

MEMORANDUM

To: Sharon Chapman, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
From: Terry Roth, Director of ESE
Date: December 1, 2010
Subject: LRP National Institute on Educating Individuals with Disabilities

The legal issues of educating Individuals with Disabilities are complex and new interpretations of what is required in documentation and services continue to arise from the increasing influence of parents of students with autism, other parent advocacy groups, organizations committed to inclusion as a civil right, and recent IDEA changes such as the right to revoke consent and limitations on the use of seclusion and restraint. Consequently, it is important that district personnel remain current on the latest interpretations of state and federal laws governing services for handicapped students.

The National Institute on Educating Individuals with Disabilities brings together leading experts and special education attorneys to provide guidance in implementing IDEA. The costs can be high, as we have seen in our own district, when parents prevail or settlements are reached in lawsuits.

The Institute includes several significant strands addressing legal hot topics. The ESE Director could gather the critical information from the complete conference for our district. The National Institute is in Phoenix, Arizona on May 1-4, 2011. With the increasing litigious environment, it seems irresponsible not to take advantage of this national expertise; this institute is always identified by other area ESE Directors as the most beneficial to supporting the needs of ESE programs. The federal IDEA grant has funds for IDEA training and legal conferences. The funds were established in the grant to support our school board attorney and district personnel in keeping abreast of the evolving requirements of IDEA. Your support of this exception to the travel restrictions is greatly appreciated.