

EC Division Weekly Update
September 8, 2021

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

Items of Interest

REMINDER: 70th EC Conference General Sessions Call for Proposals

The deadline for general conference sessions proposals is September 15, 2021. Please consider sharing the [70th conference on Exceptional Children: Call for Proposals survey](#) with your staff who have innovative information to share with the field.

PRC 118 AU Funds Request for Funding- Deadline Extended and Revision

- The deadline for PRC 118 AU Funds Request for Funding submissions has been extended from **September 3, 2021 to September 24, 2021.**
- The Team Support Request questions asked for disaggregated data which several PSUs have had difficulty obtaining. In order to address this concern and be able to proceed with the submission, PSUs may place the percent slider for these items at 100%. This will not negatively impact the request and will allow you to complete the survey.
- The link to the Request for Funding is included here:
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8UtifPB374VW18
- If you have any questions, please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov or contact your regional AU consultant.

UPDATE: Program Compliance Cohort

As highlighted in the few ECD Weekly Updates, the EC Division will be coordinating a Program Compliance Cohort for members of local EC Leadership Teams tasked with supporting the EC Director/Coordinator with the supervision of local EC programs.

Recommendations were accepted through 5:00p on Friday, September 3rd. This week, participants will be provided additional information (virtual links, etc.) via the email provided when the individual was recommended.

The ECD has received a few questions regarding feedback loops and the differences between this cohort and NDLI/CECLI.

1. NDLI/CECLI is designed to support new EC Directors/Coordinators with supervising local EC programs systemwide and building capacity for future EC Directors/Coordinators.
2. The Program Compliance Cohort is designed to provide the details necessary to support the EC Director/Coordinator with the implementation and monitoring of specific services and supports within the overall local, systemwide EC Program.
3. A core component of the Program Compliance Cohort is a strong feedback loop with the EC Director/Coordinator that recommended participation. One key expectation is that all participants return to the district and redeliver/share the content with the local EC Leadership Team. Time will be devoted to the beginning and ending of each cohort session to identify key content for redelivery and clarify any questions from any content previously shared. It is hoped that this fosters a feedback loop locally that strengthens an entire leadership team.

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4. EC Directors/Coordinators should prioritize their own participation in NDLI/CECLI as a first engagement with an EC Division cohort as it provides the big picture for leading EC programs.

Social Studies Extended Content Standards Public Comment

Alternate academic achievement standards set an expectation of performance that differs in complexity from a grade-level achievement standard. ESSA permits states to develop alternate academic achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In North Carolina, these alternate academic achievement standards are known as the Extended Content Standards. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division convened stakeholder groups to create and review proposed extended content standards for Social Studies for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Extended Content Standards for Social Studies are open for public comment from September 8 to October 8, 2021.

The Draft Extended Content Standards for Social Studies can be found on this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L3O_gITvZAFPzEBcwrjyKQ2W4-DOaqLM?usp=sharing

Please submit all questions and comments to: ecspubliccomments@dpi.nc.gov

***Updated*--Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Employment Preparation**

The Occupational Course of Study Employment Preparation overview is available at the link below. This 30-minute overview session will provide teachers with relevant information regarding the newly approved Employment Preparation courses.

Webex meeting recording: OCS Employment Preparation Courses Overview 2021

Password: Dwpcfp3X

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=1b7e9e9f1d212dde62cb3ec98e445212>

This recording will be housed in the [OCS LiveBinder](#) Occupational Preparation and Employment Preparation tab.

Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Practice Pals

OT/PT Practice Pals are meeting virtually on Friday, September 10, 2021 @ 10:00am. Meeting details were sent via OT and PT listservs.

Federal Reporting

- **Exit Count**

September captures end-of-year reporting data on students exiting special education during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. The Exit Count opens September 15, 2021 and is due by close of business September 30, 2021.

- **2020-2021 End of Year Data Submission for Indicator 12**

Indicator 12 captures data on students who received Part C services and were referred to Part B during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. All students must have an IEP developed within 90 days of the referral and receive services by their 3rd birthday. Indicator 12 will be submitted on spreadsheets by all PSUs and can be accessed by clicking this link: [Indicator 12 Spreadsheet](#) or by going to the ECATS site under Resources (<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child->

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[accountability-tracking-system-ecats/resources](#)). The spreadsheet has a tab with helpful clarifications to assist PSUs on entering their data and can be submitted at any time prior to the due date of October 29, 2021. Charter Schools do not need to submit an Indicator 12 spreadsheet this year. Please email all Indicator 12 spreadsheets to ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov.

- **Indicator 8 Reminder**

For the select districts who have been notified, please be sure to get the Indicator 8 surveys out to the parents.

- **Important Federal Reporting Reminder: Submission Timeliness**

If your district does not certify the data required for Indicators by the due date, your data may be certified by state staff. The integrity of the data is always at risk when the Department of Public Instruction has to finalize the data for your district. There will be penalties when data is not submitted in a timely manner.

Grant Information

- **Special Grants**

Grant applications opened on September 7, 2021. If you were unable to attend the Special Grants Trainings last week or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint is now available on the EC Website [here](#) under the Special Grants section.

- **PRC 167 ESSERF**

Please ensure that budget and grant use of funds align to ensure timely approvals.

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training**

MOE training will take place on September 21st and September 23rd. This is mandatory training for all Districts and Charter Schools. Please encourage your financial officers to attend this training. There will be four opportunities for you to attend, but you only have to attend one (see times below). To register, please click on the link below. The deadline to register is Friday, September 17th.

Registration Link: https://ncdpi.azurewebsites.net/jfe/form/SV_bQpzTobuF4U1cUu

Dates & Times:

Tuesday, September 21st: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 23rd: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Child Find

Child Find materials are being processed at this time and will be mailed out by the end of September. For any questions, please contact Jamie Davis at Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov

ASL Storytime for Children

The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be having live, virtual ASL storytelling experiences once a month September through December. Please see the attached flyer for more information and pass along to teachers and parents. **(ATTACHED)**

Braille Classification Update

The Braille class specification in the Noncertified Public School Employees document has been updated and approved by the State Board of Education at the September board meeting. This updated specification more

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accurately reflects the nature of work, illustrative examples of work, knowledge, skills, and abilities and training and experience. The class specifications document is in the process of being updated. In the meantime, if you need a copy of the updated brailist specification, please contact your Consultant for Visual Impairment.

Dr. Alan Chase (NE, SE, NC, SH) alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov

Crystal Patrick (PT, SW, NW, W) crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov

Assistive Technology Webinars

The Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) in conjunction with DPI is once again offering a series of webinars focused on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices and assistive technology. Please see the attached flyer or use the following link for more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/yz25nhyx> (ATTACHED)

Kindergarten Braille Materials Needed

A PSU in Region 3 is in need of tactile and/or braille materials at a Kindergarten level. This may include work trays, books, games, etc... If your PSU has any materials that could be borrowed for a period of time, please reach out to Consultant for Visual Impairment Alan Chase, alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov.

NC Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) AT Expo

The NCATP is conducting the 2021 virtual AT Expo on October 7, 2021. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Participants may register at <https://go.ncsu.edu/2021-at-expo>. For more info see the attached flyer or visit the [AT Expo web page](#). (ATTACHED)

House Bill 1030 Consent for Release of Information to the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind

The electronic reporting link is now available for the HB 1030 Release of Information to the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind. The survey may be accessed at the hyperlink above as well as under the Forms tab on the Federal Regulations & State Policies page on the EC Division website.

As a reminder, PSUs **must** provide a consent of release of information form to receive more information about the NC schools for the deaf and blind to parents of students identified as Deaf, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Deaf-blind, or Multiply Disabled with a vision and/or hearing loss. This consent form **must** be sent to parents by October 1 of each school year. By November 30 of each school year, all PSUs, including charter schools, **must** use the electronic reporting tool to report one of the following:

- No parents in the PSU provided consent; OR
- Which parents provided a YES consent.

If you have questions, please contact Sherri Vernelson, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov. Consent forms in English and Spanish, along with the memo may be found on the Federal Regulations & State Policies webpage linked above.

Read to Achieve Memo

The State Board of Education has approved a list of alternate assessments that can be used as an alternate demonstration of proficiency. The memo includes this list and processes that must be in place to use in alternate assessment. For most students with disabilities, mclass DIBELS 8 or an approved alternate assessment will be accessible to the student. In rare situations, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team may determine that a student with a significant disability is unable to access mClass DIBELS 8 or any of

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the assessments on the SBE approved list. In such situations, the student's literacy skills shall be assessed with a validated measure of early reading that is accessible to the student. Selection of these assessments should be determined by the Public School Unit in consultation with local Exceptional Children staff. Validated assessments do *not* need to be purchased assessments, but validated indicators of literacy/pre-literacy skills that are teacher constructed (e.g., eye gaze to a letter on a card containing multiple letters when orally presented the letter sound). **(ATTACHED)**

Child Count

The December Child Count is calculated via active IEPs in ECATS that are in place on December 1. Students with a lapsed eligibility will be included if there is active IEP in place (e.g., in situations when the IEP date extends beyond the lapsed eligibility date). If both the eligibility and the IEP lapse, the student cannot be included in the count (this is consistent with OSEP calculation requirements). Please note, an IEP can't be finalized in ECATS and become active if there is a lapsed eligibility.

PK EC Items of Interest

Free ECAC Virtual Conference - [Strategies for Success: Laying the Foundation for Innovative Family Engagement and Child Find Activities](#) Tuesday, September 28th from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

This free virtual conference is designed to support professionals and families who serve on their Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCC) and/or work with Early Intervention age (birth to 3) or preschool age (3-5 years) children with developmental concerns or disabilities. Check out the agenda linked below to see all of the fantastic sessions and presenters that we have lined up!

[We will host an optional networking session during lunch so you can talk with others around the state to gather and share information and brainstorm ideas!](#) Lunch will be provided via an electronic Food Lion gift card, which will be emailed the Friday prior to the conference.

During the closing panel presentation, the members of the Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council will share how they have worked to "make family engagement as easy as PIE" through their Parent Institute of Engagement training program. The panel participants will also discuss how their family engagement best practices could be implemented on the local level. The panel discussion will include successes and challenges, lessons learned and plans for the future.

In addition to the live sessions, we have three recorded bonus sessions that will be available. Links will be made available on the agenda. All of the live sessions will be recorded, and the recordings will be made available to registrants after the conference. View agenda [HERE!](#)

As always, ECAC is committed to family engagement. Therefore, participants who are parents/guardians of a child with a disability between the ages of birth - 26 years are eligible to receive a stipend for time and related expenses for participating. Additional information is on the registration form. We still have a few spots available! Please reach out to Christy Moore at cmoore@ecacmail.org with **questions**.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
