



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Presidents of Boards of Education
Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education
Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools
Executive Directors of Approved Private Schools
New York City Board of Education
Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education Services
Impartial Hearing Officers
Community Dispute Resolution Centers
Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers
Special Education Parent Centers
Other State Agencies

From: James P. DeLorenzo

Subject: Transition Services Professional Development Support Center (PDSC)

The Office of Special Education of the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is pleased to announce the establishment of the Transition Services Professional Development Support Center (PDSC) at Cornell University. School districts are required, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide each student with a disability appropriate transition services to assist each student to meet his/her post-secondary goals for living, learning and working. With the addition of the Transition Services PDSC, New York State now has a comprehensive system of State and regionally-based professional development support to school districts needing to improve transition planning and transition-related instructional services and supports for students with disabilities.

The Transition Services PDSC will provide a web-based resource for transition services and planning (currently known as TransQUAL) for all school districts. This web-based tool is based on five quality indicators of effective transition planning: student development, student-focused planning, program structure, family involvement and interagency collaboration. The new Transition Services PDSC will improve the functionality and quality of the current TransQUAL tool, and will create a new website to house not only TransQUAL, but other technical assistance information to assist school districts to improve transition programs and services. In addition, the Transition Services

PDSC will host an on-line forum for school districts to share transition improvement activities with other school districts in the State. For information on the transition-related technical assistance resources through the Transition Services PDSC, see <http://www.transitionsource.org>.

The Transition Services PDSC will also provide ongoing professional development support to the State's Transition Specialists within the Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers (RSE-TASC). Through the RSE-TASC transition specialists, school districts can access technical assistance and professional development on a variety of topics related to effective transition planning and services, including but not limited to:

- individualized education program (IEP) development relating to transition planning;
- student exit summaries;
- transition assessments;
- work-based learning;
- self advocacy/self determination; and
- partnering with community agencies.

To contact the Transition Specialist(s) in your area, please see <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/rsetasc/locations.htm>.

Questions relating to this memorandum may be directed to SPECED@mail.nysed.gov or by calling Ms. Sophie McDermott at 518-486-7462. To ensure dissemination to appropriate individuals within a school district, I ask Superintendents to please share this memorandum with individuals such as Building Principals, Directors of Special Education, School Psychologists, Guidance Counselors, Directors of Pupil Personnel and Parent Teacher Associations.

*Please note:

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