



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services
Directors of Private Approved Special Education Facilities
Directors of Charter Schools

FROM: George P. Dowaliby, Chief *GD*
Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services

DATE: April 16, 2001

SUBJECT: Update #25

POSITION STATEMENT

Enclosed please find the revised *Position Statement on the Education of Students with Disabilities*, adopted by the CT State Board of Education at its meeting on January 3, 2001. This revised position statement continues to emphasize the need for a unified and coordinated system of services to better serve all students. Minor changes in language from the 1996 document have been made that more strongly emphasize the establishment for a continuum of services for students as well as the need for education to occur in the least restrictive environment.

Because it is not enough to address high standards only in terms of academic areas, an additional indicator of good practice related to character education has been added. Schools must promote a positive school climate for all children, including children with disabilities.

NEW DATA COLLECTION

Please be aware that the Department anticipates collecting two new pieces of data regarding students with disabilities. The new data items deal with:

- The number of students with disabilities who participate in school-sponsored extra curricular activities; and
- The number of students with disabilities who are educated in the school they would attend if not disabled.

Update #25
April 16, 2001
Page 2

IEP REVISIONS

The Bureau and the Department have been reviewing the IEP with respect to justification for removal of decisions regarding LRE. Please be advised that it is anticipated that a change in the IEP will be required. We will notify you as soon as possible regarding this issue.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS

As I have stated on various occasions, the Bureau has fewer discretionary dollars as a result of federal funding formula changes. This impacts directly on our support of professional development activities, including a number of programs provided by the Special Education Resource Center (SERC). As a result, there are likely to be number of SERC programs offered next year, previously offered at no or little charge, that will have a fee requirement. We are attempting to keep fees to a minimum where possible.

One result of the federal formula is that additional funds are passed through to LEAs. Where appropriate, you may want to budget for these new costs with your IDEA entitlement funds.

SERC/BEST PROGRAM

The Special Education Resource Center (SERC) and the BEST Program are offering a training program for exemplary special educators to serve as the SERC/BEST Cadre. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for information and application process.

GPD:m
Enclosures

cc: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education
George A. Coleman, Associate Commissioner of Education
Edward Preneta, Council on Developmental Disabilities
Bonnie Moran, Special Education Advisory Council
Nancy Prescott, CT Advocacy Center
Superintendents of Schools
Hearing Officers
SDE Staff