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To: Deans and Directors of Institutions of Higher Education Offering Teacher Education Programs

From: Joseph P. Frey 

Subject: Regulations Regarding Course Work in Autism

In July 2008, I notified you that the Board of Regents passed regulations regarding meeting the needs of children with autism. These regulations became permanent effective October 9, 2008, as reflected in the Board of Regents item available at <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/September2008/0908hea2.doc>. I ask your assistance in notifying potential providers of course work or training in the needs of children with autism of the *New York State Education Department Syllabus (Outline) and Application for Approval as a Provider of Training or Course Work in the Needs of Children with Autism*. The application is available at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/documents/appsyllabus.doc>. New York State institutions of higher education with approved students with disabilities programs leading to certification are deemed approved, pursuant to Subpart 57-3.7.

Subpart 57-3 of the Commissioner's Regulations defines the entities eligible to serve as providers of training or course work in the needs of children with autism. Under the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, a provider must be one of the following:

- Teachers' or professional organization or association
- School district
- Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- Nonpublic school
- Institution of higher education
- Hospital
- Health care facility
- Government agency or office
- Social service agency
- Any other organization whose purpose is the provision of course work in the needs of students with autism.

Candidates applying for a certificate in special education through individual transcript evaluation on or after September 2, 2009, must have training in the needs of children with autism. In 2008, the Legislature enacted Chapter 484 of the Laws of 2008, amending Section 3004 of the Education Law to require that school administrators and supervisors assigned on or after September 2, 2009, to serve as special education administrators complete training in the needs of autistic children as soon as practicable after their assignment. Certified school administrators or supervisors assigned to serve as special education administrators prior to September 2, 2009, are required to have enhanced training in the needs of children with autism by such date.

Thank you in advance for sharing this information to help ensure that children with autism have knowledgeable and prepared special education teachers and school administrators working in special education.

If you have questions, please contact Rich Gervais, Supervisor of Teacher Education, at (518) 474-1551 or via E-mail to rgervais@mail.nysed.gov.

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