



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIT
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175 • Denver, Colorado 80202-5149
303.866.6600 • 303.866.6694 • www.cde.state.co.us

Dwight D. Jones
Commissioner of Education

Robert K. Hammond
Deputy Commissioner

Kenneth R. Turner
Deputy Commissioner

October 12, 2009

To: Special Education Directors
From: Ed Steinberg, Assistant Commissioner
Re: Restructuring of ESLU Staff Responsibilities

The purpose of this memorandum is to describe the restructuring of Exceptional Student Leadership Unit (ESLU) staff responsibilities effective this date.

The ESLU is restructuring in order to: (1) more effectively allocate personnel to meet the Department's General Supervision responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and (2) align with the Department's Statewide System of Accountability and Support. It is important for you to know that this restructuring is occurring within the broader context of Department-wide implementation of purposeful cross-unit functional teams that include members from the ESLU, the RtI/PBS Unit, the Gifted & Talented Unit, the Facility Schools Unit, the Early Childhood Team and other units within the Department.

The most visible component of the restructuring is that there will no longer be an assigned regional liaison for each administrative unit and state operated program. This directly affects how communications with special education directors and parents will be handled. Below is a description of the new communication protocols:

Special Education Director Communications

Special education directors should direct general communications to the following ESLU supervisory staff:

Region	Name	Contact Information
Metro Area	Mary Greenwood	Phone: (303) 866-6803 Email: Greenwood_M@cde.state.co.us
West Central Southwest Northwest	Tanni Anthony	Phone: (303) 866-6681 Email: Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us
Pikes Peak Southeast	Cindy Millikin	Phone: (303) 866-6619 Email: Millikin_C@cde.state.co.us
Northeast North Central East Central BOCES	Barbara Goldsby	Phone: (303) 866-6695 Email: Goldsby_B@cde.state.co.us
State Operated Programs	Laura Freppel	Phone: (303) 866-6668 Email: Freppel_L@cde.state.co.us

As is the case now, inquiries related to specific content areas should go to the consultant or supervisor with the content expertise. If an administrative unit or state operated program is currently working with a consultant on compliance matters, anticipate that you will continue to work with that consultant. A resource list identifying consultant responsibilities is accessible on the CDE/ESLU website at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/dircorner.asp>

As a consequence, staff will not routinely attend regional special education director meetings. Of course, if a region wants staff to attend a meeting for a specific reason(s), staff will attend. Conversely, if we need to communicate important information, and the information is best communicated face-to-face, then we will ask to be put on the meeting agenda. Please continue to be on the lookout for *The Scoop* for guidance, training announcements and other information.

Parent Calls

On a rotating basis, ESLU consultants will be assigned parent calls that come through the ESLU receptionist at (303) 866-6694. Parents requesting information regarding special education dispute resolution will be referred to the Dispute Resolution Team. Parents with questions related to a specific content area will be referred to the consultant or supervisor with the content expertise. We expect that parents will continue to directly contact consultants or supervisors based on content expertise as indicated on the Department's website. To facilitate early dispute resolution, consultants and supervisors will continue to:

- (1) strongly urge parents to connect with their special education directors; and
- (2) connect with special education directors about parent calls or concerns.

General Supervision Activities

The General Supervision Team has the lead for State Performance Plan Indicator activities. Generally, other staff will be assigned on a rotating basis to assist the General Supervision Team unless focused technical assistance or on-site monitoring activities call for specific content expertise. If multiple sources of data indicate the need for an on-site review, a focused monitoring team will include consultants with content expertise in the area(s) of concern.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Freppel at (303) 866-6668.