Date: February 14, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

Route To: Special Education Directors, Early Childhood Directors

From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner

Division of Student Services

Update to the Child Find Flyer

In accordance with the regulations in the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, the U.S. Department of Education requires every state to have policies and procedures in effect to ensure that "All children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or are wards of the State, and children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated" (IDEA, §300.111). This requirement is known as Project Child Find and it supports school districts in their efforts to identify, locate and evaluate children with potential developmental delays and/or disabilities.

To assist school districts in local Child Find efforts, the Child Find Flyer for New Jersey has been updated, reflecting current information. We encourage the duplication and distribution of this flyer in your school buildings, including childcare settings. The flyers should be placed in highly visible areas that are easily accessible to the public. The flyer is attached to this broadcast and can also be accessed by visiting the New Jersey Department of Education's Project Child Find resources.

In addition to the Child Find Flyer, please see additional materials for preschool-aged children, on the Centers for Disease Control's <u>"Act Early" webpage</u>. The campaign, "Learn the signs. Act Early," focuses on the early identification of young children with disabilities and provides a wealth of information depicting expected developmental milestones.

For questions, please contact Alexis Ziegler, Acting Section 619 coordinator, at alexis.ziegler@doe.nj.gov or (609) 477-6944.

c: Members, State Board of Education Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner NJDOE Staff Statewide Parent Advocacy Network Garden State Coalition of Schools NJ LEE Group