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Bureau of Special Education FY'08 Memo #26

Date: February 22, 2008

To: Superintendents of Schools
Special Education Directors

From: Lyonel B. Tracy
Commissioner of Education

Santina Thibedeau
State Director of Special Education
Administrator, Bureau of Special Education

RE: New Hampshire Parent Involvement Surveys

The New Hampshire Department of Education is proud to announce that the Bureau of Special Education will be distributing a statewide survey to parents of students who are preschool and school age and who receive special education services. The Bureau is pleased that we are able to move from the current parent survey as part of the onsite monitoring program to a statewide survey. The purpose of the survey is to gain an understanding of how schools are facilitating parent involvement as a means of improving results for children with disabilities.

The Bureau has contracted with MAGI Services to assist us in working with school districts in the distribution of the surveys and the analysis of the results. The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is required by the Office of Special Education (OSEP) in the Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) to conduct a statewide survey for parents of students that are receiving special education services. The purpose of this annual survey is to measure the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. For more information about the SPP and APR indicator: www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/instruction/Special_Ed/OSEPreports.htm.

The New Hampshire Department of Education has outlined the process that will be used.

- The New Hampshire Department of Education has supplied MAGI Services with the name and contact information of the Special Education Director for each school district as well as an estimated number of preschool and school age students for purposes of dissemination of the survey. If the Special Education Director would like to designate someone other than themselves as a contact person, please contact Andrea Lynn from MAGI Services at alynn@measinc.com.
- By March 17, 2008, MAGI Services will send each Special Education Director, or designee, a package which contains parent survey packets for preschool and school age children. Each parent survey packet will be in an unaddressed stamped envelope. The school district will be asked to address each envelope to parents. There will be preschool and school age packets. The packets will include:
 - Cover letter to parents
 - A copy of the survey
 - A self-addressed stamped envelope for parents to return the survey to MAGI.
- Each District will also receive a complete sample packet for the preschool and school age survey.
- By March 25, 2008, each Special Education Director will be expected to have sent the packets to the parents.
- During the months of March and April, MAGI can help parents and guardians understand and complete the survey.
- By April 25, 2008, parents will be asked to have the survey returned to MAGI Services.

The Department looks forward to working with your district to ensure an effective implementation of the consumer survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Lane at mlane@ed.state.nh.us or 271-3740.

This document is also available in alternative format upon request.