



IDEA '97 UPDATE

A MONTHLY FAX BULLETIN FROM OSERS ON IDEA'97 ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 29, 1997

Archived Information

VOL. I, No. 4

NPRM PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER; PUBLIC MEETINGS BEGIN

The U.S. Department of Education announced in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, October 22, 1997, a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" to implement The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (IDEA '97) and invited the public to provide its thoughts, written or oral or both, on the proposed rules. Upon reviewing the public's comments, the Department will publish final regulations to carry out the law which will guide the education of America's 5.6 million children and youth with disabilities.

A series of seven public meetings are being held through November 24 across the country so that individuals have the opportunity to publicly comment on the NPRM. Three meetings have already been held: October 23 in Boston; October 27 in Atlanta; and October 28 in Dallas. Four more are scheduled: November 3 in Washington, D.C. and November 18 in Denver, Colorado; November 21 in San Francisco; and November 24 in suburban Chicago (Northbrook, Ill).

For further information about the public meetings, contact Laura Price Black, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at 202-205-8969 (voice) or 202-205-5467 (TDD). Questions about the NPRM should be directed to Tom Irvin (202) 205-8969 or JoLeta Reynolds at (202) 205-5507. Individuals who use telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call (202) 205-5465. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format on request to Katie Mincy, Director of Alternate Formats Center, telephone (202) 205-8113. All comments concerning the proposed regulations should be addressed to: Thomas Irvin, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, Room 3090, Mary E. Switzer Building 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20202. Comments may also be sent through the Internet to: comment@ed.gov.

HOW TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM) ON THE WEB:

A COPY OF THE NPRM HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL PAGE DEVOTED TO IDEA'97 AT:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA/frnotice.html>

BY MAIL

Call (1-800-USA-LEARN) and request a copy.

ORDER A COPY THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE (\$8.00)

(202) 512-0000
Superintendent of Documents
PO Box 37195-7954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250

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www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/idex.html

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Find the one closest to your area by calling (202) 512-1530, or through the Government Printing Bookstore home page:
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/sale/abkst001.html

E-MAIL (Laura_Black_Price@ed.gov) OR CALL (202- 205-8969)

Send your name and address to Laura Price at the Office of the Director/OSEP.

UPDATE is continued on next page ...

CHECK OUT THE REVISED IDEA'97 HOMEPAGE: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA/index.html>

Be sure to Bookmark the new IDEA'97 Web site. This popular site, has a new look and a number of additional resources relating to this vital new law that affects the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. Some of the new resources include:

Articles produced by OSERS/OSEP or others that have appeared in such sources as *USA Today* and *Exceptional Parent* magazine which highlight IDEA'97 successes and further explain changes and implications of the law; **letters and memos** to help keep parents, teachers, administrators, government officials, researchers, grantees, advocates and individuals with disabilities informed about the changes in the law and its implementation; **Federal Register Notices** relating to the IDEA'97; and past issues of the **IDEA'97 UPDATE**. This site will continue to grow as new information and resources regarding the IDEA'97 become available.

Any comments regarding the revised site should be directed to Patricia Adelstein at: patricia_adelstein@ed.gov.

INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN ASSESSMENTS

Assistant Secretaries Judith Heumann (OSERS) and Norma Cantu (OCR) released a "Dear Colleague" letter on September 29, 1997 highlighting the importance of including students with disabilities in statewide assessment systems. The letter discusses three federal statutes with specific requirements on this issue: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997. The letter was mailed to chief state school officers, state special education directors and state assessment directors. A copy of the letter is available on the world wide web at:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA/memo.html>

NEXT IDEA UPDATE: NOVEMBER 20, 1997

UPCOMING UPDATE TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

An update on the public meetings.

The upcoming Department of Education Satellite Town Meeting: "**Serving Students with Disabilities: What Families, Schools and Communities Need to Know,**" Tuesday, January 20, 1998, 8:00p.m. -- 9:00 p.m. Eastern time.

EDITORS NOTE:

Our readership is growing!

Many thanks to those who have circulated copies of the UPDATE.

We in OSEP are committed to keep the communication lines open.