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Bureau of Special Education FY'09 Memo #8

Date: August 26, 2008

To: Directors of Special Education

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Instruction
Bureau of Special Education

Re: District Reporting Requirements for Children Exiting Special Education

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education would like to update the Bureau of Special Education FY'08 Memo #12 - District Reporting Requirements for Children Exiting Special Education. The purpose of this memo is to clarify the definitions of exiting categories to be used in the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS) for students exiting Special Education. The FAQ for students exiting special education can be found at:

www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/instruction/SpecialEd/Downloads/documents/ExitingSpecialEducation.pdf

Districts must report as exited each student who was in special education at the start of the reporting period (July 1st), and who exited special education prior to the end of the reporting period (June 30th). The specific exiting categories and definitions are written below. Please be sure data for July 1, 2006–June 30, 2008 are consistent with these definitions.

- (A) **Transferred to regular education.** Students who were served in special education at the start of the reporting period but at some point during that 12-month period returned to regular education. These are students who no longer have an IEP and are receiving all of their educational services from a regular education program. This includes, but is not limited to, children whose parents refuse special education services and children being home schooled by their parents.
- (B) **Graduated with regular high school diploma.** Students who exited an educational program through receipt of a high school diploma identical to that for which students without disabilities are eligible. These are students who met the same standards for graduation as those for students without disabilities.

- (C) **Received a certificate.** Students who exited an educational program and received a certificate of completion, modified diploma, or some similar document and are no longer receiving special education services. This includes students who received a modified high school diploma but did not meet the same standards for graduation as those for students without disabilities. This includes students who have reached maximum age and who received a certificate. When a student reaches maximum age and received a certificate, the student should be reported in the exit category "Received a Certificate."
- (D) **Reached maximum age.** Students who exited special education because of reaching the maximum age for receipt of special education services, including students with disabilities who reached the maximum age and did not receive a regular high school diploma or certificate.
- (E) **Died.** Students who died.
- (F) **Moved, known to be continuing.** Students who moved (out of the state or otherwise transferred to another district in State) and are KNOWN to be continuing in an educational program. There need not be evidence that the student is continuing in special education, only that he/she is continuing in an education program. This category includes students in residential drug/alcohol rehabilitation centers and State prisons.
- (G) **Dropped out.** Students who were enrolled at the start of the reporting period (July 1st– June 30th), were not enrolled at the end of the reporting period, and did not exit special education through any of the other bases described. This category includes dropouts, runaways, expulsions, status unknown, students who moved and are not known to be continuing in another educational program, students who are truant, and other exiters from special education.

This exiting information is reported to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs using Table 4: Report of Children with Disabilities Exiting Special Education. The reporting period is July 1st through June 30th. New Hampshire is required to report only students ages 14 - 21 in Table 4.

*Please do not report the student exiting special education if the student is attending a 5th year of high school and plans to graduate with a regular high school diploma. A student should not be reported as exiting from special education if the student is receiving compensatory education.

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

This document is also available in alternate format upon request.

EXITING CATEGORIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

Transferred to Regular Education - No longer eligible for Special Education

Transferred to Regular Education - Refused Special Education

Graduated with Regular High School Diploma

Received a Certificate/Other document

Received a Certificate/Other document - Reached Maximum age and received a certificate/other document

Reached Maximum Age - Did not receive a regular high school diploma or certificate

Died

Moved, Known to be Continuing

Dropped Out- Dropout

Dropped Out - Runaway

Dropped Out - GED Recipient

Dropped Out - Status Unknown

Dropped Out - Moved, not known to be continuing in an educational program.

Dropped Out - Truant (this is a NEW category for children age 16 and below)

Dropped Out- Other exits

Referred and Evaluated - Not Found Eligible for Special Education