



**JANET BARRESI**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

July 9, 2013

Dear Special Education Director/Contact,

On July 1, 2013, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), Special Education Services (SES) implemented new policy that was approved by the State Board of Education on June 12, 2013. The new policy is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 regulation with a few exceptions.

One of the new changes we would like to highlight is that parents are no longer allowed to file a formal written complaint at the district level. All formal written complaints should be filed and investigated at the State level. The intent of this change is to remove the districts burden of investigation and to encourage local solutions to disagreements between districts and parents. If an agreement cannot be reached parents still have the option to file a formal written complaint or due process hearing by contacting the OSDE-SES at (405) 521-3351.

If you would like more information about formal written complaints or procedural safeguards please contact Compliance Specialist, Mark Everhart at (405) 521-4863 or by email at [Mark.Everhart@sde.ok.gov](mailto:Mark.Everhart@sde.ok.gov).

Sincerely,  
Dr. Rene' Axtell  
Assistant State Superintendent  
Special Education Services  
Oklahoma State Department of Education