

DOE Weekly Field Memo – September 2, 2009

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- **President Obama to Address Students September 8**

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- **Amendment: Educator Reporting Requirements (Child Abuse and Neglect; Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation; and Educator Licensing); and Access to Child and Adult Abuse Registries**
- **2009 Vermont Career and Technical Education (CTE) Institute**

From the U.S. Department of Education:

President Obama to Address Students September 8

Audience: All

President Obama will deliver a national address directly to students on September 8 at Noon EST. The President will challenge students to work hard, set education goals, and take responsibility for their learning. Visit ed.gov for more information, including a letter to school principals, and activities for students by grade level.

From the Vermont Department of Education:

Commissioner Vilaseca Letter to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Audience: All

Commissioner Armando Vilaseca recently sent this [letter](#) to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan regarding the Race to the Top ARRA Grant Application. He addresses several issues including small states' challenges, transformation of education and the department's limited resources.

H1N1 Resource for Vermont Schools

Audience: All

The Department of Education continues to support the Vermont Department of Health in communicating with schools on H1N1. Due to the frequent and timely nature of H1N1 communications, we urge school administrators to visit flu.gov or healthvermont.gov for the latest guidance and information, and to work closely with your school nurses on planning for this pandemic. Below are direct links to information available from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for School Administrators on CDC Guidance for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-2010 School Year*. This includes guidance on: [Recommended responses for 2009–2010 school year](#); [Recommended responses under conditions with similar severity as spring 2009](#); [Recommended responses during times of increased severity](#); [Roles](#); [Deciding on course of action](#); [Decision-makers & stakeholders](#); and [Info collection & sharing](#).

Contact: Emily Pastore, VDH School Nurse Liaison, at (802) 863-7281 or EPastor@vdh.state.vt.us; Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

School-Based Health Services Program IEP and Evaluation Rate Survey: Response Due 9/25/09

Audience: Special Education Administrators

The Center for Medicaid Service (CMS) has established revised guidelines about the activities that can be billed to Medicaid. The changes relate to the billing of IEP and Evaluation claims. The survey needs to

be completed by each supervisory union in order for new rates to be established that are in compliance with CMS guidelines. Billing of IEP and Evaluation claims with dates of service 9/1/09 or later has been suspended until the new rates have been established. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_finance_sped/Rate_Survey_09_02_09.doc to complete the survey.

Contact: Nicole Tousignant at (802) 828-5111 or nicole.tousignant@state.vt.us

Extending Eligibility to Additional Children in a Household for Free or Reduced Meals

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, School Health Officials, School Food Service Programs and Schools with Milk Programs

For School Year 2009-2010, USDA has modified its policy to extend benefits from Direct Certification and applications with case numbers for 3SquaresVT or Reach Up to other members of the household who are also enrolled in the school. If the school does not have an application as a reference, it may use school district enrollment records to determine additional children in a family who were not identified through direct certification. For households who are submitting applications with case numbers for some but not all of their children, all children must now be certified as categorically eligible for free meals or free milk. Any income on these applications is disregarded. Please note that these changes do not extend to Head Start Programs or the Migrant Education Program. The Eligibility Manual will be updated to reflect this change and the policy will be posted on the Web site.

Contact: Laurie Colgan, Director of Child Nutrition Programs at (802) 828-5153 or laurie.colgan@state.vt.us

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Application for 2009-2010

Audience: All

The 21st Community Learning Centers grant competition is designed for the purpose of creating and maintaining high-quality afterschool learning opportunities. An estimated 1.5 million dollars are available for dispersal. Applicant trainings are October 9 and 16, 2009. Letters of Intent are due November 20, 2009. Applications are due February 12, 2010. Visit the Web site at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_federal/21st_CCLC.html or the Wiki:

<http://vermontafterschool.pbworks.com/> for materials.

Contact: Emanuel Betz (802) 828-0557 or Emanuel.Betz@state.vt.us

Reminder: Grant for Heart Rate Monitors in High School Physical Education

Audience: High School Physical Educators, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Superintendents

The Vermont Department of Education will provide up to \$9,000 each for three high schools to purchase and implement heart rate monitors in physical education. The goals of this competitive grant program are to: document and increase the amount of time high school students spend engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity during physical education; develop student self-knowledge, personal goal-setting and fitness-planning skills for lifetime physical activity; develop students' 21st century skills of tracking, interpreting and evaluating personal physical activity effort with objective, technological measures. Deadline: September 18, 2009. For more information and to download a copy of the grant application click [here](#). Contact: Lindsay Simpson, Physical Education Consultant, at (802) 828-1461 or

lindsay.simpson@state.vt.us

Parents' Rights in Special Education Document

Audience: Principals, Special Education Administrators, Superintendents, Independent School Special Ed Coordinators, Early Essential Education Coordinators, Vermont Family Network

Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 and Vermont Department of Education's Special Education rules, parents have specific rights concerning their participation in the special education process. A committee of Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE) consultants, attorneys, administrators and family support consultants has reviewed the Parents' Rights in Special Education document. They agreed to separate the legal safeguards from the parent guidance found in the previous Parents' Rights document. VTDOE will continue to work with various stakeholders to create a separate guide for parents regarding special education. Versions of this document in other languages will be available soon. The Parents' Rights in Special Education document can be found at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_sped/parents.html#parents_rights.

Contact: Troy McAllister at (802) 828-0757 or troy.mcallister@state.vt.us

Professional Development Program for Dealing with Children of the Military

Audience: Guidance Counselors, Educators, Community Members

The Military Child Education Coalition's™ Living in the New Normal (LINN)™ training is a two-day professional development program that prepares school guidance professionals, educators and community members to recognize and address the issues facing children dealing with separation from a loved one or experiencing trauma, grief and loss due to the loss or injury of a loved one. It provides concerned adults with information to help support children during these times of uncertainty and gives them the framework to enable them to support families to ensure that their children have the tools to bounce back from life's storms and stressors. Peer review and instructor feedback are utilized. Twelve full seat hours are required for institute credit – attendance both full days required – no partial attendance accepted. Register by September 30, 2009 at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#linn> and fax the form to (254) 953-1925. Contact: Andrew Hudacs at (802) 828-3892 or andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us

Workshop/Discussion: Financing Your School Renovations: Qualified School Construction Bonds and More

Audience: Business managers, principals, supt.

Aimed specifically at administrators planning a public bond vote for facility improvements, Bob Giroux of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank and Cathy Hilgendorf of the DOE will be providing information about new interest-free bond programs through ARRA, determining your level of interest in a Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) pool, and offering the latest available information about short- and long-term financing options. The workshop will be held on Friday, September 11 from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Vermont Department of Education office on Route 302 in Berlin. Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf (802) 828-5402 or cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us

Amendment: Educator Reporting Requirements (Child Abuse and Neglect; Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation; and Educator Licensing); and Access to Child and Adult Abuse Registries

Audience: Superintendents, Principals and Heads of School

This amendment includes specific contact information regarding reporting suspected child abuse. See page 2 of the memo. This memo is an annual reminder of the duties of educators to report abuse and neglect of children and vulnerable adults, and to report educator misconduct that could result in suspension or revocation of educator licenses. Also included is information about gaining access to the child and adult abuse registries maintained within the Agency of Human Services for the purposes of your employment searches. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainpubs.html#reporting_requirements. Contact General Counsel Mark Oettinger, (802) 828-3135, mark.oettinger@state.vt.us or Gregory Glennon, (802) 828-5100, gregory.glennon@state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

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.