



March 30, 2022

News!

71st Conference on Exceptional Children Call for Proposals

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce the Call for Proposals for General Conference sessions for the 71st Conference on Exceptional Children will open on April 6, 2022, and close on May 13, 2022. The Conference has a rich tradition of local presentations from across North Carolina. Please share this information with staff in your district so they may begin thinking about a submission.

DeafBlind Intervener Class Specification Public Comment Period

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children Division convened a stakeholder group to review two proposed class specifications for DeafBlind Interveners in compliance with General Statutes 115C-12(15), which authorizes the State Board of Education "...to develop position evaluation descriptions covering those positions in local school administrative units for which certification by the State Board of Education is not normally a prerequisite." The proposed class specifications for DeafBlind Intervener are open for public comment until April 30 and may be found on the [NCDPI Exceptional Children webpage](#) under the Hot Topics section. Please submit all questions and comments to: ecspubliccomments@dpi.nc.gov.

School Psychology Recruitment Application

In the near future, the School Psychology Recruitment Grant application will be made available to Public School Units. The School Psychology Recruitment Grant program is intended to provide bonuses, mentor supports, and ongoing professional learning to recruit school psychologists, particularly in hard-to-staff areas. The application will remain open through 5/31/22.

For approved applications, the funds will be available through September 30, 2024.

The grant funds can be used for:

- Individual bonuses for newly hired school psychologist
- Mentor support stipends
- Professional membership fees
- Professional learning

More detailed information will accompany the application. The application link will also be posted in an upcoming weekly communication.

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)**



March 30, 2022

ECU Assistive Technology Opportunity

ECU is offering a 6-week online, Continuing Education course. This course will help participants learn about AT: what it is, where to find it, how to match it to an individual's needs, how to prove it is effective, and avenues for procurement. Participants will engage in a variety of knowledge and skills activities and assessments. Please see the attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Southeast DeafBlind Collaborative Conference

The Southeast DeafBlind Collaborative Conference will be held June 9-11, 2022, in Huntsville, Alabama. This conference is for professionals and families of children with DeafBlindness of all ages. For more information on the conference, as well as how to register, please check out the [Southeast DeafBlind Collaborative Conference flyer](#).

PLEASE Share: North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)

Attention NC teachers: [We need your input!](#)

NCBCE is the business-led education nonprofit in the Office of the Governor. We are in the early stages of planning professional development opportunities for educators in the state and want to hear directly from teachers. We need your [feedback](#) to make this PD as impactful as possible.

Thank you from all of us at NCBCE.



Federal Reporting

• **April Child Count 2022 Schedule**

EC

Correction and Certification Window	
April Child Count opens for all LEAs, Charter Schools, and SOPs	4/1/2022
Deadline for Certification Status	4/22/2022

Directors or Data Managers should review the April 2022 Child Count Report for errors such as duplicate records, incorrect age, grade, setting, and disability. Please remember that when certifying the child count, the EC Director is assuring that all data submitted is accurate.

According to the State Auditors, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs and Lead Administrators of Charter schools must certify the child count data. For this to occur, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs must use their "username" and "password" to log into ECATS to verify and certify the child count data. If the EC Director does not certify the count, a signed and scanned verification form must be submitted



March 30, 2022

to Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov. All errors must be corrected, and all Public-School Units must certify their submissions no later than April 22, 2022.

Thank you for your attention to this vital transfer of information. If you have questions regarding child count procedures or technical issues while submitting the child count, please contact ZenDesk.

- **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.

- **Information from Monday Message – 03/28/2022**

[Monday Message 3.28.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

- **EC Division Webinar**

The EC Division would like to invite all districts and charter schools to a webinar on April 7, 2022, from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. The EC Division will be providing an in-depth overview of the revised process of the Review of Policies, Practices and Procedures as required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Part B State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) measurement table for Indicator 4 - Significant Discrepancy and Indicators 9 and 10 - Disproportionate Representation. This is pertinent to all EC directors and coordinators regardless of their Indicator 4, 9 and 10 outcomes. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the EC director Padlet. Districts and charter schools who are identified as having significant discrepancy and/or disproportionate representation will be notified following the webinar and invited to participate in a session at the May Institute as well as other learning/collaboration opportunities to discuss their data and the review process. [Please join the webinar here.](#)

Grant Information

- **IDEA Grant Training**

The IDEA grant training is an overview of the submission process of the IDEA grant within NC CCIP. It will highlight changes, focus areas of the grant, CEIS, and general submission of the grant. There will be two training days offered, Tuesday, April 12th and Wednesday, April 20th. You will only have to attend one of the sessions (Morning (9:00 – 11:30) or Afternoon (1:00 – 3:30)) on the day you choose to attend. Please click the registration link below. Once you have registered, you will receive the meeting link after registration has ended.

- April 12th - Please register for this session no later than Monday, April 11th at 5:00 p.m.

Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_4TvH2VyKCDQkm6g

- April 20th - Please register for this session no later than Tuesday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_9HXbtzJFEkostp4

- **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



March 30, 2022

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.

- **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 on 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.

- **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.

PRC 049 Budgets and Allotments Update

The PRC 049 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 PRC 049 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.



March 30, 2022

Summer 2022 Learning Opportunities

PSUs have begun planning for summer learning opportunities in order to mitigate learning losses experienced as a result of COVID-19. The EC Division is reissuing, with updates, previously provided guidance on this topic. **(ATTACHED)**

Please be reminded that students with disabilities that meet the criteria for any summer learning opportunity must be provided a chance to participate.

PK EC Items of Interest

Action Items/What's Due?

3rd Virtual Assistive Technology Expo (AT Expo)

Please see the attached memo regarding the Call for Proposals for the 3rd AT Expo to be held virtually August 2, 2022. Proposals will be accepted March 30 through May 13, 2022. Questions about the AT Expo may be directed to Matthew Martinez, matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov. **(ATTACHED)**

April Calendar Items

- **April 1:**
[Child Count](#) correction window opens for all PSUs and SOPs.
- **April 1:**
Request form to order [Braille EOG/EOC materials](#) is due.
- **April 7:**
EC Division webinar. Check Weekly Communication for details. Link to join webinar is [HERE](#).
- **April 12 & April 20:**
IDEA Grant Training (links above). Attendance only required for one training session. AM/PM options available on both dates.
- **April 22:**
[Child Count](#) deadline for certification status
- **April 30:**
PRC 29 [Quarterly Behavior Assessment](#) is due.