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July 25, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

ROUTE TO: Special Education Directors

FROM: Lorelei Drew-Nevola, Director
Office Special Education Professional Development
Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services

SUBJECT: Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) Manual

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Office of Special Education Professional Development, is pleased to announce the release of [*Special Education Parent Advisory Groups in New Jersey*](#). This manual was developed through the Statewide Technical Assistance and Resource Team (START) Project, which is the NJDOE's partnership with Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), Inc. It provides guidance and offers a "road map" for conducting SEPAGs in a manner that offers parents and families the opportunity to provide meaningful input to school districts and engages them in effective collaboration to benefit the school community.

The manual was created in response to a recommendation from the report of the [New Jersey Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students](#). The project was funded by New Jersey's federal Special Education Grants to States through the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B funds.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Senior Staff
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
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Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group