



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
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February 23, 2006

New Jersey State Board of Education
New Jersey Department of Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Members:

The State Special Education Advisory Council continues to discuss the proposed amendments to N.J.A.C., Chapter 14 at our monthly meetings. The changes that will be made to these regulations will surely impact the way special education services are delivered in the State of New Jersey, and therefore merit our continued interest and consideration.

At this time, the Council has reached consensus on and recommends the following additional amendments to the proposed code.

Short term objectives or benchmarks (6A: 14-3.7)

The Council has reevaluated its position based on further discussion and input from our members and believes that measurable short-term objectives or benchmarks should remain in the IEP for all students. These provide a mechanism for both assessing and guiding instruction as a student progresses toward his/her annual goals. We recommend:

- retaining the existing language at 14-3.7(e)3 (p. 67)
- eliminating the phrase “where applicable” in the definition of “individualized education program” in section 14-1.3 (p. 9)
- eliminating the phrase “Where appropriate” which begins section 14-3.7(e)2 (p. 67)

Amendments to the IEP without a meeting (6A: 14-3.7)

The Council supports the addition of regulations that will permit amending an IEP without an IEP team meeting. We believe this can benefit all parties (students, parents, and team members) in that it will permit speedy adjustments to an IEP without straining the schedules of parents and professionals. We recommend incorporating the new language at 14-3.7(d) in its entirety. In addition, we recommend including a timeline for providing the parent with a copy of the amended IEP. The Council suggests 15 days as an appropriate and consistent

timeline.

Timeline for reevaluations (6A:14-3.8)

The Council believes that a longer timeline is necessary for reevaluations that are requested prior to the triennial reevaluation. This is to ensure that quality evaluations can be made by professionals within and outside the school district. The Council suggests that districts be afforded 90 days from the receipt of written consent to complete their reevaluation, as this is consistent with the timeline required for an initial evaluation. However, triennial reevaluations must be completed prior to the expiration of the three-year timeframe.

Provision of a copy of the IEP at the close of the IEP meeting (6A:14-3.7)

The Council believes that parents should be provided with a written document at the conclusion of the IEP meeting. This could be a handwritten copy of the IEP or a summary statement of its key elements including (but not limited to) annual goals, services that will be provided, and program components. In addition, we recommend that the district provide a completed IEP that corresponds exactly to the parent's copy within 15 days. We ask that clarifying language to this effect be added to section 14-3.7(1).

Should you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Sharon L. Maricle
Chairperson

C: Barbara Gantwerk
Roberta Wohle
John Worthington