Executive Summary

Act 289 (H.B. 531, H.D.3, S.D.2, C.D.1) of the Hawaii State Legislature, 2007, established the Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force to study the feasibility of expanding Hawaii's Early Intervention Section to continue services for children ages 3-5 years.

The Department of Health (DOH) developed an agreement with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies (CDS) for $15,000 to support the work of the Task Force and to begin performing the tasks as outlined in Act 289, while awaiting the release of the $120,000 funds appropriated by Act 289.

DOH convened the first Task Force meeting on August 23, 2007. A consensus of the Task Force was that within the available resources of $15,000, the priority was to address Section 2, (7) of Act 289 “Conduct a needs assessment of families, focusing on their experiences transitioning out of Part C programs, as well as transitioning into Part B programs.”

A transition survey was developed to identify strengths and barriers in the transition of all young children into the Department of Education (DOE) 619 preschool special education programs from home and previous programs. Survey packets were mailed to DOE preschool special education classroom teachers for distribution to families in October 2007. The Task Force will review the survey results and develop recommendations in January 2008, as funds and time permit.
Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force

Act 289
Act 289 (H.B. 531, H.D.3, S.D.2, C.D.1) of the Hawaii State Legislature, 2007, established the Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force to study the feasibility of expanding Hawaii's Early Intervention Section to continue services for children ages 3-5 years.

Task Force members specified by Act 289 include representation from the neighbor islands, rural Oahu, and underserved populations, at least two parents of children who may require these services, and representatives from:

- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Office of the Governor
- Board of Education
- Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council
- Special Education Advisory Council
- Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Education's Section 619 state and district coordinator
- Good Beginnings Alliance
- Early intervention service providers
- Head Start providers
- American Academy of Pediatrics - Hawaii Chapter
- University of Hawaii, College of Education – personnel preparation faculty
- Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children
- Kia’i ka ‘Ike
- Early childhood special education professional development programs
- Hawaii State Legislature – Representative appointed by the Speaker of the House
- Hawaii State Legislature – Senator appointed by the President of the Senate

For the feasibility study, the Task Force was asked to:

- Identify the potential annual number of children who exit Part C programs, are eligible for programs under Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but may benefit from a longer transition period and continued Part C program services in the child's natural environment or community-based settings.
- Identify the potential annual number of children who exit Part C programs, are not eligible for services under Part B of Section 619 of IDEA, but have developmental delays and may benefit from intervention services between ages 3 to 5 years.
- Identify the potential annual number of children who have not received services through Part C programs, but are identified as having developmental delays and who may benefit from intervention services between ages 3 to 5 years.
- Research evidence-based practices in order to define service models to meet the needs of children age 3-5 years.
- Define the array of services required for children age 3-5 years with developmental delays.
- Based upon the potential number of children to be served, derive resource and cost projections to implement services.
- Conduct a needs assessment of families focusing on their experiences transitioning out of Part C programs, as well as transitioning into Part B programs.
- Project the length of time required to develop the necessary resource pool to serve the targeted population.
- Develop indicators for evaluation to assess the outcomes of the early intervention system providing services to children age 3-5 years with developmental delays.

The Task Force was required to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2008 regular session, to include:
- Recommendations regarding the feasibility of expanding Hawaii’s early intervention section to serve children age 3-5 years with developmental delays.
- If deemed feasible, recommendations as to eligibility and service models for the expansion of early intervention services, taking into consideration the identified needs, recommended best practices, resources and cost projections, service payment, and procedural safeguards without adversely affecting the implementation of Part C program services.
- If recommended, additional information, including eligibility criteria and programmatic, financing, and evaluation requirements to implement an array of appropriate service models for children age 3-5 years with developmental delays in natural and least restrictive environments.
- An implementation plan.
- A timeline to begin services.

Act 289 appropriated $120,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Department of Health (DOH) for purposes of the Act, and specified that the University of Hawaii (UH) Center on Disability Studies (CDS) will serve as Task Force facilitator, provide the necessary research, and conduct the needs assessment for the feasibility study.

The Task Force ceases to exist upon the adjournment sine die of the 2008 regular session.

**DOH Agreement with UH Center on Disability Studies**
The Department of Health developed an agreement with CDS for $15,000 to support the work of the Task Force and to begin performing the tasks as outlined in Act 289.

**First Task Force meeting**
The DOH convened the first Task Force meeting on August 23, 2007. Task Force members are listed in Attachment 1. Meeting minutes are in Attachment 2. Dr. Jean Johnson (CDS) provided a PowerPoint presentation identifying Task Force responsibilities and some issues presented by Act 289. A consensus of the Task Force was that within the available resources of $15,000, the priority was to address Section 2, (7) of Act 289 “Conduct a needs assessment of families, focusing on their experiences transitioning out of Part C programs, as well as transitioning into Part B programs.” A Committee was established to develop a transition needs assessment survey.
Task Force Transition Survey
A Survey Committee meeting was held on September 13 to review past preschool surveys and outline in general what should be covered in each of two surveys: 1) a survey of families with children about to exit from Part C (pre-transition survey), and 2) a survey of families with children in DOE Special Education (619) preschools (transition survey). A subcommittee was delegated to design the survey instruments. This subcommittee used electronic review of their work to develop the survey.

The subcommittee developed a pre-transition survey for distribution to Part C families was created. However, because the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Family Outcomes survey had just been distributed and because resources were insufficient for data entry and analysis, the decision was made not to distribute this survey.

The subcommittee developed a transition survey to identify strengths and barriers in the transition of all young children into the Department of Education (DOE) 619 preschool special education programs from home and previous programs. UH Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval was obtained for utilization of the survey instrument. Review of the instrument was expanded to include members of the Sequenced Transition to Education in the Public Schools (STEPS) team that has been involved in improving transition services for children from Part C to Part B and which had completed three previous preschool transition surveys. The final draft of the survey was submitted to the full Task Force for approval on October 15 with approval received on October 19. The final survey is in Attachment 3.

The process for distribution of the survey was developed. DOH staff assisted in assembly of over 2,600 survey packets for statewide distribution. The surveys were mailed on October 24 to DOE preschool special education classroom teachers. DOH also provided assistance with the postage for completed surveys.

CDS created a data system for data entry and analysis. It is anticipated that data entry will be completed by late November, and data analysis will be completed by mid-December.

Next Task Force meeting
A meeting of the Task Force is planned for early January 2008 to review the survey analysis and complete the recommendations to the Legislature.
## Attachment 1

HAWAII 3-5 TRANSITION TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents of children who may require these services</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Gentry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:matt_gentry@hotmail.com">matt_gentry@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noelani Dela Vega</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ndelavega@idahawaii.org">ndelavega@idahawaii.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Vara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:varafamily@gmail.com">varafamily@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mari Uehara, M.D.</td>
<td>Kapiolani Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1319 Punahou Street, 7th Floor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii 96826</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Coco Iwamoto</td>
<td>Board of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P. O. Box 2360</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii 96804</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Ban, Director</td>
<td>Special Education Services Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>637 18th Avenue, Bldg. C., Room 102</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii 96816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Farmer, Education Specialist III</td>
<td>Special Education Services Branch</td>
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<td>Special Education Section</td>
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<td>Honolulu, Hawaii 96816</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Education’s Section 619</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Fahey, State Coordinator</td>
<td>State of Hawaii</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Education-Section 619</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95-1038 Puneki Street</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mililani, Hawaii 96789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gayla Coloma, District Coordinator</td>
<td>State of Hawaii</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Education-Section 619</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>480 Waianuenue Avenue, Bldg. B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hilo, Hawaii 96720</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Health</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Barrett, M.D., Deputy Director</td>
<td>State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Health Resources Administration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P. O. Box 3378</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii 96801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.S.W., Chief</td>
<td>State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Health Services Division</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P. O. Box 3378</td>
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<td>Honolulu, Hawaii 96801</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Human Services</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Julie Morita, Program Specialist | Department of Human Services  
Benefits, Employment and Support Services Division  
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96813  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Early Childhood Special Education Professional Development Programs</strong></th>
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</table>
| Patricia Sheehey, Ph.D., Asst. Professor | University of Hawaii  
College of Education  
Department of Special Education  
1776 University Avenue, Wist 117  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96822  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Early Intervention Service Providers</strong></th>
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</table>
| Norman Kawakami, Sr. VP, Operations | Easter Seals Hawaii  
710 Green Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96813  |
| Karen Jayne, Executive Director | Imua Family Services  
95 Mahalani Street, Suite 19A  
Wailuku, Hawaii  96793  |

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Good Beginnings Alliance</strong></th>
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</table>
| Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director | Good Beginnings Alliance  
33 South King Street, Suite 200  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96813  |

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<tr>
<th><strong>Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children</strong></th>
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</table>
| Katherine Murphy, Executive Director | Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children  
1806 South King Street, Suite 30  
Honolulu, Hawaii  9682  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leolinda Parlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leolinda@resqconsultants.com">leolinda@resqconsultants.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities</strong></th>
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</table>
| Waynette K. Y. Cabral, M.S.W., Executive Administrator | Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, #113  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96814  |

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<tr>
<th><strong>Head Start Providers</strong></th>
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| Chris Jackson | Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP)  
33 South King Street, #300  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96813  |

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<tr>
<th><strong>House of Representatives – State Legislature</strong></th>
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| Rep. John Mizuno | State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 436  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96813  |

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<tr>
<th><strong>Kiaʻi ka ‘Ike</strong></th>
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</table>
| Gwyn Toilolo, Chair | Kiaʻi ka ‘Ike  
638 North Kuakini Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii  96817  |
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<tr>
<th><strong>Office of the Governor</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nani Medeiros, Senior Policy Analyst</td>
<td>State Capitol</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>415 South Beretania, Room 417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland</td>
<td>State Capitol</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Special Education Advisory Council</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Ivalee Sinclair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ivaleesn@aol.com">ivaleesn@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ivalee_sinclair@notes.k12.hi.us">ivalee_sinclair@notes.k12.hi.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Home addresses of family members are not included.
**Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force**  
August 23, 2007, 1:30-3:00 PM  
State Office Tower, Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Bldg., Room 204

**MINUTES**

Present: Ban, Barrett, Chun, Coloma, Fahey, Fuddy, Gentry, Jayne, Kawakami, Medeiros, Miyasaka-Gushiken (for Cabral), Morita, Murphy, Sheehey, Uehara  
Absent: Ancheta (invited), Chun-Oakland, Farmer, Kaahanui (invited), Knudsen, Jackson, Mizuno, O’Dell, Parlin, Simmons (invited), Sinclair  
Facilitator: Jean Johnson  
Staff: Heu, Takemoto  
Visitors: Linda Elento, Lily Matsubara

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<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DISCUSSION</th>
<th>DECISION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Barrett convened the meeting. Asked members to introduce themselves. Turned the meeting over to the Facilitator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Johnson presented PowerPoint presentation outlining the background and the issues. References made to the Felix Court Monitor Preschool Report dated 2000. (copies available on request and on the web site). Handouts included copies of the PowerPoint, the Governor’s message dated July 11, 2007, and the Black article. (copies available request and on the web site)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues Raised</td>
<td><strong>Issue of Release of Funds.</strong> Fuddy explained that the DOH wrote to Budget and Finance in mid-August requesting the release of the $120,000 appropriated for the Task Force. Authority to Release Funds. In response to a question from Gentry, Medeiros stated that although the Legislature appropriates funds, the State Constitution gives to the Governor the authority on whether or not to release the funds. Data Issues. Some of the difficulties in examining data between Part C and Part B were raised. <strong>Comparison with Massachusetts.</strong> Discussion of why these two states were being compared. <strong>Funding of Part C.</strong> Considerable discussion on the chronic underfunding of Part C services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Volunteers requested to serve on the Survey Committee to review the survey and determine to whom and how to administer the survey. Volunteers included Gentry, Fahey, Heu, Kawakami, Jayne, Murphy, and Uehara. Johnson will facilitate the committee.</td>
<td>Johnson will schedule a meeting of the committee as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Meetings</td>
<td>The next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled to review the results of the survey when it is completed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjournment</td>
<td>Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM</td>
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</table>
Family Transition Survey

We would like to know about the services your child and family had before and after your child's third birthday. The answers you give may improve the services provided to children like yours and their families. When you are finished, place the survey in the envelope provided. You do not need a postage stamp. **PLEASE MAIL BY ……………..**

1. **In what year was your child born?** ___________

2. **Did your child receive services from any early intervention program?**
   - No → If you answered “no,” go on to question 10 below.
   - Yes → Please check √ the Early Intervention programs that served your child.

   Early Intervention Section _____    Healthy Start _____
   Kailua Easter Seals _____    Kapolei Easter Seals _____
   Sultan Easter Seals _____    Waipahu Easter Seals _____
   KMC Early Intervention Services Program_____  KMC Central _____
   Lanakila Early Childhood Services Program (ECSP)_____  Leeward ECSP _____
   Windward ECSP _____    Wahiawa ECSP _____
   Salvation Army Therapeutic Nursery______    Public Health Nursing (PHN) _____
   Waianae Parent Child Development Center______    United Cerebral Palsy _____
   Other Early Intervention Program_____ → Program Name __________________________

3. **Write the age when your child first received service from an early intervention program?**
   - Years _______  Months _______

4. **Which of the following best describes your child’s needs before he or she was three years old?**  Check √ one
   - Speech-language problems _____
   - Health or medical problems _____
   - Developmental delays _____
   - Autism _____
   - Other _____ (describe) ___________________________________________________

5. **Below is a list of some ways Early Intervention programs may help children and families.**
   Check √ how you felt about getting each kind of help:

   Services provided in our home or in the home of a baby-sitter or care-provider………._
   Services provided at a center with other children with disabilities ……………………
   Therapists worked with my child and family…. ……………………
   Having a care coordinator to talk with ……………………
   Learning about my child’s disability ……………………
   Finding out how I can help my child ……………………
   Information on services my family needs (such as food stamps, Quest, etc.) ……………………
   Meeting families of children with disabilities ……………………
   Meeting families of children without disabilities ……………………
   Amount of services my child received ……………………

**PLEASE GO TO PAGE 2 for more questions.**
6. How did you feel when you learned your child could not have early intervention services after your child’s third birthday?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

7. When your child turned three years old, did you want your child to stay in early intervention longer instead of starting DOE preschool?  Yes _____  No _____
Why? ________________________________________________________________

8. Now, after your experiences, would you have wanted your child to stay in early intervention longer instead of starting preschool?  Yes _____  No _____
Why? ________________________________________________________________

9. Please tell us about the Part C Transition Conference  (A transition conference is a meeting with your Care Coordinator and someone from the DOE and/or people from other preschools.) (Check √ one answer)
   I did not go to a Part C Transition Conference meeting.   _____
   I went to a Part C Transition Conference meeting and
   it helped me think about services for my child.  _____
   I went to a Part C Transition Conference meeting and it was not helpful.  _____

10. Before you enrolled your child in a DOE special education preschool, did you visit the preschool?
   Yes, I went to visit.  _____
   I did not know I could visit a preschool class.  _____
   I knew I could visit a preschool class, but I did not go.  _____

11. Were the DOE evaluation reports explained in a way that helped you?
   No-one explained the evaluation reports to me.  _____
   Yes, the explanation was helpful.  _____
   No, the explanation was not helpful.  _____

12. Please tell us about the IEP (Individualized Education Program) meeting for your child.
   I went to the meeting and people listened to my ideas.  _____
   I went to the meeting but people did not listen to my ideas.  _____
   I did not go to the IEP meeting.  _____

Comment? ________________________________________________________________

PLEASE GO TO PAGE 3 for more questions.
13. Did you feel welcomed by DOE staff?  Yes _____  No _____

Comment? ____________________________________________________________

14. How long has your child been in a DOE preschool?  Years _______  Months _______

15. Where is your child getting DOE Preschool services now?
   Please check √ the one place where your child is getting most of his or her services.
   A DOE classroom for children with disabilities. _____
   A Head Start or community preschool class. _____
   Other (where?) _____

16. Below is a list of some ways DOE Preschool may help children and families.
   Check √ how you feel about each kind of help.

   Being at a public school  ……………………..    ____  ____  ____
   Being in a classroom with children with disabilities  ____  ____  ____
   Being at a Head Start or community preschool  …  ____  ____  ____
   Being around other children without disabilities    ____  ____  ____
   Meeting families of children with disabilities   ….    ____  ____  ____
   Meeting families of children without disabilities  ____  ____  ____
   Teachers and therapists providing services to the
   Child ………………………………………….    ____  ____  ____
   Having someone at school to talk with about needs    ____  ____  ____
   Amount of services my child receives  …………..    ____  ____  ____

Comment? ____________________________________________________________

17. Compared with your feelings when your child started DOE preschool, how do you feel now?
   I am more satisfied. _____
   I am less satisfied. _____
   My feelings are unchanged. _____

Comment? ____________________________________________________________

18. Is there anything else you want to share?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Please return this survey in the attached envelope by (date). Thank you.

If you would like to talk to us about your experiences,
please call Jean Johnson at 956-2653.