



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Commissioner

September 1, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons
School Business Administrators/Board Secretaries
Directors of Special Services

FROM: Peggy McDonald, Executive Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Kevin Dehmer, Executive Director
Office of School Facilities and Finance

SUBJECT: Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities Fundraising

It has come to the attention of the Department of Education that some approved private schools for students with disabilities (PSSDs) are requiring parents to participate in fundraising activities and/or requiring that each student/family raise a specified amount of funds in order for the student to continue his/her educational placement at the PSSD.

This practice is noncompliant with regulations, as delineated below:

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1(b)

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.1(c)

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1(d)1

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.5(b)

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.2(b)12

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.5(a)24

Independent auditors are charged with reviewing PSSD practices regarding fundraising. Auditors should then make findings consistent with the Audit Program requirements, available at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/finance/fp/psd/audit/1415/narrative.pdf>.

Please review the audit requirements available at this link so that you will know and understand what the auditors will be looking for during their review.

The Department understands the need for voluntary fundraising among PSSDs; however, mandated fundraising either for placement or continued enrollment is not allowed. Any PSSDs currently engaging in non-allowed fundraising must immediately cease this practice.

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c: Members, State Board of Education
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