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Bureau of Special Education FY'18 Memo #5

Date: August 29, 2017

To: Superintendents of Schools  
Special Education Directors

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Educational Improvement  
Bureau of Special Education

RE: Eligibility Determinations for Children Suspected of Having a Visual Impairment  
Including Blindness under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education is providing OSEP Memorandum 17-05 issued by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to assist State Education Agencies and Local Educational Agencies in establishing procedures that further define the disability category "visual impairment including blindness" under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The purpose of OSEP Memorandum 17-05 is to ensure broad dissemination of the key points made in OSEP's November 12, 2014 letter to provide additional guidance requested on this important issue and share information about outside resources that may be helpful as we examine New Hampshire's procedures related to the identification and evaluation of children suspected of having a visual impairment including blindness.

For more information about various types of visual impairments and the ways in which those impairments can affect a child's ability to learn:

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/visualimpairment/>

Outside resources available for consulting that address assessments for children who have, or are suspected of having a "visual impairment including blindness.

- American Foundation for the Blind. Assessments for students who are blind or visually impaired.  
<http://www.familyconnect.org/info/education/assessments/13>
- American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. Accessible tests resource center.  
<http://www.aph.org/accessible-tests/>

For further clarification regarding the procedures related to the identification and evaluation of children suspected of having a visual impairment including blindness, please contact Mary Lane at 603-271-3740 / [Mary.Lane@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Mary.Lane@doe.nh.gov).

MTL:BJD