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Bureau of Special Education FY'17 Memo #1

Date: August 30, 2016

To: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Special Education
Business Administrators

From: Office of the Commissioner
Division of Educational Improvement
Bureau of Special Education

RE: Parent Involvement Survey in Special Education Administration 2017

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education (Bureau) is beginning to conduct the tenth annual Parent Involvement Survey in Special Education. The NHDOE is required by the Office of Special Education (OSEP) in the Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) to conduct a statewide survey to measure the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities (Indicator 8). As you know, NH conducts census survey over two years. **This year, school districts assigned to Block A will be administering the survey. If you are unsure which survey block your district is in, please visit http://education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/documents/parent_involvement_survey_block_a_districts.pdf**

Based on feedback from the Indicator 8 Input group and the field, the NHDOE is making information and marketing material regarding this year's survey available for the start of the school year. This includes promotional flyers, magnets, and other material. Gibson Consulting Group, Inc. (Gibson) is again assisting the Bureau in the distribution of the survey and analysis of the survey results. The NHDOE has supplied Gibson with the name and contact information of the Special Education Director for each school district, and they will be in touch with Block A districts to coordinate how to obtain promotional flyers, magnets and other materials related to this year's survey. If you have questions about the marketing material, please contact Cheyanne Rolf at Gibson at crolf@gibsonconsult.com or (877) 328-0884 x115. More detailed information regarding the survey administration process and timelines will be distributed at a later date.

The NHDOE prioritizes family-school partnerships and research shows that parent involvement impacts outcomes for children. The change to a census survey over a two year period was made because of concerns that there is a very small window of time between when survey results are available and the next administration and that this small window is not sufficient to implement strategies to strengthen family-school partnerships.

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Thus, Block B districts not administering the survey should be actively working to review their Indicator 8 data and implementing strategies to family-school partnerships in special education. The NHDOE has funded the New Hampshire Connections project to support district/school staff and families in understanding their Indicator 8/Parent Involvement Survey data and in developing action plans to improve family-school partnerships in special education. The New Hampshire Connections Project (www.nhconnections.org) is available to support any district in these activities regardless of which Survey Block they may be in. Please contact Jennifer Cunha, New Hampshire Connections Project Director for more information jcunha@picnh.org (603) 224-7005 ext. 115.

The Department of Education looks forward to working with your district to ensure an effective administration of the parent survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Lane: Mary.Lane@doe.nh.gov or (603) 271-3740.

MTL:BJD