

DOE Weekly Field Memo – January 25, 2012

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From the Department of Education:

[Memo from Commissioner Vilaseca on School Choice](#)

Audience: Superintendents, High School Principals, Guidance Counselors

In 2005, Commissioner Cate issued a memo titled *Interpretation of Act 150 (Public High School Choice) Provision Regarding Numbers of Students Allowed to Transfer in Any Year*. Since then, there have been several legislative changes and I have reviewed this memo and decided that the time has come to apply a more liberal, and arguably more literal, interpretation of the “5% or 10-student cap” transfer provision. The revised interpretation creates the possibility that more students will exercise high school choice. Given our experience over the past decade, however, the likelihood of disruptively large numbers of students transferring appears very unlikely. Furthermore, in the cases where transfers increase, benefits to the students will substantially outweigh any negative consequences for sending high schools. Please click [here](#) to read my memo in its entirety.

Contact: Peter Thoms, High School Choice Coordinator, (802) 828-5104 or peter.thoms@state.vt.us.

[NECAP Assessment Release](#)

Audience: Superintendents, Principals

Commissioner Vilaseca’s press conference releasing the NECAP results for grades 3-8 and 11 has been rescheduled from February 8th to **February 7th at 10:00 a.m.** However, the verification period will still begin on **January 27 at 7:00 a.m.** At this time principals are asked to review the students listed in their student level data files and to note any students who have been added or deleted. Any discrepancies should be reported immediately to Mary Ann Minardo at (802) 828-5410. **Please note it will not be possible to regenerate reports when errors occur because schools have incorrectly coded test booklets or have provided incorrect student information through the annual school census. However, it is important to report all discrepancies so that corrections can be made in the records that will be used to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress. Student-level data files are available at this point for verification purposes only.**

Beginning on **February 3rd at 7:00 a.m.** the confidential release of all data will enable principals and superintendents using their master password to review all NECAP reports, including School Results Reports, School Summary Reports, Item Analysis Reports, Released Items and Support Material documents and the Guide to using the 2011 NECAP Reports. The purpose of the review is to anticipate any questions or issues

that may arise. All NECAP results are embargoed until the conclusion of the Commissioners press conference on February 7th.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo at (802) 828-5410 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us.

Vermont ESEA Flexibility Waiver Discussions

Audience: All

Deadline: January 31, 2012

Click [here](#) to view the draft Vermont's ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

Please join us for one of two Webinars offered to discuss Vermont's ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

- **ESEA Webinar Session 1** (*Administrators, Educators, Special Educators, Curriculum Coordinators*) will be held from 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. on Monday, January 30th. Reserve your webinar seat by clicking [here](#).
- **ESEA Webinar Session 2** (*Parents, Students, Media, Legislators, Interested Public*) will be held from 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31st. Reserve your webinar seat by clicking [here](#).

Questions on the draft should be sent to Jill Remick in advance of the webinar sessions. If you are unable to attend either session, we will post the presentation, questions and answers on the Vermont DOE ESEA page following the webinars.

Contact: Jill Remick at jill.remick@state.vt.us or Lynne Eyberg at lynne.eyberg@state.vt.us.

Restraint and Seclusion – Rule 4500

Audience: Superintendents, Principals

Please be aware of the requirements of Rule 4500, which can be found in its entirety [here](#). Please be sure that you have adequate protocols in place for compliance.

Contact: Richard Boltax (802) 828-5125 or Richard.Boltax@state.vt.us.

NECAP Online Writing Pilot

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Literacy Department Heads, Literacy Educators for Grades 8 & 11, Curriculum Coordinators

The Department is pleased to announce an opportunity for schools to participate in the NECAP Online Writing Pilot for grades 8 and 11 this spring. Following a very successful first year, Measured Progress is expanding the program to provide additional schools with the chance to participate in the Online Pilot in order for the schools to do the NECAP Writing Assessment online this October. For more information, click [here](#).

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo at (802) 828-5410 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

2012-2015 Local Technology Plan Template

Audience: Tech Coordinators, Principals, Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators

The template to help guide locals in developing their technology plan for E-rate and overall program purposes has been posted to the DOE website. This template has guidance in setting goals that meet the requirements for E-rate and help to provide a cohesive direction based on current trends and a compelling vision for technology over the next three years. The full plan will be released in early February. For the time being though, this local template is available and can be used to craft technology plans. The plans will be due for approval before June 15, 2012. Also noted, the Vermont Department of Education is only accepting SU or District level plans. Details are included in the document located [here](#).

Contact: Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us.

20th Annual Vermont Kindergarten Conference

Audience: Elementary Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Superintendents

The 20th Annual Vermont Kindergarten Conference will be held on March 30th at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington. This year's theme is "Great Moments in Kindergarten." Click [here](#) to view the Save-the-Date flyer with information on the keynote and workshops. The full conference brochure will be available on February 20th.

Contact: Shirley Rawson at (802) 828-5128 or Shirley.rawson@state.vt.us.

Vermont Applications for 2012 National Youth Science Camp

Audience: Superintendents, Teachers, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators

Deadline: February 25, 2012

Applications to the National Youth Science Camp are still open for talented high school seniors! The National Youth Science Camp is a residential science education program for young scientists the summer after they graduate from high school. Students from around the country are challenged academically in exciting lectures and hands-on studies, and have voluntary opportunities to participate in an outdoor adventure program, and to establish friendships that last a lifetime. For more information and application forms click [here](#). Vermont has a tradition of sending two students to this program each year. Completed applications should be sent to Gail Hall at gail.hall@state.vt.us or via postal mail: Vermont Department of Education, 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 by February 25, 2012.

Contact: Gail Hall at gail.hall@state.vt.us or (802) 828-0156.

State Board of Education Monthly Report

Audience: All

The State Board of Education produces a monthly report that is intended to update the public on Board activities and priorities. Click [here](#) to view the January report.

Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us.

Other News:

NASA Opportunity for Female High School Juniors

Audience: All

Deadline: February 22, 2012.

Engineer your dream job! Your adventure begins in 2012 with an online community and culminates with a summer experience at NASA Johnson Space Center in Summer 2012. Collaborate with girls from across the country and female NASA engineers and interns. Get ready to start your dream! For specific project information, visit <http://wish.aerospacescholars.org>. Apply before February 22, 2012.

Contact: Susan Raff at susan.raff@nasa.gov or (281) 244-1496.

2012 I-Team needs Assessment Survey of Administrators

Audience: Principals

The Vermont State I-Team is a project within the University of Vermont Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI). The mission of the I-Team is to assist local teams of families, educators, and other service providers in the delivery of quality educational services to students with intensive educational needs through technical assistance, professional development, support for systems change, and family support. Most of the students we serve are identified in the categories of multiple disabilities, deaf-blindness, autism, and learning impairments. As we plan for the next 3-5 years, we want to know your ideas about how we may assist. Please help us by clicking [here](#) to complete the survey by **February 10th**. We welcome questions and feedback.

Contact: Darren McIntyre at (802) 656-1132 or darren.mcintyre@uvm.edu.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent. In addition, the DOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Department of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

Vermont Department of Education

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