



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Commissioner

October 27, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons
Directors of Special Education
Administrators of a State Facility
Administrators of an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities
Administrators of a College-Operated Program
Statewide Special Education Advisory Council
Agencies or Organizations Concerned with Special Education

FROM: Peggy McDonald, Executive Director
Office of Special Education Programs

SUBJECT: Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs

I am writing to bring to your attention a policy statement released jointly by the United States Departments of Education and Health and Human Services on September 14, 2015, which states that all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, where they are provided with individualized and appropriate support in meeting high expectations. The statement can be read in its entirety at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/earlylearning/joint-statement-full-text.pdf>.

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, supports the use of this document when developing Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students in early childhood programs, as well as when developing early childhood programs.

PM/ke

c: Members, State Board of Education
Commissioner David C. Hespe
Senior Staff
Diane Shoener
John Worthington
Kathy Ehling

Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
County Supervisors of Child Study
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group