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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
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September 13, 2010

Dear Families and Schools:

Thank you so much for investing your time in distributing and/or completing the Parent Involvement Survey. This survey is important as the results of the survey are going to help the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education better understand how we can strengthen parent involvement in the special education process. The 2009-2010 Parent Involvement Statewide Survey Results are available on the NHDOE website:

http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/parent_involv.htm

The March 2010 survey was the third of what will be an annual undertaking. Each year the NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education continues to learn more about how to ensure we reach all parents. In moving forward the NHDoE, Bureau of Special Education wish to continually improve both the delivery and the processing of the surveys to make it easier for all involved. The Parent Involvement Survey is a requirement of the United States Department of Education (USDOE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that each State measures the percent of parents of children receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

The process of reporting the results of the survey is similar to how the NHDoE reports data to the Federal Office of Special Education Programs. Typically, results are reported the following year. We are happy to announce the statewide data is available at this time.

The 2010 survey continues to evidence efforts schools are making to support parents. In general, statewide results suggest that school and family partnerships overall are strong and parental involvement is being facilitated. Over 90% of parents (both preschool and school age combined) agreed that schools facilitated:

- effective communication between the school and families,
- active engagement as a partner in the IEP process, and
- an open and respectful climate for parents with questions.

The NHDoE recognizes the importance of family involvement as research clearly shows that when families and schools work together, children with disabilities are more likely to experience success in school and achieve their goals. We are also committed to supporting families and schools in working together and have resources and trainings available to support you in your efforts to improve family/school partnerships.

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Families are indispensable partners in the schooling of children with disabilities to be successful throughout life. When schools and families work together, children with disabilities are more likely to experience success in school and achieve their goals. During the 2010-2011 school year the NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education will be offering technical assistance to schools and families based on the National Center for Special Education Accountability and Monitoring, "Improving Relationships and Results: Building Family School Partnerships." This document was designed to support an increase in how families are involved as a means to enhance services and programming related to special education for their child. The intent of "Improving Relationships & Results: Building Family School Partnerships" is to provide evidence based interventions that schools can use to improve their relationships with families.

Hopefully this is informational for you and helps create a conversation in your community on how we can work together to support children receiving special education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia M. Barry". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
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