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Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the *New Hampshire Educational Service Guidelines for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing*. These comprehensive Guidelines will serve as a primary resource for educators, families and the community regarding educational services for children and youth with hearing loss in New Hampshire. As we all know, identifying the unique educational needs, providing appropriate services and integrating proper technologies for students who are deaf or hard of hearing can be challenging. These Guidelines draw on research, experience, and proven best practices to design a blueprint for meeting the needs of this exceptional group of students. With this document New Hampshire is taking significant steps towards improving the lives and educational outcomes of children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing.

This practical guide is the outcome of over two years of dedicated work by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Initiative Project – a project funded by the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. I would like to acknowledge the commitment of Bureau of Special Education Administrator, Santina Thibedeau and Education Consultant Mary Lane in their dedication to the support of this project's efforts. The Project brought together a collaborative team of New Hampshire educators, administrators, service providers and parents with experience, knowledge and expertise in the area of deaf and hard of hearing education to develop this critical resource. My thanks and appreciation to the dedicated, diligent work of this team, with special recognition of the tireless efforts of the Project Coordinator, Kimberlee Pelkey.

As we move ahead with training and implementation of these Guidelines we look forward to the positive impact this will have on improving the lives and educational outcomes of children and youth in New Hampshire who are deaf and hard of hearing. I ask you to please read these Guidelines carefully and use them as the cornerstone in the planning and service provision for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Until every child can be fully engaged in the learning process and their access to communication, development and academic performance equals that of their hearing peers our mission is not accomplished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia M. Barry".

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