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To: Head Start Executive and Program Directors

From: Madeline Cancel-Hanieh *MCH*
Director
Children Services Division

Date: January 14, 2009

Subject: Head Start Reauthorization: Revision regarding the
Enrollment of Children with Disabilities

On December 12, 2007, President Bush signed the "Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007," reauthorizing our national Head Start program. [Public Law 110-134](#) authorizes Head Start through September 30, 2012. This law contains significant revisions to the previous Head Start Act including a new requirement for enrolling *at least* 10% of children with disabilities. The reauthorization language states that, "Each Head Start program must assure that 10% of its enrollment be of children with disabilities."

In response to the new Performance Standards requirement, delegate agencies that reported less than 10% enrollment of children with identified disabilities for the 2007-2008 program year (as according to the PIR) were contacted and were required to submit a Disabilities Improvement Plan. The purpose of the plan was to help agencies identify specific methods and activities to recruit and enroll children with diagnosed disabilities. The plans were to specify who was responsible for what activity within the delegate agency and under what timelines. An Improvement Plan was received from your delegate agency.

The CPS-CYS Disabilities Team will be monitoring the delegate agencies' Improvement Plans and will provide any technical assistance and/or training that is needed to help support you in your efforts to recruit and enroll children with disabilities. Please continue to contact your CPS-CYS Disabilities Team liaisons if you have any questions or concerns in the disabilities content area.

It is our hope that, together, we will meet the Head Start 10% enrollment requirement for children with disabilities and will continue to provide quality, comprehensive services to all of our Head Start children and families. We thank you for your ongoing efforts to identify and refer children with suspected disabilities and for your continued support of children with diagnosed disabilities and their families.

