



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools  
K-3 Literacy Coordinators

**FROM:** Sherry H. Thomas, Director *SH*

**DATE:** January 29, 2020

## CLARIFICATIONS ON READ TO ACHIEVE AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Over the last several months, the Exceptional Children Division has received questions around the assessment requirements for students with disabilities in grades K-3, in response to requirements for Read to Achieve. Further clarification is provided below, to ensure all students are being assessed and appropriate accommodations are being implemented.

- *All students with disabilities, including those on the Extended Content Standards, shall participate in state-mandated K-3 reading assessments, as part of Read to Achieve.*
  - *All EC students in K-3 should be assessed using Istation, with approved accommodations, modifications, and assistive technology as appropriate, unless the IEP Team determines otherwise, based on student data and information.*
  - *In rare situations, especially with students on the Extended Content Standards, the IEP Team may determine the student is unable to be assessed using Istation. The IEP team should then determine an appropriate alternate assessment to be used to measure the student's literacy skills. In this case, an IEP Team meeting will need to be held to address the alternate and any additional accommodations needed for the assessment.*

Please contact Sherry Thomas ([sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov)) or Matt Hoskins ([matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov)) with any additional EC related questions you may have.

**Cc:** Dr. Beverly Emory, Deputy Superintendent of District Support  
Dr. David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation  
Dr. Tammy Howard, Director, Accountability Services  
Dr. Tara Galloway, Director, K-3 Literacy

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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