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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Schools
Directors of Special Education

FROM: Bobbi Lussier, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Special Education and Special Populations

DATE: April 10, 2012

RE: Isolation and Restraint Training Programs

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the authority of local education agencies regarding isolation and restraint training programs for local education agency employees.

Tennessee Rules and Regulations Chapter 0520-01-09-.23(2) concerning isolation and restraint for students receiving special education services authorizes local education agencies to develop and implement training programs that include: the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports; non-violent crisis prevention and de-escalation; and, safe administration of isolation and restraint.

Local education agencies retain complete discretion to determine which, if any, companies or organizations are utilized in isolation and restraint training.

The Department of Education and its employees are without authority to either endorse or discourage the use of a particular company or organization by local education agencies and any prior communication so indicating should be disregarded.