



Terrell I. Murphy
Commissioner

August 1, 2006

Tom Cowen
Texas Education Agency
1701 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-1494

Dear Mr. Cowen:

Enclosed is the revised Interagency Letter of Agreement between the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (Division for Blind Services and Division for Rehabilitation Services) and the Texas Education Agency.

The time period of the agreement was revised to reflect "This agreement will be reviewed and considered for expansion, modification, or amendment at any time the executive officers of the agencies agree." The revision was worked on and agreed to by staff of both agencies.

Your assistance in obtaining Commissioner Neely's signature on the agreement and return it to this office is appreciated. Be sure to retain a copy of the signed agreement for your files.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 377-0600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrell I. Murphy".

Terrell I. Murphy
Commissioner

/dv
Attachments

c: Terry Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Division for Rehabilitation Services
Barbara J. Madrigal, Assistant Commissioner, Division for Blind Services

Partnerships for Independence



Terrell I. Murphy
Commissioner

Interagency Letter of Agreement

This letter of agreement is intended to promote the development of transition services in Texas that offer students receiving special education services choices and opportunities for employment, and independent living in the community.

The purpose of this letter of agreement is to describe the respective roles and responsibilities of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) (Division for Blind Services and Division for Rehabilitation Services) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for outreach, consultation, and the coordination and provision of transition services as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

This letter of agreement represents each agency's continued commitment to foster collaborative and cooperative efforts at the state, regional, and local level to facilitate the successful transition of students with disabilities in Texas.

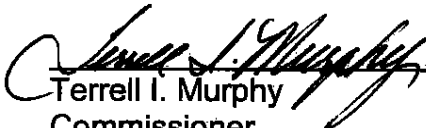
The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, as the state agency designated to "assess, plan, develop, and provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice, so that they may prepare for and engage in gainful employment," acknowledges financial responsibility for the provision of transition-planning services as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (34 CFR §361.22, §361.45, and §361.48).

The Texas Education Agency, as the state agency designated to "ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free, appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living," acknowledges financial responsibility for the provision of transition services as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Sections 601, 602, and 614).

Each agency agrees that disputes between Local Education Agencies (LEA) and local DARS representatives involving the provision of transition services will first be resolved at the local level. If resolution cannot be reached at the local level, the disputing agencies will refer the issues to DARS or TEA personnel designated to resolve the dispute. If a resolution cannot be reached, each agency agrees to resolve the dispute in accordance with established agency policies and procedures.

Partnerships for Independence

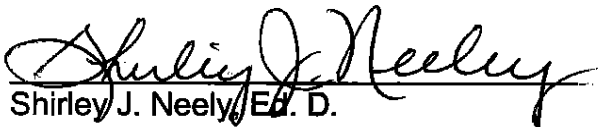
This agreement will be reviewed and considered for expansion, modification, or amendment at any time the executive officers of the agencies agree.



Terrell I. Murphy
Commissioner
Dept. of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

7/31/06

Date



Shirley J. Neely, Ed. D.
Commissioner for Education
Texas Education Agency

8/7/06

Date