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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 15, 2009
TO: NECPA Enrolled Programs
FROM: The NECPA Commission, Inc.
SUBJECT: Standards Revision Notification

The NECPA Commission is pleased to announce that the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation has completed a rigorous and credible two-year standards revision process. As part of an ongoing commitment to improving the profession of early childhood education, the NECPA reviewed the current standards, and implemented adjustments to ensure that each indicator is based on current research criteria as well as recommendations from field operations. This total analysis and revision provides the assurance that programs voluntarily participating in NECPA Accreditation are offering children and families the highest quality early childhood programs, commensurate with the overall progression of the field. The revised standards (December 2009 Edition) are available for online purchase beginning Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

Enrolled programs are eligible for compliance with the revised standards on May 31, 2010. If the NECPA Center of Operations receives an enrolled program's verification visit request form and payment on or before this date, the program may be verified and accredited under the provisions of the former standards. If the verification visit request form and payment are not received by this date, the enrolled program must adhere to the most current standards offered by the NECPA, which would be the revised standards as of May 31, 2010.

The NECPA remains a self-paced process and enrollment with the NECPA continues until a program enters into the verification portion of the process. Therefore, if additional time is needed for the completion of the self-study portion, simply purchase the revised December 2009 standards along with the self-assessment instrument and continue to proceed at an individualized, meaningful pace.

Any program enrolling after January 5, 2010 is subject to the same protocol as an enrolled program. However, it would be a wise choice to enroll under the revised standard guidelines, and therefore, not be subject to purchasing the revised standards if the request for verification and actual verification timeline could not meet the May 31, 2010 deadline.

Should questions arise regarding the status of a program due to the transition, please email the NECPA at info@necpa.net. We look forward to working with our existing and future programs to deliver the most accepted, high quality standards in the early childhood field. Thank you for pursuing excellence.

Sincerely,

The NECPA Commission, Inc.