

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM  
RSA-IM-99-27  
DATE: June 24, 1999

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)  
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)  
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS  
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS  
PROGRAMS  
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS  
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE  
PROGRAMS  
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Changes to the Federal Schedule B Hiring Authority Pertaining to  
Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities.

CONTENT: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to make the  
Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA's) constituencies aware of  
a Presidential Executive Order requiring the Office of Personnel  
Management (OPM) to change its rules regarding the hiring of individuals  
with psychiatric disabilities. Executive Order #13124, signed on June 4,  
1999, requires the OPM to apply the same hiring guidelines to individuals  
with psychiatric disabilities as apply to individuals with mental retardation  
or severe physical disabilities. The hiring authorities affected by the order  
are defined by Title V of the Code of Federal Regulations, and they are  
commonly referred to as Schedule A appointments for individuals with  
mental retardation or severe physical disabilities and Schedule B  
appointments for individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

Schedule A and B positions can be filled without competition because they  
are part of excepted service. With this Executive Order, the prohibition on  
individuals with psychiatric disabilities serving more than two years is  
removed. As with those individuals directly appointed under Schedule A,  
individuals with psychiatric disabilities will now be eligible to be  
converted to competitive status after serving satisfactorily for two years.

Eligibility for appointment under Schedule A or B must be certified by State Vocational Rehabilitation counselors or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Executive Order, please call Ms. Jenn Rigger, RSA's Central Office Employment Specialist at (202) 260-2179, or via email at [jenn\\_rigger@ed.gov](mailto:jenn_rigger@ed.gov).

---

Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: National Council on Independent Living  
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation  
National Association of Protection And Advocacy Systems  
National Rehabilitation Facilities Coalition