June 19, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Changes are Forthcoming for Specialized Treatment Centers (STCs)

An internal review of current Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) practices for placing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) eligible children in residential facilities and federal grant management requirements, was recently conducted by outside consultants. To ensure compliance with both the IDEA provision governing residential placements, Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars Cost Principles, changes to current practices will be forthcoming in the following areas:

- A system for placing children in residential facilities when necessary for Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
- A system for ensuring that unilaterally placed students have equitable services available to them.
- A system for ensuring that IDEA, Part B, expenditures for special education students placed in facilities are allowable and properly supported.
- The revised funding mechanism for IDEA funds to STCs.

Changes to previously funded programs should be expected as we work to develop policies and procedures that will ensure all costs charged to a federal grant are necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance. The administration of the grant should also be allocable or provide a benefit to the program.

As we develop procedures to comply with all federal grant fiscal responsibilities including the new OMB circular, the ALSDE will review current procedures for determining and disbursing ETF/bed count funds to STCs.
This memorandum serves to put you on notice for possible changes to come in the near future. Specific changes will be provided at a later date. We will discuss this briefly at our Superintendents meeting in June. Special Education Services is looking into the possibility of having a back-to-school meeting July 29-30, 2014. We hope to have changes to present to special education coordinators for STCs and LEAs at that time.

TRB:WCP:EEK

cc: City and County Coordinators of Special Education
    Directors of Specialized Treatment Centers
    Special Education Coordinators of Specialized Treatment Centers
    Dr. Craig Pouncey
    Mrs. Sherrill Parris
    Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
    Mr. Dennis Coe
    Ms. Crystal Richardson
    Ms. Chris Wilson
    Mr. Michael Meyer

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