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**SPECIAL EDUCATION FIELD ADVISORY**

FROM: James P. DeLorenzo 

SUBJECT: Initial Application for Approval to Operate a Preschool Special Education and/or Multidisciplinary Evaluation Program

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has revised its application for initial approval of preschool (ages 3-5) special education programs pursuant to section 4410 of the Education Law. The application, as revised, includes enhancements that will further assess an applicant's capacity to provide high-quality and cost-effective programs; ensure that the program environment addresses health, safety and accessibility issues for students with disabilities; and assesses an applicant's background, qualifications and governance structures to provide sound programmatic and fiscal practices.

NYSED will now accept applications from agencies applying for State approval to operate a preschool special education Multidisciplinary Evaluation Program, Special Education Itinerant Services Program, Special Class in an Integrated Setting Program and/or Special Class Program. The "Initial Application for Preschool Special Education and Multidisciplinary Evaluation Programs" and related materials are available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/applications/>.

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant must first receive written confirmation from the NYSED Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) Regional Office where the applying agency is located that regional need has been established for the proposed program. A copy of NYSED's certification of regional need must be attached to the application. For information on the regional need process, see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/applications/preschool-home.html>. For contact information for NYSED's SEQA Regional Offices, see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/quality/home.html>.

While NYSED will now accept applications for initial approval of preschool programs, the temporary suspension for initial approval of school-age (ages 5-21) private school programs and applications for expansions of currently approved preschool special education programs and approved school-age private schools remains in effect until such time as NYSED completes its review and revision of those application materials.

Questions regarding this memorandum and the application may be directed to the Special Education Preschool Policy Unit at (518) 473-6108 or to the SEQA Regional Office in your region:

Central Regional Office	(315) 428-4556
Eastern Regional Office	(518) 486-6366
Hudson Valley Regional Office	(518) 473-1185
Long Island Regional Office	(631) 952-3352
New York City Regional Office	(718) 722-4544
Western Regional Office	(585) 344-2002