

# Exceptional Children Information for Parents

June 16, 2021



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

## Occupational Course of Study Update

On February 3, 2021, the State Board of Education voted and approved the revision of the Occupational Preparation courses: Employment Preparation I – IV. The Employment Preparation courses should be taught in sequential order as the content is designed to help the student build skills and increase their depth of knowledge over the grades 9 – 12. These courses and their requirements apply to students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2021-2022 and are contained in Section II of the [GRAD-004](#) Policy.

Summary of [Occupational Course of Study](#) (OCS) credits needed for graduation:

- 4 English (ELA)
- 4 Math (includes Employment Prep IV Math)
- 3 Science (includes Employment Prep I Science)
- 4 Social Studies (includes Civic Literacy & Employment Prep II 1A & 1B)
- 1 Health & PE
- 4 CTE Electives Credits
- 2 Additional Employment Prep Citizenship III 2A & 2B and 600 work hours
- Career Portfolio
- Completion of IEP Objectives
- Legislative Requirement: CPR

On March 3, 2021, the State Board of Education voted and approved the following for the graduating class of 2021:

- Waived the CPR graduation requirement
- For OCS students, reduced the graduation requirement of paid employment to 157 hours.

### Assistive Technology Expo

The NCDPI Assistive Technology Team is pleased to offer the 2nd Annual Assistive Technology (AT) Virtual Expo on August 3, 2021. The free Virtual Expo will offer 20 professional learning sessions, each an hour in length, ten (10) networking sessions, and a keynote speaker. Participants can attend as many sessions as their schedule allows. The AT Virtual Expo will begin at 9:00 and conclude at 4:30. Click the link below to register for the event. [https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8Gkx2pNYmXJ6g8m](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Gkx2pNYmXJ6g8m)

Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-listserv-communications>

## Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
  - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Arc of the Triangle [Events](#)
- Autism Society [Workshops](#)
- Autism Speaks [Information Topics](#)
- CADRE [Parent Resources](#)
- ECAC [Events](#) & [Recorded Webinars](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](#)
- NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](#)
- Special Olympics NC [Events](#)

## Vaccinations, Return to In-Person Learning and What All Parents Need to Know ([webinar](#))

Join in for an opportunity to hear from key representatives from the U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as they discuss schools safely reopening in the fall for in-person learning. Learn the process to get children with and without disabilities back in the classroom, testing and vaccines safety. **ASL interpretation and captioning will be provided.**

**This is an opportunity for families to express concerns, ask questions and discuss how to sustain safe operations in schools.**

Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7pm ET  
Registration is required

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison  
Exceptional Children Division, NC DPI  
Email: [alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov)

