

Statement from Commissioner Driscoll on the proposed revisions to the state special education regulations:

In reflecting on the importance of the public comment process and the need to strengthen the practice of special education for students with disabilities in Massachusetts, the Department and Board have reviewed the proposed changes to the state special education regulations that were released for public comment in December 2004. The public comment we have received to date has made clear that many of the proposed changes deserve more discussion. I want to be sure that any changes we make to these regulations are carefully considered, widely understood, and will contribute to improving special education programs for students.

I have determined, therefore, that the most important area of the state's special education regulations that warrants immediate revision is the Department's procedures related to assignment of school district responsibility (primarily in new proposed Section 28.10). All other proposed amendments will be considered through a series of sponsored meetings and public forums during the rest of this calendar year to discuss and consider areas of the regulations that may need revision, consistent with state and federal law.

I encourage you to review the proposed changes to the regulations included related to the assignment of school district responsibility and to submit written comment via e-mail to spedregscomment@doe.mass.edu, or by mail to Special Education Regulations, Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 01248. The deadline for submission of public comment is **Tuesday, March 1, 2005**.