

Advocacy Newsbriefs...

September 26, 2011

2011-12 School Year Accountability Requirements

The Federal government is easing the requirements for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) which would appear to make it easier for school districts to limit spending on special education. IDEA requires that Local Education Agencies (LEA) expend the same amount of local/state funding for special education and related services as expended in the previous fiscal year.

MOE states that "school districts maintain the **same level of state and local funding from year to year as a condition of receiving federal funding.**" If a district were to fail to meet this requirement without obtaining approval from US Dept. of Education, it could lose federal funding or be required to repay funds that it had already received.

This requirement was established to ensure that special education budgets could not be cut without an official process to do so. In a letter sent in June, Melody Musgrove, director of the Office of Special Education Programs at the Education Department, indicated that school districts are obligated only to meet their spending level for the previous year, regardless of whether or not they satisfied the maintenance of effort requirement at that time. For additional information go to: <http://ideamoneywatch.com/balancesheet/?p=419>



everychild. onevoice: We Advocate for ALL children...



Environment Spotlight

Governor to Sign Law Prohibiting the Sale of Children's Products with TRIS

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced he will sign a law banning the sale of any consumer merchandise intended for use by children under three, such as baby toys, car seats, crib mattresses and strollers, if the product contains the flame retardant chemical, TRIS...

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07302011ChildProducts>



"Advocacy is at the heart of PTA's mission and vision. Taking action provides both parents and PTA leaders with the resources to become more involved with their community at home and their community across the nation."



Special Education

The NYSED Office of Special Education reminds all school districts of the special education requirements that go into effect this school year on state-required forms for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Meeting Notices, and Prior Written Notice:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/reminder-requiredforms-911.htm>

Did You Know.....



NYSED has released the revised Grade 3-8 test schedule.

See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/schedules/2012/3-8-schedule-12.pdf>

Health and Wellness Information

Product Recalls

Listeria outbreak linked to cantaloupe
<http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/listeriosis/outbreak.html>

Health Updates

The Parents Toll-Free Helpline, 1-855-DRUGFREE (1-855-378-4373), is staffed by clinical social workers with practical experience in substance abuse prevention and treatment. The helpline, launched by The Partnership at Drugfree.org, began taking calls in April 2011 and will offer bilingual support (English/Spanish) beginning in mid-August.

Study: What kids watch on TV may affect behavior

<http://news.consumerreports.org/baby/2011/09/study-what-kids-watch-on-tv-may-affect-behavior.html>

Monthly Health Calendar

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month—
<http://www.nbcam.org/>

October 2-8 Mental Health Awareness Week—
<http://www.nami.org/>

October 5 is International Walk to School Day—
<http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/index.cfm>

October 23- 31 is Red Ribbon Week—
<http://www.nfp.org/>

October 24 is Food Day—
<http://foodday.org/participate/resources>
Additional resources to use for Food Day events include: Nourish Life Videos:
<http://www.nourishlife.org/videos-all/>

October 31 – November 6, 2011 is National Drug Facts Week.
<http://www.drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/>

Nutrition Update: Fresh Connect Farm Markets Launched

As part of the governor's Farm New York initiative, the FreshConnect program is designed to expand the sale of locally grown food, bring fresh food to underserved communities, improve nutrition education, and provide local jobs. The program includes three new youth markets.

<http://governor.ny.gov/press/08092011FreshConnect>