

Special Education Updates
By Lisa Vandiver, Special Education Director

Dear Parent of a Special Needs Student:

As you know, we have many meetings involving the services that your child receives throughout the year. These meetings can include evaluation, reevaluation, and IEP team meetings. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 requires our district to encourage the consolidation of these meetings whenever possible. This means that we will attempt to combine discussions of multiple issues concerning your child's eligibility and placement for services into one meeting whenever we can.

Combining these discussions benefits both the parents and district staff in terms of time. More importantly, however, consolidated meetings also greatly enhance the outcome for the child. Since information about your child's strengths, needs, and performance will be fresh in everyone's mind throughout the meeting, we will all be better able to develop an IEP that meets your child's needs and is based on the most recent evaluation data.

Consolidation of reevaluation and other IEP team meetings is completely voluntary. We hope you will allow us to combine multiple issues into one meeting where appropriate. If you feel that separate meetings on certain issues would be more beneficial after you receive notice of the meeting, please let us know which issues you would like to discuss separately at least three days prior to a meeting so we can make alternative arrangements.

Yours truly,
District Administrator