



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

January 11, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors/Coordinators, Exceptional Children Programs

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director *WJH*
Exceptional Children Division

Carol Ann M. Hudgens, Section Chief *cah*
Policy, Monitoring and Audit

RE: **Updates from the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**

During the month of December, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services issued a series of guidance documents. A list of those documents and a brief description can be found below. All documents will be posted on the EC Division website and can be found by using the following link:

<http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities/ncdpi-communication/2016-2017/federal-programs-Updates>

USDOE Guidance on Civil Rights of Students with Disabilities

These three new sets of guidance are released to assist the public in understanding how the Department interprets and enforces federal civil rights laws protecting the rights of students with disabilities. These guidance documents clarify the rights of students with disabilities and the responsibilities of educational institutes in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn.

https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-guidance-civil-rights-students-disabilities?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

- Parent and Educator Resource Guide to Section 504 in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Dear Colleague Letter on the Rights of Children with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools
 - FAQs- Rights of Students with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - FAQ- Rights of Students with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - Fact Sheet- Know Your Rights: Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools
- Dear Colleague Letter: Restraint and Seclusion of Students with Disabilities
 - Fact Sheet- Restraint and Seclusion of Students with Disabilities

Equity in IDEA

The U.S. Department of Education made available to the public final regulations under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), aimed at promoting equity by targeting widespread disparities in the treatment of students of color with disabilities.

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-equity-idea>

- Dear Colleague Letter: Preventing Racial Discrimination in Special Education
- *Federal Regulations sent previously in an EC Division Memo dated January 4, 2016*

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Reducing Recidivism for Justice-Involved Youth

The U.S. Department of Education announced the release of new guides and resources to help justice-involved youth transition back to traditional school settings. The resources include a guide written for incarcerated youth; a newly updated transition toolkit and resource guide for practitioners in juvenile justice facilities; a document detailing education programs in juvenile justice facilities from the most recent Civil Rights Data Collection; and a website that provides technical assistance to support youth with disabilities with transitioning out of juvenile justice facilities.

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-reducing-recidivism-justice-involved-youth>

- Dear Colleague Letter: Reducing Recidivism

Directors/Coordinators may also subscribe directly to the USDOE listserv for press releases regarding future updates by following this link:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic_id=USED_5

It is our hope that you will find these resources informative and helpful. If there are additional questions or concerns, you may submit them for inclusion in the February 7, 2017 Directors' webinar.

WJH/CAH/tb