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Bureau of Special Education FY'16 Memo #9

Date: September 22, 2015

To: Superintendents of Schools
Special Education Directors

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Educational Improvement
Bureau of Special Education

RE: Early Childhood Inclusion

On September 14, 2015 the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services released a policy statement highlighting the importance of making sure that all young children with disabilities have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the new policy statement in Kansas City, Missouri, during the first stop of his back-to-school bus tour.

The policy statement sets a vision for States, local educational agencies, schools, and public and private early childhood programs to strengthen and increase the number of inclusive high-quality early childhood programs nationwide. As the country continues to move forward on the critical task of expanding access to high-quality early childhood programs for all young children, it is imperative that children with disabilities be included in these efforts.

You can read information on the policy statement [here](http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/inclusion/index.html).
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/inclusion/index.html>

As we all work together so that children with disabilities have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, here's what you can do help:

- Spread the word! Share this information with your network, and be sure to retweet @usedgov and @hhs.gov on the topic.
- Commit to working with States, early childhood programs, and families to advance the recommendations and expand inclusive early learning opportunities for all children.

For additional information, contact Ruth Littlefield: Ruth.Littlefield@doe.nh.gov / (603) 271-2178.

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