December 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Special Education Coordinators

FROM: Mabrey Whetstone
Special Education Services

RE: Updates

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT PROCEDURES

On Thursday, December 10, 2009, the State Board of Education cancelled the Notice of Intent to Amend the Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 290-3-1.02 to add Seclusion and Restraint Procedures. This action was taken after receiving word that the U.S. Department of Education would be issuing federal regulations on this very issue in the near future. Therefore, Special Education Services (SES) is requesting that Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) not contain seclusion and restraint procedures. In addition, the Department of Education (DOE) is requesting that local education agencies (LEAs) use seclusion and restraint procedures only when absolutely necessary.

ALABAMA OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA (AOD)

Students perusing the AOD are required to earn credits for employment development. The course names have been changed and an alternate course is available.

IMPORTANT: If an LEA offers Workforce Essentials, students pursuing the AOD must take that course and only if an LEA does not offer Workforce Essentials may Transition Services II be offered for credit toward the AOD.

Likewise, if an LEA has a Cooperative Education Program, Cooperative Education Seminar must be offered and must be taken to earn credit for the AOD and only if an LEA does not have a Cooperative Education Program may Life Skills Occupational Preparation be offered for credit toward the AOD.

Here are changes to course titles that will be made in the AAC the next time Rule No. 290-3-1-.02 is amended.

Coordinated Studies or Transition Services is being changed to: Workforce Essentials or Transition Services II
Cooperative Career Education is being changed to: Cooperative Education Seminar or Life Skills Occupational Preparation

Course codes:

400016 Workforce Essentials
700041 Transition Services II
400031 Cooperative Education Seminar
700042 Life Skills Occupational Preparation

FOCUSED MONITORING

We continue to have students transfer from one LEA to another LEA in Alabama who are overdue for a reevaluation and/or the IEP has expired. Therefore, we are reviewing each LEA’s Eligibility Overdue Reports and Overdue IEPs by Signature Date reports in SETSWeb. If either of these reports indicates a concern, your Regional Specialist will contact you. Sometimes names appear on these two reports because forms have not been closed, students are still showing as active even though the student is inactive, etc. SES is requesting these reports be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the LEA’s internal monitoring process. If we find overdue reevaluations and/or IEPs that have transferred in to an LEA that is receiving an onsite monitoring, we will be contacting the LEA who was responsible at the time of the reevaluation and/or IEP and may issue a letter of noncompliance.

Should you need further assistance in this matter, you may contact the SES contact person for your region at (334) 242-8114.