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Bureau of Special Education FY'09 Memo #6

Date: August 1, 2008

To: Superintendents of Schools
Special Education Directors

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Instruction
Bureau of Special Education

Re: Educational Environments

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is offering the following guidance regarding the categories used to describe educational environments for students with disabilities. For many years, the NHDOE has identified educational environments/program types as: modified regular, resource room and self-contained. These program types have been used for reporting purposes.

The Office of Special Education Programs has changed the definitions used for reporting educational environments. The described educational environments categories for public schools only are:

- Inside the regular class 80 percent or more of the day. These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom for less than 21 percent of the school day. This may include children with disabilities placed in:
 - Regular class with special education/related services provided within regular classes;
 - Regular class with special education/related services provided outside regular classes or;
 - Regular class with special education services provided in the resource room
- Inside regular class no more than 79% of day and no less than 40% percent of the day. These children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom at least 21 percent but no more than 60 percent of the school day. This may include children with disabilities placed in:
 - Resource rooms with special education/related services provided within the resource room; or
 - A resource room with part-time instruction in a regular class

- Inside regular class less than 40 percent of the day. These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom for more than 60 percent of the school day. This category may include children placed in:
 - Self-contained special education classrooms with part-time instruction in a regular class;
or
 - Self-contained special education classrooms with full-time special education instruction.

Of note: Educational time spent in age-appropriate community-based settings that include individuals with and without disabilities, such as college campuses or vocational sites, should be counted as time spent inside the regular classroom.

The New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS) has the ability to calculate the percentage of time based on the data entered into a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Effective July 1, 2008, in NHSEIS, the program placement option previously classified as Modified Regular Program will be identified as Regular Class; Modified Regular Program will no longer exist in NHSEIS.

For more information, please contact Santina Thibedeau, 603-271-6693 / sthibedeau@ed.state.nh.us.

This document is also available in alternate format upon request.