August 23, 2010

To: Flint Community Schools’ Parents and Students, All Staff, and Community Agencies

From: Linda Thompson, Superintendent

Subject: Requirement to Make Public Flint Community Schools’ Process for Determining the Existence of a Specific Learning Disability

District’s Process for Determination of a Specific Learning Disability:
In accordance with the Michigan Department of Education memorandum dated May 14, 2010, Districts must declare the process used to determine the existence of a Specific Learning Disability (See link to Memorandum from MDE). The Flint Community Schools process that will be used district-wide for determining the existence of a Specific Learning is a Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses.

Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses Process:
The district uses a Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses Process for determination of a Specific Learning Disability for all buildings and all grades in the district and includes the following:

1. The student does not achieve adequately for the student’s age or to meet State-approved grade-level standards in one or more of the areas identified at 34 CFR §300.309 (a)(1)(i) when provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the student’s age or State-approved grade-level standards.
2. The student exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, State-approved grade-level standards, or intellectual development, that is determined by the Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET) to be relevant to the identification of a Specific Learning Disability, using appropriate assessments, consistent with the IDEA Evaluation Procedures and Additional Requirements for Evaluations and Reevaluations.

The posting of this process will be kept current and will be amended when/if our process changes. We are currently in the process of further development of a Response to Scientific Research Based Interventions process. We will transition to this process when we are ready for full implementation.

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