

## VSBIT's Multi-Line Intermunicipal School Program



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TO: Multi-Line Business Managers, Superintendents & Special Education Administrators

FROM: Don Morrill, VSBIT Multi-Line Program Manager

RE: School Leaders Errors and Omissions -- IEP due process coverage

DATE: November 18, 2005

In the development of the Multi-line program, IEP due process defense coverage was included in an attempt to determine the primary issues involved with IEP disputes. The hope then, and now, is to ultimately be able to assist member districts in addressing these issues **before** disputes arise in an effort to reduce program costs. Integral in this goal is the gathering of data from the program's counsel charged with assisting member districts with due process hearings. In order for this data to be collected, the program's coverage is dependent on the use of program counsel.

During the first year, some member districts experienced procedural differences between the new Multi-line Program and their prior insurance carrier. Some of the differences included an introduction to the program's legal partner, Lynn, Thomas & Mihalich. Now well into their second year of serving the program, the firm and its principal partners, Pietro Lynn and Heather Thomas, have served members well with their legal affairs as well as assisting in program loss control activities. Heather, the firm's special education lead attorney, has handled special education and due process matters for many years working with such members as Franklin West, Orleans-Essex North, Addison Central, Windsor Southwest, Addison Rutland, and South Burlington as well as numerous non-member supervisory unions. I would encourage you to consider the program's counsel for all your special education legal needs whether or not they are covered by the multi-line program.

During this transitional first year, the program did allow members, in a few special situations, to use their own counsel during IEP due process hearings. ***For the reasons detailed above, this option will no longer be available to members. Coverage will only be provided if the Program's counsel is used.***

Enclosed with this letter please find a copy of the Multi-line program's coverage wording for IEP due process hearing defense coverage. If you have any questions regarding this coverage, please contact me at your convenience.