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**April 27, 2022**

<p><u><b>News!</b></u></p>
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**Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) Project**

CAST researchers as part of the [Center on Inclusive Technology and Education Systems \(CITES\) project](#) are working with Angel Morgan, a doctoral candidate in the Learning Design and Technology program at North Carolina State University for her dissertation research. Angel, under the supervision of her dissertation chairperson, Dr. Kevin Oliver ([kevin\\_oliver@ncsu.edu](mailto:kevin_oliver@ncsu.edu)), is surveying families of K-12 students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan about how their student's school district leaders, school leaders, teachers, and service providers engage families in planning, implementing, and using technology.

Please feel free to share this information (found below–*Sample Email*)) with families to participate in the study. The information below can be shared with families your PSU serves and other families who may qualify. Please distribute this information via electronic and paper-based communications to reach as many families as possible. The survey is open through **May 2, 2022**.

**SAMPLE EMAIL:**

***Seeking Input from Families about Inclusive Technology***

*CAST researchers as part of the [Center on Inclusive Technology and Education Systems \(CITES\) project](#) in collaboration with research intern Angel Morgan from North Carolina State University are conducting a study about ways in which school district leaders, school leaders, teachers, and service providers involve families of students with disabilities in planning, implementing, and using technology.*

*You are invited to participate in a survey to share your thoughts. Survey participants may enter to win a \$50 Amazon gift card and volunteer to participate in a Focus Group to provide more detailed feedback. For more information and a link to the survey, visit <https://bit.ly/3L6j8Hp>.*

**Local EC Department Websites**

In the March 9, 2022, Weekly Update, and as a follow-up to the preceding Director's Webinar, the *Priority Website Posting - Tip Sheet: Critical EC Information* was provided. While verifying local websites were updated according to the statewide corrective action noted on the LEA Written Assurances, an alarming amount of local EC Department websites that do not contain the required information included on the Tip Sheet was observed. Some local EC Department websites have little to no information at all nor is it indicated that the page is under construction with an update expected.

While the purpose of the local website review was intended solely to verify the statewide corrective action had occurred, the noticeable lack of information for exceptional children at the local level must be brought to your attention. Therefore, the *Priority Website Posting - Tip Sheet: Critical EC Information* is reattached to this weekly update and a reminder has been placed in the Action Items/What's Due section. We trust that these updates will occur on or before July 1, 2022. **(ATTACHED)**



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**April 27, 2022**

**LAST CALL! May Institute- Addressing Systems to Promote Educational Equity**

The EC Division May Institute will begin at **9:00 am** on **Monday, May 9, 2022**, at Koury Convention Center, with three days of institute sessions. Post institutes, by invitation only, will occur on May 12, 2022.

Registration, hotel, and payment information can be found in the memo. The fee is \$120.00 to attend the general session. Registration packets will be available for pick up on Sunday evening from 4:30-5:30 pm and Monday morning from 7:30-9:00 am, at Registration Desk 1. All sessions will conclude by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 11th. A draft agenda has been placed on the [EC Division website](#). Registration deadline is this Friday, COB on April 29th, 2022. There will be NO ONSITE registration; You MUST pre-register to attend any part of the Institute. **(ATTACHED)**.

**School Psychology Grant**

The school psychology recruitment grant is available in CCIP. If you previously had difficulty accessing it within the system (and had appropriate user credentials), you should now see it populated within the system. This grant will remain open through May 31, 2022 (application link below in calendar items). Questions may be submitted to Matt Hoskins at [matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov).

**Coaching Program to Support State Employees with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Please see the attached announcement from Governor Cooper concerning coaching support for state employees with Autism Spectrum Disorder **(ATTACHED)**.

<p><u><b>Items of Interest</b></u></p>
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**Federal Reporting**

- **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 must finalize the data for your district.

**Grant Information**

- **Special Grants**

**The final date to submit Special Grants is on May 16, 2022.** Grant applications in Chief Administrator Approved status by 5:00 pm on May 16, 2022, will be reviewed. Please remember, the workflow for Special Grants requires the Chief Administrator to approve the application to move it forward to the fiscal monitors. If the application is in Draft Completed status, the fiscal monitors do not have access to review the application. For your review, the Special Grants Training recording, along with the PowerPoint are available on the EC Website [here](#) under the Special Grants section.

- **IDEA Grant**

The IDEA grant opens May 1<sup>st</sup> and closes May 31<sup>st</sup>. If you were unable to attend the webinars for the IDEA grant training or need a refresher, please click [here](#) and go to the IDEA Grant Trainings section for the recording and the PowerPoint. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Fiscal Monitor. Technical assistance sessions will be offered on the following dates:



**April 27, 2022**

- May 17, 2022: 8:30 – 11:30 & 1:00 – 4:30  
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m4264f73b6eae85fdb53d3b257af67e6c>
- May 27, 2022: 8:30 – 11:30 & 1:00 – 4:30  
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m6e3c2113e258cce70763234cf62b825c>

These sessions are drop-in sessions for you to ask questions and get the help you need with the grant.

- **Revisions to IDEA Grants**

When a revision is made to the IDEA budgets (PRCs 049, 060, 070, 185, 186 & 187), the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the narrative Use of Funds section. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log.

- **Revisions to CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant (PRC 167)**

When a revision is made to the CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant PRC 167 budget, the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the 2021 CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant application. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log of the grant application.

- **IDEA/ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)**

**American Rescue Plan budgets should be submitted as soon as possible.**

The American Rescue Plan funds have been allotted under the following Program Report Codes. The budgets will be submitted the same way as the IDEA budgets. A new application is not required.

**PRC 185 and PRC 186 Budgets and Allotments Update**

The full allotments for PRC 185 and PRC 186 have been released by NCDPI School Business. PSUs should check for discrepancies between the initial planning allotment and the actual allotment. Submitted budgets should be adjusted at this time based on the actual allotment.

**Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 04/22/22**

[School Business Newsletter 04.22.22](#)

**PRC 029 Funds 2022-2023 Updates**

Please review your 2021-2022 PRC 029 budget and ensure all funds will be encumbered by **June 30, 2022**. The original date for reversions was **April 1, 2022** with an extended date of no later than **April 15, 2022**. If your PSU will have an excess of funds, please revert the funds as soon as possible. Please see the attached reversion form. **(ATTACHED)**



**April 27, 2022**

**PRC 029 Request for Funding for Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

The application process for the PRC 029 grant is currently open for the 2022-2023 school year. A special budget provision in the 1999 Appropriation Act modified the use of these state dollars to allow expenditure of PRC 029 funds to provide services to *"(i) children with special needs who were identified as members of the Willie M class at the time of dissolution of the class, and (ii) other children with special needs."* This provision provides the flexibility for PSUs to use these PRC 029 funds for services for students who have significant behavioral and emotional needs in public schools.

This application process will allow PSUs to complete a Comprehensive Needs Grant. The application process will open on **May 1, 2022**. Please note the final submission deadline is **July 1, 2022**.

The application requires each PSU to identify services and indicators that measure the effectiveness of these supports. Prioritization will be given to innovative grant proposals that are designed to address the critical need for identified students.

All students eligible for PRC 029 services must have a completed [Entrance Tool](#). The Entrance Tool must be submitted during the time that the grant is open.

For questions regarding the grant application process please contact your regional Behavior Consultant. For regions 1-4, [Lisa Taylor](#), regions 5-8, [Felicia Goodgion](#) and Section Chief, [Dreana McCoy](#), 984-236-2557.  
**(ATTACHED)**

**OCALICONLINE 2022-The Premier Autism and Disabilities Conference**

Here is a great opportunity to attend a national conference at no cost! Registration is now open for [OCALICONLINE](#) which is a virtual conference on autism and disabilities. For a limited time, registration is free!! Free registration is available until April 30, 2022. The conference will be held virtually on November 15-18. For additional information please visit <https://conference.ocali.org/register>.

**Understanding SLD in Math Capacity Building Instructor Opportunity**

The Exceptional Children Division invites currently certified and public school employed Foundations of Math instructors to complete the requirements for certification as a provider of the NC DPI approved training on specific learning disabilities in math. Please see the memo and application. **(ATTACHED)**

**Dyslexia Capacity Building Instructor Opportunity**

The Exceptional Children Division invites currently certified and public school employed Reading Research to Classroom Practice instructors to complete the requirements for certification as a provider of the NC DPI approved training on dyslexia. Please see the memo and application. **(ATTACHED)+**



**April 27, 2022**

**PK EC Items of Interest**

**NC Kindergarten Pyramid Model**

The competitive grant application (EC - ESSER III KPM - PRC 190) for the SY 23-24 implementation of the North Carolina Kindergarten Pyramid Model (NC KPM) ***closes on April 29, 2022***. The NC KPM will address the associated learning loss and recovery efforts related to COVID-19 by extending the successful outcomes of the NC Preschool Pyramid Model into kindergarten, particularly focused on young children disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Read the full memo [here](#).

**Reconnect for Resilience Orientation** (free!)

DCDEE has partnered with NC Division of Mental Health and Resources for Resilience to offer Reconnect for Resilience Orientation at no cost for NC's Early Educators. The Reconnect for Resilience™ Orientation offers adults a set of practical tools to stay well in the face of stress or adversity. In this 60-minute presentation, participants will learn what happens to our brains and bodies when we are stressed. They will also learn tools to stay healthy and connected to each other and with their children during times of stress. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. **(ATTACHED)**

**ASL Interaction Day for Children**

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, the NC Transportation Museum is hosting an ASL Interaction Day for Children. All children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs) are welcome! For more information, [view the flyer here](#).

**Accessible Educational Materials for 2022-2023 School Year**

Don't wait until it's too late, start your Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) plan now for the 2022-2023 school year. While it is challenging to know what materials or excerpts from books may be used in a class or course, being prepared is always best practice. It can take Accessible Media Producers (AMPs) months to prepare and produce accessible formats (braille, large print, e-pub, digital) and students require access to these formats in a timely manner (at the same time as their peers) in accordance with their IEP. A [template](#) has been created to assist teams in planning for AEM the upcoming school year. You will be asked to create a copy of this template, which will include directions, for security reasons.

As a reminder, Bookshare is a registered AMP with the largest online digital library free to qualified US Students with print disabilities, not just those with visual impairments. Bookshare is an option to ensure you are providing accessible formats in a timely manner. If you would like more information on [Bookshare](#) or would like to know if you already have an account that may not be active, please contact Crystal Patrick [Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov).

**Action Items/What's Due?**

- ☐ On or before, **July 1, 2022**: Update Local EC Department Website  
Resource: *Priority Website Posting - Tip Sheet: Critical EC Information*



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**April 27, 2022**

**Public Comment Period for DeafBlind Intervener Classifications**

The public comment period for the proposed DeafBlind Intervener position classifications ends April 30, 2022. Information may be found on the [Exceptional Children Division website](#) under the Hot Topics section.

**Reminder: NCDPI Exceptional Children Virtual Assistive Technology Expo**

[The Call for Session Proposals](#) for the AT Expo is now open through May 13, 2022. Accepted proposals will be notified by May 20, 2022. The proposal form may also be accessed using [http://bit.ly/AT\\_Expo22](http://bit.ly/AT_Expo22)

**Reminder: Call for Proposals for EC Conference**

The [Call for Proposals](#) for general conference sessions for the 71<sup>st</sup> Conference on Exceptional Children is now open through May 13, 2022. This year's theme is ***Lighthouse Leadership: Bringing Light into the Future***. The memo in the 4.6.22 weekly update has all the pertinent details. Questions about the call for proposals may be directed to [ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov).

<p><b>May Calendar Items</b></p>
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- **May 1st**  
IDEA 611 & 619 Grant opens in [NC CCIP](#) (closes: May 31st) Pre-school Data Collection Survey: *Must be submitted prior to IDEA 619 Grant submission.*  
PRC29 Application opens in [NC CCIP](#) (closes: July 1st)  
*All students eligible for PRC029 services must have a completed [Entrance Tool](#).*
- **May 16th**  
All [Special Grant](#) Final Application Submission in [NC CCIP](#) is due.  
Indicator 14 (Post-School Outcomes) Survey pens for select PSUs
- **May 17th & May 27th (attendance optional)**  
IDEA Grant Technical Assistance Sessions  
8:30am - 11:30 am. & 1:00pm - 4:30pm
- **May 31st**  
[School Psychology Recruitment](#) Grant Application Due  
IDEA 611 & 619 Grant closes in [NC CCIP](#). *Chief Administrator approval required by close of business.*