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Bureau of Special Education FY'09 Memo #40

Date: April 23, 2009

To: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Special Education

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Instruction
Bureau of Special Education

RE: Focused Monitoring Site Selection Process

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) would like to share the following information regarding how the Department selected public school districts for participation in the Focused Monitoring (FM) Process for the 2009/2010 school year.

School districts were divided into six (6) cohort groups based on the total student enrollment. The groups or 'cohorts' for 2009-2010 are as follows:

Cohort	Enrollment size	# Districts
1	12,500+	2
2	4,000-12,499	8
3	2,000-3,999	15
4	1,000-1,999	37
5	500-999	25
6	0-499	78

The FM Process is designed to monitor school districts' compliance with IDEA 2004 while focusing on improving results for children and youth with IEPs. The stakeholder group selected the Achievement Gap as the Key Performance Indicator (KPI).

The FM process is intended to assist districts to examine data and develop a plan to narrow the Achievement Gap between students with disabilities and all other students. The New Hampshire Department of Education selected districts for the FM process as described below:

**TDD Access: Relay NH 711
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER- EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

District Rankings

Districts were grouped in cohort groups (see Cohort table above).

The 2008 NECAP Mean Scaled Scores (MSS) for the October 2008 teaching year for grades 4 and 8 were recorded in reading and math.

The MSS was ranked in reading and math for grades 4 and 8 with the lowest MSS being assigned the highest rank.

The rankings of the MSS for grades 4 and 8 in reading and math were totaled.

The bottom quartile in each cohort group was selected for Achievement Gap Analysis.

The bottom quartile is defined as the 25% of Districts with the highest total ranking of MSS.

Achievement Gap Analysis

Achievement Gap is defined as the difference between scaled scores of students with IEPs and all other students.

The Achievement Gap was calculated for grades 4 and 8 in reading and math.

Achievement Gap for grades 4 and 8 in reading and math were totaled.

The district with the greatest Achievement Gap was selected from the bottom quartile of each cohort group.

Other considerations:

Districts visited by Program Approval during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school year were eliminated from 2009-2010 FM site selection.

"High school only" districts were not included for the 2009-2010 school year based on the unavailability of NECAP scores.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Santina Thibedeau at 271-6693 or sthibedeau@ed.state.nh.us.

This document is available in alternate format upon request.

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