EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
NC Department of Public Instruction

March 9, 2022

News!

Updated Class Specifications for Noncertified Public-School Employees
The classifications for Braillist and Educational Interpreter that were passed by the State Board of Education in 2021 have been updated in the Class Specifications for Noncertified Public School Employees manual.

May Regional Director Meetings
Regional Director meetings in May will be canceled in lieu of the Spring Administrators Institute at the Koury Convention Center from **May 9 -12, 2022**. More information concerning registration for the Spring Institute will be forthcoming.

Rescinding Telehealth Reimbursement 4/1/22
As a part of the NC Medicaid's response to the pandemic/Public Health Emergency (PHE), telehealth services were temporarily approved for reimbursement. While the PHE has not been rescinded federally or in NC (as of this message), NC Medicaid has decided to rescind some temporary approved flexibility due to the PHE.

PT evaluation and service codes provided via telehealth will no longer be reimbursed, effective **April 1, 2022.** The same holds true for OT evaluation and service codes provided via telehealth. Some Speech, Respiratory and Psychology/Counseling codes will not be rescinded from reimbursement for telehealth.

For details, please refer to COVID special bulletin #226. All stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback.

NC Medicaid is choosing not to add certain temporary flexibilities into permanent policy based on several factors including:

> • The flexibility was not used by the field broadly (or NC Medicaid did not have evidence that a given flexibility was used by the field).
> • NC Medicaid does not have the authority to keep the flexibility outside of the COVID-19 PHE.
> • The flexibility was evaluated through feedback from a multidisciplinary stakeholder group, and it was determined that certain flexibilities did not strengthen and/or add to the NC Medicaid program from a quality, cost and/or safety perspective.

The contact provided in the bulletin is: Medicaid.COVID19@dhhs.nc.gov

Dr. Laurie Ray will convey any feedback you have on this decision. Please email her at laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov If you have questions, please call (919) 636-1827.

Items of Interest

School-Based Practice Spring Professional Learning Session
NCDPI Consultants for PT, OT, SLP and Psychological services will host a Professional Learning Session covering a wide variety of topics in April. It will include 2 pre-recorded sessions and an optional live virtual session on **April 14, 2022** from 9:00-11:00am. Please see attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Virtual Ethics Course for School-Based OT Practitioners
The NCDPI Consultant for OT will host a virtual ethics course on **April 6, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30pm titled *An Ethical Approach to School Mental Health for Occupational Therapy Practitioners*. A recorded option will also be available by May 1, 2022. See the attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

The CARE Project Virtual Family Fun Day
The CARE Project is hosting a virtual Family Fun Day on Saturday, March 19, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. This event will center around Fire, Rescue, and Police. Please see the flyer for more information including the registration deadline. **(ATTACHED)**

Summer Camps for Students who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Please see the attached flyer from the RIT Southeast Regional Stem Center. The STEM Academy is a three-week summer camp program for students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing in grades 9-12. **(ATTACHED)**

Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Please see the attached flyer from the RIT Southeast Regional Stem Center on PD opportunities for professionals working with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. **(ATTACHED)**

Illinois State University Study/Survey for Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
On Friday, Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing across the state will receive communication in the DHH Listserv about an approved study researching their perceptions of current professional development topics and structure. Teachers who participate in the research will receive a $10 Starbucks gift card.

Summer Camps for Students with Visual Impairments
Please share the information on Summer Camps for Students in North Carolina with Visual Impairments. Information is listed in alphabetical order with hyperlinks for each listing to obtain more details, such as registration dates. These camps and programs are not endorsed by NC DPI but are shared as resources for students and families.

EC Director/Coordinator Regional Administrative Support Feedback- Reopened for Submissions
In an effort to maximize participation and gather representative feedback, there is an extension for the opportunity to provide feedback to the EC division on prioritized professional learning topics. This was previously open from 2/23-3/4/22. If you have already submitted your feedback, there is no need to submit an additional response. Please complete using this link by March 16th.

Federal Reporting
- **Federal Personnel Survey and Training Resources**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2021-22 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. The link to access the survey is listed below: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmBbNr5ycvtPrq6. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey. The due date for the Federal Personnel Survey is by close of business on March 14, 2022. For technical questions about the Federal Personnel Survey or FTE calculations, please contact Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov. For questions regarding personnel roles or qualifications, please contact the appropriate Consultant for that discipline.

The Federal Personnel Training Resources are now available on the ECATS Reporting website. The training resources include a copy of the PowerPoint presented during the training sessions, as well as the recorded videos and transcripts of the morning and afternoon training sessions. The link to access these training resources is: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the training resources.

- **April Child Count**

The April Child Count captures reporting data on students receiving special education as of April 1, 2022. The April Child Count opens April 1st and must be certified by close of business April 22nd. See the memorandum for more information. **(ATTACHED)**

- **Information from Monday Message – 03/07/2022**
  Monday Message 3.7.22.pdf (govdelivery.com)

- **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**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. (If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, the review will start of the next business day after the 15th). Notification of review is made through NC CCIP. For your review, the Special Grants Training recording, along with the PowerPoint are available on the EC Website here under the Special Grants section. **Final submission for special grants will be May 16, 2022.**

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

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.

PRC 049 Budgets and Allotments Update
The PRC049 allotment has been uploaded by NCDPI Financial and Business Services into NCCCIP. The NCDPI official allotment may have resulted in an increase or decrease from the initial planning allotment amount and therefore requires a budget revision. Planning Allotments are tentative allocation of federal funds to PSUs to provide information for budgeting purposes. Any questions regarding this fluctuation should be directed to Financial and Business Services. The LEA EC Director and Finance Officer should collaborate and complete a PRC049 budget amendment to appropriately bring the NC DPI Finance and LEA Budget into alignment. Please ensure the PRC049 Budget and IDEA Section 619 "Use of Funds'' remain aligned as well. If you have any questions, please contact Keashia Walker at Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov .

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 03/04/22
School Business Newsletter 03.04.22

Implementing an Instructional Model in the Evaluation & Identification of Specific Learning Disabilities
Available research indicates a high level of error and lack of evidence associated with historical cognitive discrepancy methods of SLD identification. From the perspective of prevention and timely intervention, the *NC adopted instructional model* is best supported by existing research and establishes consistency in defining, evaluating, and identifying students with learning disabilities.

In response to requests from school leaders and practitioners for improved access to state level training on this model, this self-paced course is designed for, and made accessible to, all educators. The course content and application exercises are intended to improve educator (both general ed/special ed) understanding of how learning disabilities are defined, as well as allow for practice in applying equitable and effective approaches to evaluation and identification.

This publication resource provides additional details and registration for the course. The Facilitation Guide is a resource to provide structure, pacing, and collaborative opportunities when framing the course as a group study session for school teams.

PSU Web Pages
As a follow-up to the EC Director's Webinar and last week's update, a tip sheet of examples and links to highly recommended or required resources for posting is attached. **(ATTACHED)**

Educational Interpreter Class at WPCC
Western Piedmont Community College is offering, *Issues in Educational Interpreting,* in a continuing education format for educational interpreters during the spring B term, March 16-May 9. The class will focus on EIPA essentials, self-analysis, and self-reflection skills. Classes will be taught via Zoom one evening per week and will have online assignments to be completed in a digital learning platform. For more information, please visit the WPCC webpage.

See the Sound Visual Phonics Spring Class Offerings
See the Sound Visual Phonics (STS-VP) is a system of 52 unique hand cues and symbols that represent the sounds of English. This visual, kinesthetic tool supports language and literacy development for students in the areas of phonemic awareness, decoding, encoding, and speech/oral language. The following professional development opportunities will be available this spring:
- For those who have taken STS-VP previously, there will be a 2-part class in March and April
  - March Refresher Course: 3/21 & 3/22 from 3:00-4:30 pm
  - April Refresher Course: 4/4 & 4/5 from 3:00-4:30 pm
- For those NEW to STS-VP a six-class series is offered:
  - Class 1: 4/27 from 3:30-4:30 pm
  - Classes 2-6: 5/2, 5/4, 5/16, 5/18, 5/25 from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Please watch for the upcoming registration links, as space is limited. To learn more about STS-VP, please visit the website, http://seethesound.org/. For questions about the refresher courses or course series for those new to STS-VP, contact Nancy Woytowich, Nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov.

DeafBlind / Support Service Provider (SSP) Training
The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a DeafBlind Support Service Provider (SSP) Training on March 25, 2022. For more information about this training, view the attached flyer. For information about the roles and benefits of an SSP, click here. **(ATTACHED)**

Summer Transition Program for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
This is a program for 10th-12th graders who are deaf or hard of hearing and want to experience life on college campus and enhance their college readiness skills. Please see the attached flyer for registration information, as space is limited. **(ATTACHED)**

Course Codes for Students on the Extended Content Standards
The following video explains course codes for students following the Extended Content Standards. This ensures students following the Extended Content Standards are enrolled in the proper courses throughout the school year.

Video Link
Recording link: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=21ea3b58874ff3cdb513f23885499413
Password: ECSCourseCodes2022!

Resource Document
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uLWOQz1EfsuHn64QIJtveWNNtq68DHoI7aQ9KU4fAtw/edit?usp=sharing

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PK EC Items of Interest

Teaching Strategies GOLD© Frequently Asked Questions for Preschool
The Teaching Strategies GOLD© Frequently Asked Questions for Preschool document provides helpful information to district preschool programs as they utilize Teaching Strategies GOLD to support their year-long formative assessment processes. While this document is intended for public school-based preschool programs, the information may also be helpful for community-based preschool programs. Additional information for the upcoming school year will be released later this spring. This is intended to be a "living document" and will be periodically updated with more current information, additions, and clarifications as needed.

ePyramid Online Learning Modules from the Pyramid Model Consortium
Need to train your staff on the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children? With these convenient online modules, you'll have a comprehensive training program to help early childhood professionals master all three tiers of the Pyramid Model: universal, targeted, and individualized supports. Featuring high-quality, evidence-based instruction, these emodules are:
- Cost-effective. Affordable subscriptions make it easy to train new staff.
- On-demand. Modules are available online 24/7.
- Engaging and relevant. Real-world videos and examples show your staff exactly what the Pyramid Model looks like in action.
- Interactive. Knowledge checks and reflective exercises help staff members retain and apply what they learn.

Age-appropriate. For training targeted to the specific age range your program works with, choose from packages focused on infants & toddlers, preschoolers, and birth to five.

REMINDER: 2022 International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute
Registration is open! The theme this year is '*We're In This Together: Caring for One Another in Difficult Times.*' Dr. Jackie Joseph, Executive Director of The Rise School of Denver, is the keynote speaker. Additional speakers will be announced on the website.

There are two options for attending the Inclusion Institute this year:
- Inclusion Institute in-person attendee- attending live and virtual sessions in-person in Chapel Hill, NC at the Friday Center (beginning on April 26th at 1 p.m. eastern time)
- Inclusion Institute virtual attendee- attending live and virtual sessions via Zoom from anywhere in the world (beginning on April 26th at 1 p.m. eastern time)

If you plan to travel to Chapel Hill, NC for the conference, please visit the Logistics page on the website for information on hotels and accessing the Friday Center.
You can register for the Inclusion Institute here.

REMINDER: ***NO COST TRAINING OPPORTUNITY * Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP) Facilitator Training**
Child First's Center for Prevention and Early Trauma Treatment (CPETT), an NCTSN Category II center is excited to announce a free learning opportunity for practitioners working with infants, young children, and their families in Connecticut, Colorado, North Carolina, and Florida, Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP) Facilitator Training.
The Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP) training is designed for providers from many different backgrounds and combines experiential learning with practical knowledge about how to conduct the attachment-based, manualized COSP program. Training objectives include:

- Identify the fundamentals of attachment theory and key concepts of the Circle of Security approach.
- Identify the features of a safe learning environment for caregivers.
- Identify the ways in which a Facilitator can teach caregivers to use quality of relationship enhancement rather than behavior management.
- Identify steps the Facilitator can take to build self-reflection in caregivers.
- Explain how to facilitate the COSP model using video examples of parent-child relationships, the COSP Facilitator Manual, and Handouts

To learn more about Circle of Security, visit their website: https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/

COSP Facilitator training is available in various formats, In-Person, 1-Week Online, and 2-Week Online and to best meet individual need you can choose the training that best suits you. To see what is available go to the COSP Facilitator Training Options website. Click on the "View Schedule" button for a training. For online trainings, this will tell you or allow you to figure out the time-of-day live discussions take place. The times are

usually listed as Pacific Time Zone times, so plan accordingly for your time zone. **You can choose from any training that concludes prior to May 31, 2022, at no cost to you. Please note that seats for this free opportunity are limited.**

If you are interested in having Child First cover the expense for this training, do not register immediately on the website. Rather, please complete the COSP Preregistration Form. Once you have completed this form you will be contacted by Shannon Queiroga (squeiroga@childfirst.org) with information on how to register via the Circle of Security website. Please note, filling out the preregistration form does not guarantee you a seat at a training. Seats are limited. Training must be concluded prior to **May 31, 2022**, to benefit from this free training offer.

Action Items/What's Due?

HB 317 Data Collection Annual Contacts
The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section needs to confirm the primary and secondary contacts that will receive the HB 317 Data Collection spreadsheet with the list of students an LEA needs to report for the 2021-2022 school year. If you did not enter the updated information by the March 4, 2022, deadline, please complete the Contact Information for the 2021-2022 HB 317 Data Collection by **Friday, March 11, 2022**.

See-the-Sound Visual Phonics (STS-VP) Spring Class Registration Links
For those who have taken STS-VP in the past:
March Refresher Course: 3/21 & 3/22, from 3:00-4:30pm Register here:
April Refresher Course: 4/4 & 4/5, from 3:00-4:30pm: Register here:

For those who are new to STS-VP:
Virtual Course: For those new to STS-VP: 4/27 from 3:30-4:30pm, and 5/2, 5/4, 5/16, 5/18, 5/25 from 3:00-5:00pm. Register here.

Don't wait to register as space is limited. For questions about this PD opportunity, please contact Nancy Woytowich at nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov.

DB Census
The Annual NC DeafBlind Census is now open through **March 15, 2022**. Any PSU with or without eligible students needs to complete the census. Students DO NOT need to be eligible in the category of DeafBlind to be reported. A student with combined vision and hearing loss in any one of the fourteen disability categories may be eligible for the census. Remember, in order for students, teachers, and families to access the resources and partnerships the NC DeafBlind Project offers, a student must be on the census. The survey to complete the census can be found at https://bit.ly/DBCensus. Questions about the DeafBlind Census may be directed to Dr. Alan Chase, alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov, or found in the two attachments **(ATTACHED).**

Charter Schools enrolling as Medicaid Providers, pursuant to *SL-2021-180.105 9D.21:*

On Feb. 3, 2022, DHB posted a bulletin outlining enrollment requirements to begin participation in the LEA reimbursement program. This bulletin should be read carefully to understand DHB requirements and ensure efficient procedures for Charters who participate in Medicaid reimbursement programs. To support charter school representatives as they begin, NCDPI will host:

- Four Medicaid overview webinars. Building administrators, EC coordinators, and school business/finance officers for charters should attend:
  - Region 3 on March 9 @ 3:30-5p
    https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m495534e35c7f1a28b37ff07c617b74e3,
    Password - DHB22
  - Regions 5 & 7 on March 14 @ 3-4:30p
    https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=md1645312ffb4ea8d62e2b1d133bd0b76,
    Password - DHB22
  - Regions 6 & 8 on March 16 @ 3-4:30p
    https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m3fa9952326a8ec02cc8ffbb9c7a8c4b9,
    Password - DHB22
  - Regions 1, 2 & 4 on March 17 @ 3-4:30p
    https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m4b6c7afe64b642874442a5a409be9077 ,
    Password - DHB22
- Medicaid office hours (open time for anyone to come and ask questions) will held on April 7, 11, 18, 25 from 3-4p at https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan
  Please submit your questions for that time here
- A Medicaid in Education CANVAS course will be available in early March

Meanwhile, charter schools are encouraged to investigate the resources at: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/program-and-fiscal-monitoring/medicaid-education. On-going technical assistance is available from Bill Hussey at william.hussey@dpi.nc.gov and Laurie Ray laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov

North Carolina 6th Annual Inclusion Summit

The North Carolina 6th Annual Inclusion Summit has released its Call For Proposals. The Summit, which will be held June 17-18, 2022, welcomes proposals about inclusive practices across the lifespan from IHEs, LEAs, and Community Members. The deadline to submit a proposal is **March 18, 2022**. Please see the flyer for all pertinent details and links. **(ATTACHED)**

March Calendar Items

- **March 14:**
  Federal Personnel Survey is due. Training Materials include presentation materials and recorded training.

- **March 15:**
  Annual NC Deafblind Census is due.

- **March 16:**
  Program Compliance Cohort Session (Optional- will introduce updated guidance regarding Proportionate Share). Must Register to Attend.