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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TO: Special Education Directors and Contacts

FROM: Dr. Rene Axtell, Assistant State Superintendent, Special Education

DATE: April 3, 2013

RE: Parent Surveys

The Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services (OSDE-SES) is required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) to conduct a statewide survey for parents with children who are preschool or school-aged receiving special education services. The purpose of this survey is to measure the percentage of parents who report that their school district facilitated their involvement, as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

All local education agencies (LEA), including charter schools, are responsible for promoting the survey, as well as, providing families with information on how to access the survey. The Oklahoma Parent Center (OPC) is partnering with the OSDE-SES by providing Parent Survey Brochures to every school district. Parents may access the survey in one of the following ways: 1) telephone, 2) web access, and 3) request for a hard copy to be mailed home.

LEAs may participate in activities that promote and increase their response rate to the parent involvement survey. These activities may include the following:

1. Provide initial notices to parents.
2. Distribute the parent survey brochure at the annual IEP meeting.
3. Provide an opportunity to complete the survey immediately after the IEP meeting or parent/teacher conference.

4. Post parent survey flyers in public areas in the community.
5. Distribute brochures at “Back to School” or “Family Education Night”.
6. Send final reminders to parents to complete the survey.

Note: All district efforts should support parents/guardians in completing this survey in a confidential manner.

At this time, less than 10% of Oklahoma’s Special Education Population have completed this survey for the current school year. It is imperative that every school district stresses the importance of parental involvement throughout the Special Education process, as it directly impacts Districts Determination reports as well as the State’s overall APR and SPP data reports to the United States Department of Education (USDE).

Parent Survey Brochures were disseminated to all school districts at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. If your district, or site, did not receive enough brochures, please contact the Oklahoma Parent Center (OPC) at 1-877-553-4332. Please feel free to contact OPC and inquire about your district’s individual response rate.

The OSDE looks forward to working with your LEA to ensure an effective implementation of the parent survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tricia Hansen by phone at 405-522-1463 or by email at Tricia.Hansen@sde.ok.gov.