



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: Early Childhood Direction Centers

The Office of Special Education of the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is pleased to announce the five-year extension of services provided by the Early Childhood Direction Centers (ECDCs). ECDCs are the State's primary technical assistance centers to address the activities needed to improve results for the indicators related to preschool children with disabilities.

The ECDC network provides a coordinated system to provide information and referral services for children with disabilities ages birth-5. Professional development and technical assistance are provided to families and preschool providers to improve results for preschool students with disabilities. This technical assistance includes, but is not limited to, such topics as timely evaluations, least restrictive environments, and improved outcomes. The targeted areas for improved outcomes are early literacy and communication, social-emotional skills and positive behaviors.

Each Center will be responsible for:

- providing parents with an understanding of the preschool special education process;
- providing technical assistance to parents and professionals to facilitate timely evaluations and services for preschool children with disabilities;

- improving the transition of children from early intervention (EI) to preschool special education and from preschool special education to school-age education services;
- promoting research-based instructional programs to improve outcomes for preschool children with disabilities; and
- promoting greater access of preschool children to integrated special education settings.

To contact the ECDC in your region, please refer to the attached list or access the ECDC directory at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/ecdc/> .

Questions relating to this memorandum may be directed to SPECED@mail.nysed.gov or by calling Elaine Gervais 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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Attachment