



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Commissioner

February 9, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons
Directors of Special Education
Administrators of a State Facility
Administrators of an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities
Administrators of a College-Operated Program
Statewide Special Education Advisory Council
Agencies or Organizations Concerned with Special Education

FROM: John Worthington, Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

SUBJECT: Mediation of Disputes Related to a Special Education Due Process Hearing and Mediation Only Requests

I am writing to inform you of a change that has been made regarding the employment of mediators who provide services in an effort to resolve disputes as part of a due process hearing or mediation only request. In accordance with a United States Department of Education directive, the mediators are now employees of the Office of Administrative Law. All petitions will continue to be filed and processed by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Scheduling of mediation will continue to be done by the OSEP's scheduler on a random, rotating basis. There has not been any change to the manner in which mediations are being scheduled and conducted.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kathleen Ehling at 609-292-7602 or Sandy Hlatky at 609-689-4010.

JW/KE

c: Members, State Board of Education
Commissioner David C. Hespe
Senior Staff
Diane Shoener
Kathleen Ehling
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
County Supervisors of Child Study

NJ LEE Group
Office of Administrative Law, Chief ALJ
Garden State Coalition of Schools
Receiving Schools
Deaf Program Administrators
Sandy Hlatky, OAL