

Connecticut Technical High School System

September 28, 2009

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that the Connecticut Technical High School System has been granted an extension until June 30, 2010 from the Connecticut Department of Education to implement the change in criteria for identification of children with specific learning disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and related state laws.

Notification to all parents is a requirement of this extension. Importantly, although the State Department of Education (SDE), sought to require districts to comply with the 2009 Guidelines for Identifying Children with Learning Disabilities (“the Guidelines”) by July 1, 2009, the SDE did not issue the Executive Summary until after July 1, 2009, and has not yet issued the actual Guidelines as of the date of this letter. Without the actual Guidelines in hand, we feel that the most prudent course of action was to obtain this extension and continue to implement the 1999 Guidelines for Identifying Children with Learning Disabilities.

In preparation for the eventual implementation of the new Guidelines, if you would like to obtain further information about the policies of the State of Connecticut for student performance, strategies for increasing student rate of learning, and parental rights to request an evaluation of a child suspected of having a learning disability, we invite you to visit the following websites, which provide additional information:

1. Information concerning a parent’s right to request an evaluation of a child suspected of having a learning disability can be found in the Procedural Safeguards in Special Education, <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&Q=320730#publications>.
2. The SRBI Framework that describes the state’s perspective on SRBI can be found at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2604&Q=321716>, and the executive summary of this document can be found at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&Q=320730#publications>.
3. Connecticut’s framework for the Response to Intervention (RTI) model for identification of children with specific learning disabilities can be found under the heading of Resources for Parents and Families on the SDE website (www.sde.ct.gov) under the heading Publications/Resources-Best Practices, entitled A Family Guide: Connecticut’s Framework to RTI.

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Your child's individual progress is important to us, and it is only through parent-school partnership that every child can excel. If you have any questions regarding this notification, please feel free to contact Karen Zimmerman at 860-807-2238

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Ciccone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patricia A. Ciccone
Interim Superintendent
Connecticut Technical High School System

PAC/cm