History/Background

The Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education was authorized by the IDEA since the Act's inception in 1975. In addition to advising the Board, the SAC also annually reports to the General Assembly concerning recommendations for effecting changes in the special education laws, in accordance with C.G.S. 10-76i(b). A detailed explanation of the Council's role can be found in its bylaws included in the report.

The Council is comprised of members appointed by various state agency Commissioners, members of the General Assembly and members of various disability associations throughout the state. The Council meets monthly and has four committees: Executive, Legislative, Nominating and Membership.

Recommendations and Policy Implications

The report outlines recommendations in the following areas: statewide assessments; restraint and seclusion; Scientific Research-Based Intervention; State Performance Plan Indicators 16, 17 and 18 – Complaint Resolution/Due Process; and SAC membership appointments. These recommendations would impact: data collection activities; monitoring and oversight of districts; and technical assistance activities provided to districts.

Follow-up Activities

Following the Board's discussion of the recommendations contained in "The Connecticut State Advisory Council on Special Education 2010 Annual Report," the Bureau of Special Education will work with the SAC to address the recommendations as appropriate.

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