**September 2016 SED Update**

Updated September 14, 2016

**New Assistant Commissioner of Special Education**

Christopher Suriano was appointed by SED to be the next Assistant Commissioner of Special Education. He starts September 22, 2016. <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2016/state-education-department-appoints-christopher-suriano-assistant-commissioner-special>

**Reminder - Regents Approve Changes to State Regulations regarding 1:1 Aides and Preschool Special Education Programs and Services**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/documents/new-regs-for-one-to-one-aides.pdf>

Questions and answers pertaining to the amendment of sections 200.4, 200.16 and 200.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to recommendations for one-to-one aides for preschool and school-age students with disabilities and preschool special education programs and services can be found at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/documents/new-regs-for-one-to-one-aides-qa.pdf>

**Reminder - Revised New York State Procedural Safeguards Notice: Rights for Parents of children with Disabilities, Ages 3-21**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/formsnotices/procedural-safeguards-notice.htm>

**Guidance on Procedures Relating to Special Education Impartial Hearings**

A memorandum to school personnel and NYS special education impartial hearing officers provides clarification regarding some of the procedural requirements relating to special education due process hearings pursuant to section 200.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/procedures-relating-to-impartial-hearings.html>

**New York State Laws and Regulations that Differ from Federal Requirements**

Under federal law, the State must identify in writing to all school districts located in the State any rule, regulation or policy that is a State imposed requirement that is not required by IDEA and federal regulations. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/nys-laws-and-regulations-that-differ-from-federal-requirements-june-2016.html>

**Federal Guidance on Surrogate Parents and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

This federal guidance provides important information and questions and answers on the provision of consent for special education evaluations and services for unaccompanied youth who are homeless. [https://www.nasdse.org/LinkClick.aspx?filetic ket=Kck6yunXeEQ%3D&tabid=36](https://www.nasdse.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Kck6yunXeEQ%3D&tabid=36)

**New York State Pyramid Model**

 A Master Cadre of trainers from across New York State, along with Behavior Specialists from the NYSED RSE-TASCs completed a series of modules on the Pyramid Model and will begin providing training this summer. This Model is an evidence-based tiered framework which has proven to be an effective approach to building social and emotional competence in early care and education systems. For more information about local training opportunities and to learn more about this effort, please go to: [http://bit.ly/NYpyramid.](http://www.nysecac.org/news-and-events/pyramid-model/)

**New York State Response to Intervention Technical Assistance Center (RtI TAC) – Archived Webinars**

The RtI TAC has archived webinars on topics related to RtI. These archived webinars are free and can be accessed at: [http://www.nysrti.org/page/past-webinars/.](http://www.nysrti.org/page/past-webinars/.%20)

Archived RtI TAC Webinars:

 Using an Assessment Audit to Create a Lean and Efficient RTI Assessment System for Grades 3-6

 Using an Assessment Audit to Create a Lean and Efficient RTI Assessment System for Grades K-3

 Dialogic Reading As a Tier One Intervention in a Pre-K RtI Model

 Implementing Collaborative Strategic Reading in Grades 4-12

 Culturally Responsive Instruction and Assessment for English Language Learners in an RtI Model

 Using Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) as a Class-wide Intervention in Grades 2-6

**Least Restrictive Environment**

The Department is seeking public comment on its policy under discussion regarding Least Restrictive Environment prior to proposing regulations to the Board of Regents. Written comments on the proposed policy can be submitted by September 30, 2016 to the following

spedpublicomment@nysed.gov

Attention: Draft LRE Policy. For additional information regarding the policy under discussion, see

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publicati ons/2015-memos/least-restrictiveenvironment-district-responsibilities.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2015-memos/least-restrictive-environment-district-responsibilities.html)

**Specially Designed Instruction**

An important principle under the Blueprint is that teachers design, provide and assess the effectiveness of specially-designed instruction to provide students with disabilities with access to participate and progress in the general education curriculum. NYSED has posted a lesson planning resource for teachers to support educators in embedding specially-designed instruction into lessons that are aligned with the State’s learning standards.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/commoncore/guidance-commoncore-template.htm>

**Engaging Parents as Meaningful Partners in the Special Education Process and the**

**Education of Their Child**

Meaningful engagement of parents and family members in a child’s special education program is an essential factor to improve results for students with disabilities. Parents need an understanding of the special education process and their rights within this process. They also need to understand what is expected of their child and how they can meaningfully participate in the development of their child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). Resources and professional development include:

**Special Education Parent Centers** <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm>

**Early Childhood Direction Centers** <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/ecdc/home.html>

**Parent Training and Information Centers** [http://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-yourcenter/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/)

**Family and Community Engagement** <http://www.ed.gov/parent-and-familyengagement>

**Educating Our Children Together: A Sourcebook for Effective Family-School Community Partnerships**

([http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publicati ons/persprep/cadre.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/persprep/cadre.pdf)

**OSE ListServe**

You can receive **notification** by electronic mail of the latest **memoranda and other technical assistance documents** available on the Special Education website. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm>

**NYS Education Department Office of Special Education**

**Special Education Quality Assurance**

**333 East Washington Street, Suite 210**

**Syracuse, New York 13202**

**(315) 428-4556 Office (315) 428-4555 Fax**

**Special Education web site –** [**http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/**](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/)

**http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/news-and-notes.html**