



Special Education Task Force Will Accept Public Testimony in October

Seeking Input Regarding the Funding, Delivery and Effectiveness of Special Education Services

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students will conduct meetings throughout the state to hear public testimony on October 16, 23, 27 and 29 to gather information for its report to the Governor and Legislature.

The task force was established by the Legislature to "study issues associated with improving the funding, delivery and effectiveness of special education programs and services for public school students." It includes the following topics for input:

- The evaluation of practices for classifying and educating students who are eligible for special education programs and services;
- The development of best practices for education professionals working with special education students;
- Strategies to reduce the costs associated with the placement of eligible students in out-of-district public schools or private schools, including the development of in-district special education programs and services; and
- The development of standards and appropriate oversight to ensure that programs and services address the needs of students, focus on student achievement, and assess the effectiveness of programs and services.

Members of the public who would like to present oral testimony related to the task force's charge must register at <https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/events/> and will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis, as space is limited. Those accepted to present oral testimony will be granted three minutes each so all participants can be heard. Members of the public are asked to bring printed copies of their remarks to the meetings.

Comments and suggestions may also be provided to the task force through October 31, 2014 via email at specedtaskforce@doe.nj.gov or by postal mail at: NJ Special Education Task Force, c/o Office of Special Education Programs, New Jersey Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500.

The regional meetings will be held at:

- **Learning Resource Center-South**, 107 Gilbreth Parkway, Mullica Hill, NJ, on Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the building. [Register](#)
- **Learning Resource Center-North**, 7 Glenwood Ave., East Orange, NJ, on Thursday, October 23, 2014 from 5 – 7 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the building. [Register](#)
- **N. A. Bleshman Regional Day School**, 333 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus, NJ, on Monday, October 27, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m. [Register](#)
- **Learning Resource Center-Central**, 200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ, on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the conference room on the first floor of the building. [Register](#)

Free parking is available at all four locations. Directions and parking information are available online for the [Learning Resource Centers](#) and for the [Bergen County session](#) in Paramus.