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MEMORANDUM

TO: TDWPM School District and BOCES Clients

FROM: Daniel Petigrow / DP
Frank G. Barile / FB

DATE: February 7, 2017

RE: New Regulations Regarding the Posting of Child Abuse Hotline Number

On January 10, 2017, the Board of Regents voted to add a new section to the Commissioner's Regulations¹ requiring all public schools to post the child abuse hotline telephone number and provide directions for accessing the Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") website in clearly visible locations so that it is readily accessible for students and employees.

The amendment implements Education Law § 409-l, which was signed by the Governor in July 2016.

What is Required

The new regulation took effect as an emergency rule on January 17, 2017, and as a permanent rule on January 25, 2017. Accordingly, all public schools must, as soon as practicable:

- Post in English and Spanish the toll-free telephone number (1-800-342-3720) operated by OCFS to receive reports of child abuse or neglect, as well as the following website link to access the OCFS website: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/>:

¹ 8 NYCRR § 100.2(nn).

- On the district and schools' website(s), where one exists;
 - In "highly-visible areas" of school buildings;
- Make such information available at the district and school building-level administrative offices, where applicable;
- Provide such information:
 - To parents and persons in parental relation at least once per school year in a manner as determined by the school including, but not limited to, through electronic communication and/or sending such information home with students; and
 - To each teacher and administrator in the school.

Should you have any questions regarding how to implement these new requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.