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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 91 LCM-45

Date: March 22, 1991

Division: Income Maintenance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Education for Homeless Children

ATTACHMENTS: State Education Department Informational Pamphlet -
"Special Education for Your Preschool Child" - not
available on-line

On September 1, 1988 this Department released 88 ADM-41, which clarified and defined the responsibilities of local social services districts in relation to the education of homeless school-aged children who are temporarily housed outside of their original school district. The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the following areas of information relating to 88 ADM-41.

I. Homeless Child Placement Reports

88 ADM-41 required each local social services district which placed homeless families with school-aged children into temporary housing to submit monthly reports to this Division using the "Homeless Child Education" form. The form documents the number and ages of all school-aged children placed in temporary housing. Effective immediately, the submission of this report is no longer required. All other requirements of 88 ADM-41 remain in effect.

II. Education Services for Handicapped Three and Four Year Old Children

In July 1989, Chapter 243 of the Laws of 1989 was enacted giving the municipality of residence and the local school district Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) the responsibility for the provision of special education services for three and four year old children. Previously, the Family Court was responsible for this process. Upon referral, the CPSE must evaluate three and four year old children and offer the parent(s) an appropriate pre-school special education program if required. The State Education Department (SED) has developed an informational pamphlet, "Special Education for Your Preschool Child," designed to advise families of the availability of special educational services for preschool children. The pamphlet is attached for your information.

Because a large number of homeless families serviced by local social services districts have special needs, and to continue our commitment to the educational needs of homeless children as mandated by 88 ADM-41, "Education for Homeless Children," we are requesting all local social services districts to make a copy of this pamphlet available to homeless families with three and four year old children placed into temporary housing, as well as to those families with three and four year old children already residing in temporary housing. A copy of this pamphlet can also be made available to public assistance families living in permanent housing.

Local social services districts are not responsible for assessing the educational needs of any three or four year old child. Under the new law, the municipality of residence of a family with a handicapped three or four year old child, is responsible for all required services, including transportation. If a homeless family is temporarily housed outside of their original school district, the school district of current location is responsible for this process. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to contact the local school district or the Early Childhood Direction Center in their area if the parent(s) determines that there may be a need for special educational services.

An initial supply of these pamphlets will be sent to the forms contact person in each local district under separate cover. Please request additional copies, in writing, from the following address:

New York State Education Department
Office for Education of
Children With Handicapping Conditions
Education Building Annex
Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

If you have any questions concerning this release or would like more information on special education services, please contact Russell Oliver of my staff at (518) 474-9107.

Your cooperation in making parents aware of this important program is greatly appreciated.

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance