



WEEKLY UPDATE – AUGUST 22, 2008

Announcements

2008 Service Coordinator Statewide Meeting Travel Reimbursement News

Individuals who will be requesting reimbursement from ESSO for travel expenses after the meeting will need to make sure that travel reimbursement requests are received by ESSO by September 15, 2008. LESs will be required to submit all travel reimbursement requests for their LES in one batch in one envelope. This is a very quick turnaround compared to previous years, so please make note of the deadline and be prepared to act quickly. Further instructions and forms related to requesting travel reimbursement will be provided to individual LESs for distribution to staff who will be supported by ESSO.

Also, new state travel guidelines highly recommend the use of hybrid vehicles when renting a vehicle. So, individuals who will be requesting reimbursement from ESSO for rental car expenses need to request a hybrid vehicle. If a hybrid vehicle is not available or is not big enough for the number of people traveling in the vehicle, please document this information on the request and reimbursement will still be provided with.

For questions or additional information, contact your ESSO Program Manager or Pam Tempson.

Contract Amendments

Thanks to all who provided comments and recommendations for the contract amendment. Attached is the final version with the changes that were made. We are in the process of preparing amendment packets for routing for approval in DOH. You can expect to receive documents for signature in about 5 to 6 weeks.

The current Method of Payment will be in effect for invoicing July through September. The single line item and the new invoice will not be used until the invoice for October. Attached is an analysis of the percentage of each contract that was billed in the first quarter of 2007-08 and a determination of the dollar amount to include in the amended Method of Payment. The language has been crafted to allow the amount to be set at a "Not to Exceed" level to ensure that we can adjust the payment to capture the balance of the contract after the first quarter has been invoiced. We will be talking more about this on the Monthly Early Steps conference call on August 29 to ensure everyone understands the transition.

Information / Resources

Autism: Journey from Potential to Power

Upcoming video conference seminar for parents and professionals, featuring Mary Donnet Johnson, on September 25, 2008. The seminar is being presented by the American Association for Home-Based Early Interventionists (AAHBEI) and Boys Town National Research Hospital. The four main areas that will be covered are helping families adjust right after the diagnosis, assessment, communication, and learning.

Free reproducible language and early literacy activities

We have just posted the SPANISH VERSION of the free parent-child early literacy materials titled "On the Go". These materials include 14 activities designed to be used outside the home: in the car, while walking, during bus rides, etc. The activities encourage early language and literacy development from birth through preschool. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically. The development of these materials was supported by Grant H324M020084 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and they were developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D. and colleagues.

To download materials go to www.wlearning.com and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page. Look for the "On the Go" files to download the materials in PDF format.

The new materials are designed to encourage parents to interact with their children while they are "On the Go" to facilitate language, early literacy, and positive parent-child interactions. The materials include 14 activities as well as accompanying hints for each of the activities about how to modify the activities to meet the specific developmental needs of the child.

For questions please contact:

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SpecialQuest Birth-Five

SpecialQuest Birth-Five is completing their first year of a three-year grant. The focus of SpecialQuest Birth-Five is inclusion for children with disabilities ages birth through five (pre-kindergarten) and their families. There is an opportunity for you and your staff to become familiar with the resources within the SpecialQuest Multimedia Training Library (including training scripts, facilitator guide, handouts, and 22 DVD titles) to support inclusion activities birth-five. You may review and download the materials on their website www.specialquest.org. You may also subscribe to receive monthly e-newsletters and updates from SpecialQuest Birth-Five on the website.

NECTAC News

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