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Bureau of Special Education FY'14 Memo #26

Date: February 21, 2014

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Special Education
Teachers of the Visually Impaired

FROM: Office of the Commissioner

Division of Educational Improvement
Bureau of Special Education

RE: Professional Development ~ American Printing House for the Blind Opportunity

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce the following professional development opportunity:

Topic: APH Training on: Sensing, Acting, Learning: Strategies for Learners with Visual and Multiple Impairments

Description: Students with visual and multiple impairments have unique educational needs. When their present levels of performance are at the sensorimotor and early preoperational stages, regardless of chronological age, they learn about their worlds and develop basic skills by participating in experiences that allow them to use sensing and acting systems. Barriers to learning imposed by sensory, cognitive, and motor impairments must be overcome by teams of professionals who can use research-based strategies to design highly effective instructional activities.

Mildred Smith will lead a training entitled *Sensing, Acting, Learning: Strategies for Learners with Visual and Multiple Impairments*. The objectives for participants of this training are: (1) identifying the characteristics of learning at the sensorimotor and early preoperational stages, (2) identifying the specific components of sensing and acting systems related to developing skills and concepts, (3) assessing sensory needs using tools designed for sensorimotor and early preoperational learners, and (4) examining strategies for designing instructional activities that provide the repetition and consistency required for overcoming sensory barriers to learning at these stages. This is full two-day training.

When: Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 9:00am-4:00pm (lunch on your own from 12:00pm-1:00pm); and;
Thursday, March 20, 2014, 9:00am-4:00pm (lunch on your own from 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Presenter: Mildred (Millie) Smith ~ American Printing House (APH)

Location: Plymouth State University (PSU) ~ 2 Pillsbury Street, 5th floor, Concord, NH (directions attached)

To Register: Please email Stacey Welch at Stacey.Welch@doe.nh.gov / 271-0818. The deadline to register is Friday, March 14, 2014.