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Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

May 2014

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Grade 12 Results

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, commonly known as “the Nation’s Report Card,” is mandated by federal law and is conducted at both the state and the national level. This assessment has been focusing on what America’s students know and are capable of doing in various subject areas since 1969. In a follow-up to the NAEP 2009 Grade 12 Pilot, state-level data was again collected for Grade 12 schools participating in the NAEP 2013 reading and mathematics assessments. New Hampshire’s 12th graders, as a whole, continue to perform near the top in reading and mathematics compared to students across the nation, according to the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results released May 7, 2014. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/naep.

Contact: Tim Eccleston, (603) 271-2298, Timothy.Eccleston@doe.nh.gov

B. NECAP Science Item Review Committee (IRC) and Bias & Sensitivity Committee

Measured Progress will again be hosting the NECAP Science IRC meeting and Bias & Sensitivity Committee meeting this summer. They will once again meet at the Stoweflake Resort in Stowe, Vermont. IRC will meet August 7 & 8, while Bias will meet August 7. We need four NH science teachers per grade (4, 8, and 11) for IRC, and five NH teachers who work with special populations for Bias. Deadline for applications is May 23rd. Applications can be found at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/necap.

Contact: Gail Taylor, (603) 271-8266, Gail.Taylor@doe.nh.gov

CERTIFICATION

A. Educator Lookup

We have updated the educator lookup functionality that will be relocated to the NH Certification web page (www.education.nh.gov/certification) in mid-May. The improved application which allows users, including the public to search for an educator using a combination of name and/or district and/or endorsement, now also includes educators who are not assigned to a school. All educators holding an active certification license will be shown along with limited details on their certificates and endorsements. For those educators who are employed in a public school system, employment information and teaching assignments is also provided. We anticipate the new application will improve access for districts and the public.

Contact: Virginia Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

B. Online Renewal

Employed educators who are due to renew by June 30, 2014 are encouraged to renew online as it has a much quicker turn-around time. Educators not opting for the credit card option will be able to submit paper renewals through the mail paying by check. A transmittal form is available online. All educators whose certification ends on June 30, 2014 should have

completed their renewal process prior to that date. **Any educator who renews after the June 30, 2014 deadline will be charged the \$50.00 late fee.**

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov.

C. Teacher Renewals

Beginning March 1, 2014, Superintendents should have started the on-line process of recommending educators who are due for renewal June 30, 2014.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. Evaluation of Staff Data Collections

The NH Department of Education is required to report aggregate staff evaluation data (teacher and principal) annually to the US Department of Education. There are two *Evaluation of Staff Collections* that were released May 5th and are due by May 16th.

1. The Evaluation of Teachers Data Collection (waiver annual protocol requirement) needs to be completed by all public school principals and certified by the superintendents. charter school data is certified by the school administrators.
2. The Evaluation of Principals Data Collection (waiver annual protocol requirement) needs to be completed by all Superintendents (not required for charter schools).

Contact: Gretchen Tetreault, (603) 271-5874, Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov

B. Health Profile Questionnaires

The NH Department of Education is working with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) to conduct the 2014 CDC- DASH School Health Profile (SHP) Questionnaires. The School Health Profiles (Profiles) assist state and local education and health agencies in monitoring and assessing characteristics of school health education and school health policies. All schools with grades 6-12 should fill out these questionnaires with the exception of schools with the highest grade being 6. The due date was March 11th. The two questionnaires that need to be completed by each school are the 2013-2014 School Health Profile Lead Health Education Teacher and the 2013-2014 School Health Profile Principal. Please complete the past due questionnaires using the ESS (Education Statistics System) at <https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>

Contact: Gretchen Tetreault, (603) 271-5874, Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov

C. i4see – Initiative for School Empowerment and Excellence

a) EOY Training

The Department will be offering EOY (End of Year) Training on Wednesday, May 21st and Thursday, May 22nd. This training is provided for district and school staff who are responsible for the EOY submissions. Topics covered will include Trial EOY Enrollment Uploads, EOY Academic Uploads, District and State Reporting, and Course (and Class) Submissions. Watch the i4see home page

(www.education.nh.gov/data/i4see.htm) for the registration link for both the DOE training sessions and the EOY Webinar.

Contact: Mike Cote, (603) 271-2775, michael.cote@doe.nh.gov

b) Course and Class Assignments

Please note that all schools must submit the assignments for all staff along with student rosters (via i4see and/or EIS). The Educator Information System (EIS) will be the source for New Hampshire's HQT data for the 2013-2014 school year.

Contact: Cyndy Currier at ccurrier@mac.com for help with data submissions
i4see.help@doe.nh.gov for general questions

D. 2013-2014 Immigrant Students Data Collection

The New Hampshire Department of Education is required to report *aggregate* immigrant data annually to the US Department of Education. In addition, the data are used to monitor and report performance on programs and activities supported by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended. These data will be used as responses in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR), the Title III Biennial Report, and to determine significant increase of immigrant students in school districts. Schools districts showing significant increase may potentially qualify for the immigrant Children and Youth Grant. **Please note** this is a separate data collection from the English Speakers of Other Languages conducted in the fall. **Immigrant students may not necessarily be limited English proficient (LEP) students. Immigrant students can also be from such countries as England or Australia and can be English-speaking.** The Immigrant Student Data Collection is due by May 16th and needs to be completed by all Superintendents.

Immigrant children and youth means individuals who:

- a. are aged 3 through 21;
- b. were not born in any *State; and
- c. have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more *States for more than 3 full academic years.

*For the definition above, "state" means the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Contact: Andrea Somoza-Norton, (603) 271-2034, Andrea.Somoza-Norton@doe.nh.gov

E. MS-22 Forms (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted)

A completed Form MS-22 (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted) for each school district must be forwarded to the Bureau of Data Management within 20 days of the close of the school district meeting as required by RSA 198:4-a, II.

Note: Copies of the school district meeting minutes, warrant articles and the results of all votes taken should also be forwarded to the Bureau.

Contact: Ron Leclerc, (603) 271-3876, ron.leclerc@doe.nh.gov

F. PerformancePLUS Update

a) Access Local Data More Efficiently!

Assessment frameworks for the following local assessments exist and can be copied into your district's PerformancePLUS site: Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark System; DRA; Words Their Way; Lucy Caukins Writing Rubrics; Foundations; and PALS.

b) Using the STAR Assessment

STAR data is being automatically uploaded into PerformancePLUS. To arrange for your STAR data to be uploaded:

- Email support@renlearn.com and request to share your data with NHDOE
- Read the document at this link:
<http://nh.eduplanet21.com/community/analyzing-student-data-network/resource/1917/sharing-your-star-assessments-to-the-nhdoe-and-performance-plus/>

c) Working in data teams or trying to get them started?

Access the New Hampshire Data Toolkit link in NH networks for ideas for managing and using data: <https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>.

d) Check "My Reports" in your P+ account to see state pushed NECAP reports that deliver your data with one click!

e) NECAP Alt Results are now available in PerformancePLUS.

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, irene.koffink@doe.nh.gov

G. School Safety Data Collection

The School Safety Data Collection for school year 2013-2014 will be released in early June. This data collection should be completed by principals and certified by the superintendents after the last day of school. After the data is entered, superintendents will need to review the completed data collections and certify them on-line no later than Friday, July 11, 2014. Please remember that submission of this data is required by RSA 193-E:3, Delivery of an Adequate Education. **New This Year:** One new question has been added to the data collection concerning restraints. The definition of the "Other" category has been clarified and may reflect a decrease in the number of incidents/students reported.

Contact: Gretchen Tetreault, (603) 271-5874, Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov

H. Other

a) School Board Members

In accordance with RSA 671:31 the forms that were sent out to update information about school board members should be returned to the Bureau of Data Management as soon as possible.

b) School District Calendars for 2014-2015 should also be sent to the Bureau of Data Management as soon as they are approved by the district and entered and certified in ESS (Education Statistics System).

- c) **Teacher Salary Schedules** – please be sure to send the 2014-2015 teacher salary schedules as soon as they have been determined for next year.

Thank you to all of the districts who have returned this information already. We really appreciate the effort!

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, sandy.hyslop@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Development and Implementation of Education Information System

The Department of Education, Bureau of Data Management, is seeking proposals to assist with the oversight of the ongoing development and implementation of the Education Information System (EIS). Deadline for receipt of proposals: 4:30pm Friday, May 16, 2014.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

B. Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant

The MSP Program is a federal grant funded under Title II, Part B of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The MSP program funds professional development activities that are designed to improve mathematics and science teachers' content knowledge and teaching skills, and that lead to improved student learning. Partnerships must include faculty from the mathematics, sciences, technology and/or engineering faculty of institutions of higher education (IHEs), and "high need" local school schools/districts (LEAs) with the purpose of improving teachers knowledge and skills. Deadline for receipt of proposals: Thursday, May 29, 2014 by 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Jennifer (Jiffi) Rainie, (603) 271-7450, Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov

C. NH Safe Schools / Healthy Students Narrative

The Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is seeking proposals to provide comprehensive project evaluation of the NH Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) State Planning Program Grant. The purpose is to systematically assess the ongoing status of the SS/HS State Program by providing timely information for creating strategic plans, measuring progress, and keeping the project focused on the overall objectives. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 16, 2014.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

D. State Reporting Coordinator

The Department of Education, Bureau of Program Support, is seeking proposals to provide research and training to Institutions of Higher Education regarding new federal reporting requirements on teacher education program completers. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 4:30p.m. Friday, May 23, 2014

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

E. Three State Procurement Collaborative for the Implementation of the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts & Mathematics Assessments

Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont, hereafter referred to as the New England Assessment Consortium (NEAC), intend to implement the new Smarter Balanced Assessments through a multi-state procurement collaborative. The states seek proposals from qualified individuals, companies, and organizations to execute the scope of work outlined in this RFP, covering an array of activities and services that will be needed to manage the project, and to administer, score and report the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments in grades 3 through 8 and 11. In addition, the states are seeking separate bids for the development and hosting of a secure on-line analysis and reporting system. The assessments will be administered in accordance with Smarter Balanced policies, procedures and technical specifications, and consistent with the policies and guidelines that govern procurement and project implementation in each of the three states, the state guidelines and regulations taking precedence if conflicts occur. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 4:00 p.m. EDST on Friday, June 6, 2014

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

Ed 513.01 and Ed 513.03 - Requirements for Initial Certification Including Basic Academic Skills and Subject Area Assessment and Highly Qualified Teacher

A public hearing will be held at 11:00 a.m. on June 12, 2014 in the State Board Room, Department of Education 101 Pleasant Street, Concord NH 03301. Deadline for written comment will be June 26, 2014.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

The New Hampshire Department of Education is pleased to announce its partnership with the NEA-NH and the Center for Assessment through a grant from NEA to develop a statewide understanding of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). This three-year grant will provide training to approximately 90 educators. The training will include developing expertise in all areas of the SLO process: development, implementation and dissemination. Members of NEA-New Hampshire will receive an invitation to complete an application to participate in the project.

In year one, participating educators will develop a base of knowledge by piloting a student learning objective. They will build on their knowledge in year two by mentoring other educators in the SLO process and by sharing their experiences. Year three will further develop their expertise through an improvement cycle and continued outreach and mentoring on the systemic use of SLOs. The result of this work will be improved instructional practices around setting student goals, the use of data to guide instruction, the use of formative assessment and improved student learning.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-6813, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. Surrogate Parent Program

The Educational Surrogate Parent Program, coordinated by the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is a volunteer program designed to provide a child with a disability with an educational surrogate parent to act as the child's educational decision-maker. As the educational decision-maker you would participate in a child's special education team meetings. The NH DOE requires applicants to participate in a nine-hour training, which is offered at no cost to applicants. The training includes information on the special education process and related topics. (Professional Development credits are available for this training). Training is available Saturday, June 21st from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/surrogate.htm.

Contact: Amy Jenks, (603) 271-3842, Amy.Jenks@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. College and Career Ready Standards and Educator Effectiveness

The NH DOE, in coordination with SERESC, is offering several training opportunities relating to instructional changes to support college and career ready standards and educator effectiveness. Title I Focus and Priority School (F&P) staff will receive a discounted rate of \$50.00 per event and half day Saturday workshops are free to F&P Schools. For more information or to register go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum (click on the first link) or visit www.smore.com/q1jn.

B. Media Literacy for Safe and Healthy Choices

Governor Maggie Hassan announced statewide trainings in the Media Power Youth program, a public-private initiative aimed at reducing and preventing youth violence. Funded through a grant from the Office of the Attorney General, this statewide initiative enables Media Power Youth, a Manchester-based nonprofit and expert in media literacy, to provide free curricula and training for New Hampshire teachers and school professionals to implement in their schools. The evidence-based curriculum, Media Literacy for Safe & Healthy Choices, is designed for fourth, fifth and sixth grades students. It promotes healthy decisions and positive use of media while students learn about the media's role and influence on violence, aggression and bullying; tobacco and alcohol use; and food choices. The first of eight trainings for those implementing the curriculum is scheduled for Friday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Local Government Center Health Trust, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord. Future trainings will be held on August 13th at Frisbie Education Center in Rochester, September 19th at Whole Village Family Resource Center in Plymouth, and November 7th at Manchester Community College. Additional dates and locations, including Keene and the North Country, will be announced. To read more about the training and register please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NKH7VVL>. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Pamela.Carbee@mediapoweryouth.org Sarah.Shanahan@mediapoweryouth.org or call (603) 222-1200.

C. Next Steps NH High School Pilot Sites

Please join us for an Informational Webinar on Monday, June 2, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. to help guide you through the application process for the *Next Steps NH High*

School Pilot Sites (Cohort 2) that will be released in May. New Hampshire high schools are eligible to apply with the endorsement of their superintendent. The selected applicants will receive training and coaching to implement evidenced-based transition practices within a comprehensive Transition Focused Education Framework in the Fall of 2014. Some of the practices will involve family engagement strategies and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs). In addition, pilot sites will also have the option of implementing Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural supports, Education, and Work (RENEW). To pre-register for the webinar please email your name, SAU #, position, and phone number to donna.couture@doe.nh.gov. For more information on the Next Steps NH visit our web site at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/nextstepsnh.htm.

Contact: Donna Couture, (603) 271-1536, Donna.Couture@doe.nh.gov

D. Summer MATH Institute!

The August 5th & 6th, 2014, *Teaching to the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice Institute*, co-sponsored by NHASCD and Pinkerton Academy, will involve simultaneous but separate workshops for high school teachers and middle school teachers on understanding and implementing the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice (SMPs). For more information go to www.cvent.com/events/aug-5th-6th-2014-teaching-to-the-common-core-standards-for-mathematical-practice-institute-at-pinker/event-summary-ec0e285e8a324ac884e50200bcc24e1f.aspx.

E. Keene State College Education Department Professional Development Opportunity

The Southwestern Center is pleased to be hosting *Exploring RTI at the Secondary Level*. This event will take place May 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (this session is free, but registration is required as space is limited). For more information please go to www.keene.edu/conted/swnhesc or call (603) 358-2750.

RESOURCES

A. Briefings Series

Leadership in Action is a New England Secondary School Consortium briefing series on some of the most important educational issues affecting our students, high schools and communities. As a nonpartisan initiative the hope is these briefings will help school leaders strengthen their schools, empower teachers, and give every student a better chance to succeed. To learn more about the briefings go to http://newenglandssc.org/leadership_in_action.

B. Career Resources e-mail Subscription Service

The Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau of New Hampshire Employment Security has a free e-mail subscription service that will alert subscribers when new information is available about the New Hampshire economy, labor markets, workforce, and career information. When new information is posted, subscribers receive an e-mail with a brief description of the product and a link to the relevant page on the Bureau's Web site. One of the four topical areas for subscribers to choose is "Career Resources." This is a convenient way for educators and the training community to stay updated on our workforce information. To sign up or for more information go to www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi.

C. TenMarks Summer Math Program

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) is collaborating with TenMarks, an Amazon company, to reverse the summer learning loss in math. AASA announced that TenMarks is making available the TenMarks Summer Math Program, at no cost, to students across the country. Research shows students lose two to three months of grade level math equivalency over the summer, which impacts their readiness for the next school year. While academic assistance is available during the summer, the participation in these programs is limited. The TenMarks Summer Math Program is personalized to guide students through a curriculum that meets their individual needs. Starting with a diagnostic assessment at their grade and skill level, the program automatically creates an individualized summer curriculum, designed to review concepts that a student must refresh from the year past, and introduces them to concepts for the year ahead. The program adapts with targeted interventions when it recognizes a need. TenMarks will also offer end of summer reports for families and districts to help inform curriculum and instruction for the new school year. AASA encourages school districts across the country to learn more about the free, online summer math program at <http://summermath.tenmarks.com>, where they can immediately access materials to inform families about the free program.

D. Underage Drinking Prevention Video

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS), announced the launch of a new underage drinking prevention video. The video is a new tool to help raise awareness about underage drinking and to help in prevention efforts. The video is being released in advance of prom and graduation season as these milestone events have been seen in recent years as a drinking rite of passage for some youth. The video stresses the importance of starting a conversation with youth about the hazards of drinking, and reminds everyone that this conversation should be an ongoing dialogue. To access the video go to www.dhhs.nh.gov/media/av/drug-free-nh.htm. For additional resources on talking to youth about starting the conversation visit www.drugfreenh.org.

OTHER

Constitution Day Essay Contest

This contest is presented each fall by New Hampshire's daily newspapers and the state Supreme Court. It revolves around Constitution Day, Sept. 17. It is open to students in grades 5-12 in New Hampshire or those in Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont who are served by the participating papers. Students are asked to write essays about a relevant Constitutional issue. Finalists and statewide winners are honored with a ceremony at the Court in the fall. Contest materials are mailed/emailed to teachers in the spring and fall. If you do not receive a mailing, you can obtain the 2014 essay question and other contest information at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/social_studies/constitutionday.htm or www.courts.state.nh.us/student/contest.htm or by calling David Tirrell-Wysocki at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications at dtwysocki@loebschool.org.

STEM the Gap Teacher Challenge

Teachers of all fields are invited to submit their ideas for increasing STEM education in the classroom. You could receive a \$1,000 grant for your students just by sharing your best ideas

for improving STEM education in America schools. Visit www.dow.com/education to submit an entry. The deadline for all submissions is May 16, 2014.

General Project Grants

General Project Grants are designed to help schools, Main Street Programs, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations bring arts presentations and activities into communities to enhance the quality of life for citizens, attract visitors and help stimulate local economies through the arts. This matching grant category supports a wide range of activities including: performances, concerts, exhibits, workshops, local festivals, collaborative public art projects, etc., that engage the arts and artists for the benefit of NH residents and communities; short term art presentations and activities in schools or after school programs for youth of all ages; projects that help to preserve, document and showcase heritage and traditional arts. Learn more and download application forms at www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/projectgrantgen.htm or contact Catherine O'Brian, NH State Council on the Arts, (603) 271-0795, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov.

Antioch Center for School Renewal Events

The Antioch Center for School Renewal (ACSR) has twenty-five years of experience in providing high quality professional development for educators across New England. Some upcoming events are: *In Bloom in Keene: Promising Practices in Nature-based Early Childhood Education*, May 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Critical Skills Program, Keene, July 7-11 or North Country August 11-15; and Awareness through the Body, July 7-8. For more information or to register go to <http://tinyurl.com/aune-CE>.

Arts Learning Network Summer Arts Camps/Programs

An updated list of NH summer arts camps and programs will be posted on the NH Arts Learning Network (NHALN) in May 2014.

(www.nhartslearningnetwork.org/Resources/SummerArtsCampListings/tabid/498/Default.aspx)

This list is compiled as a service of the NHALN for youth, parents, teachers, artists and community members, and is not meant to demonstrate any affiliation with the listed organizations. Many camps offer scholarships. If you know of other summer arts camps, or would like to have your summer arts camp/learning opportunity listed, please send an e-mail with your summer camp updates to catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov or call (603) 271-0795. To join the NH Arts Learning Network, visit: www.nhartslearningnetwork.org.

Emergency Preparedness Conference

The NH Emergency Preparedness Conference is an annual event attracting over 600 people from around the state involved in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery on a local, state and federal level. The conference aims to promote and strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships to increase New Hampshire's ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards. The conference provides excellent opportunities for training and networking with local experts and practitioners from fields such as emergency management, community and public health, fire, EMS, law enforcement, private sector, risk management, healthcare, local, state and federal government, public works, code enforcement/building safety, schools, social services, volunteer groups, and more. The conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required. For more information go to www.NHEmergencyPrepConference.com.

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center- Summer Earth Science Symposium

An immersive 5-day workshop that will bring K-12 educators together with NASA and university scientists and Discovery Center Educators focused on Earth system sciences. Topics covered include: weather, climate, remote sensing, atmosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, magnetosphere, hydrosphere, and current missions exploring Earth. Graduate credit available. This symposium will take place June 23 to 27 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information go to www.starhop.com/educators.

Social Security Disability Benefits for Children - How Schools Can Help

The Social Security Administration through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) makes payments to disabled or blind children under the age of 18. When school records are requested, a form is included for the child's current teacher or the teacher most familiar with the child to complete regarding function in the classroom. Schools can help by expediting the request for school records and by teachers expeditiously completing the teacher questionnaire and returning it. Please spread the word. Let others at the school know how important school records and information from the teacher are in the disability process.

Contact: Peggy Vieira, 271-3341, x306, Peggy.Vieira@ssa.gov