



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Acting Commissioner

December 20, 2010

TO: Chief School Administrator
Director of Special Education
Administrator of a State Facility
Administrator of a Charter School
Administrator of an Approved Private School for the Disabled
Administrator of a College-Operated Program
Statewide Special Education Advisory Council
Agencies or Organizations Concerned with Special Education

FROM: Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

SUBJECT: Guidance with Respect to Goals and Objectives in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the requirements regarding the need for annual goals and objectives in IEPs for students with disabilities, particularly for those students being educated in general education programs.

Clarification:

The consideration of annual goals and objectives must be made *on an individual student basis, according to the unique needs of a child*. A decision regarding what is appropriate for an individual student cannot be predetermined or made solely based upon a student's placement. For each student with a disability, the student's IEP team must consider the need for goals and objectives that: (a) enable the student to be involved and progress in the general education curriculum; and (b) address other educational needs that result from the student's disability. See N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(e) 3.

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While it is recognized that a student's disability may not impact learning in every subject area, the *IEP for each student with a disability must include one or more goals and related objectives that are responsive to the considerations in (a) and/or (b) above.* These factors must be considered *regardless of placement.* See 34 CFR §300.320(a)(2). The goal(s) and objectives should represent modified instructional content *and/or* address other skill areas, including but not limited to, social skills, communication skills, organizational skills, study skills, self-regulatory skills, transition related skills, etc. in response to the individual student's needs. At the next IEP meeting for each student with a disability in your district, the IEP team must review the IEP and ensure that one or more goals and related objectives are included in the IEP.

Please ensure that this memo is distributed to all child study team members and other staff participating in the development of Individualized Education Programs. If you have questions regarding the implementation of this requirement, please contact Dr. Peggy McDonald via email at peggy.mcdonald@doe.state.nj.us or by telephone at 609-633-6956.

Thank you for giving this memo your attention.

BG/PO/PM/JW/

c: Andrew Smarick
Peggy O'Reilly
Peggy McDonald
John Worthington
County Superintendents
County Supervisors of Child Study