



**Weekly Update**  
**February 1, 2023**

**News!**

**SIMR-SA**

EC Directors and Coordinators are encouraged to participate in a follow-up conversation to discuss their SiMR Data Analysis with reviewers. Go to [this form](#) to indicate your interest. Responses received by **COB Friday, Feb, 3**, will be prioritized for scheduling.

**UPDATE: March Institute Agenda**

The March Institute Agenda, scheduled for February 27-March 2, 2023 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro will be updated at this [link](#). This agenda will be updated with room information for Thursday, February 2 this week. Reminder Registration for the Institute will close at **5:00 pm on February 17th**. Room block for the hotel has closed.

**Federal Personnel Survey**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2022-23 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. Here is the link to access the survey: [https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5ooVIRpkycSzRWe](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5ooVIRpkycSzRWe). You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey.

The federal personnel survey will open on February 8, 2023, and the due date to submit the completed survey is March 13, 2023. See the memorandum for more information. **(ATTACHED)**

In preparation for the federal personnel survey, two 1-hr training sessions will be provided via webinar on February 8, 2023, at 10:00 am and the repeat session at 2:00 pm. Registration is **not** required to attend either session. To join the morning and/or afternoon training session, please use the following link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>.

**Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit**

New Details for Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit. The summit will take place on Thursday, March 2 after the March Institute at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. This is a half-day event with breakfast, opening address, and three breakout sessions. The summit's focus is "**Moving from Inform to Implementation**" with sessions on effective practices and not just admiring the recruitment and retention problem! There is no payment for the summit attendance, only for hotel stay if needed. We encourage EC Directors/Coordinators to invite one or two people from your HR department and collaboratively decide if a school administrator from your district would benefit from content about recruiting and retaining special education teachers and invite them. Please use and share this registration link for the summit:

[https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8lDjTufsirbUoZ0](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8lDjTufsirbUoZ0) Registration closes Friday, Feb. 17.

**Hotel room availability can be determined** at the Koury using this link:

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/gsosi-sheraton-greensboro-at-four-seasons/rooms/>, the Marriott app or calling. Additionally, there are many other hotels in the area.

Questions about the summit can be directed to [Carol.Moffitt@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Carol.Moffitt@dpi.nc.gov).

**Professional Learning Opportunity- Foundations of Communication**



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Foundation of Communication is a course developed in an interdisciplinary approach between consultants at DPI in the areas of Speech and Language Pathology, Autism and Significant Cognitive Disabilities. This two-day course is an in-depth dive into language development and strategies for providers to encourage and teach communication to students who are learning to communicate. In addition, participants will become familiar with augmentative and alternate communication teaching methodologies and explore the Extended Content Standards, which are aligned to the *Standard Course of Study* in North Carolina. Sessions run from 8:30-3:30 each day, with attendance on both days mandatory in order to earn 1.2 CEUs.

Register with this link for the following dates and locations:

March 16-17, 2023 in Williamson, NC

April 20-21, 2023 in Hickory, NC

Please register at: [https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9QwGOgFI0F3A1jE](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9QwGOgFI0F3A1jE)

**Annual DeafBlind Census**

The annual DeafBlind Census will open February 15, 2023. Please see the attached memo for more information.  
**(ATTACHED)**

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| <b>Items of Interest</b> |
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**Foundations of Autism: Instructional Practices**

The NCDPI Autism Team is providing the professional learning opportunity *Foundations of Autism: Instructional Practices*. Participants can choose from either of the following locations:

Hickory, NC: March 16, 2023 - March 17, 2023

Williamston, NC: March 21, 2023 - March 22, 2023

In addition to attending the two-day in person sessions, there will be a 3-hour webinar on May 1, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

These workshops are intended for professionals working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This workshop will provide participants with an overview of the learning styles of individuals with ASD and effective instructional practices that promote student engagement and independence in the educational environment, with particular attention to the use of visual supports (schedules, activity systems, material design, and environmental design).

The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day and participants will receive 1.6 CEUs upon completion. Participants are required to attend both the in-person session and the webinar in order to receive the CEUs. No partial credit will be given.

Please follow this [link](#) to access registration. **Registration will close on March 9, 2023.** Please email questions to [asdteam@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:asdteam@dpi.nc.gov).

**Understanding the Mathematics Extended Content Standards**

This one-day professional learning provides an opportunity to understand and apply the Mathematics Extended Content Standards through collaboration with peer educators. This professional learning is directed towards teachers of students



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with significant cognitive disabilities. During the day, professionals will collaborate to analyze, decode, plan, and create mathematical activities. The professional learning will be held March 9th in Burke County from 8:30 until 3:30 with an hour lunch.

[https://ncdpi.azure.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ezYM3tTCuyuid1Q](https://ncdpi.azure.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezYM3tTCuyuid1Q)

**Free Assistive Technology Webinars**

Please see the list of [free webinars for Assistive Technology \(AT\)](#) to find a variety of different AT and accessibility topics for the month of February 2023.

**Save the Date: Using your HB 317 Data to Improve Student Outcomes**

This professional development will be held on April 17, 2023, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the NC Department of Public Instruction Building located at 301 N. Wilmington Street in Raleigh.

**Description:** To improve the educational outcomes of NC students who are deaf or hard of hearing, HB317 requires that language and literacy data are collected on an annual basis. This professional development session will focus on how to connect the data to programming needs to improve student outcomes. With guidance from DPI presenters, participants will use their 2021-2022 submitted data to develop actionable goals to address their needs and incorporate strategies that promote intraprofessional collaboration. (Individual district data reports will be provided at the training.) Further, this training provides an overview of statewide and regional outcomes from previous data collections to guide participants in identifying their strengths and needs.

**Target Audience:** This PD is for DHH Leads and team members, Program Administrators, and EC Directors. **Objectives:**

Participants will: 1. be able to describe the rationale, components, and results from the state-wide HB 317 data collection, 2. learn how to connect student data to their LEAs programming needs to improve student outcomes, 3. develop goals for their DHH program that support student and programming needs, and 4. learn strategies to promote collaboration with all members of their DHH team. Participation in this professional learning results in 0.6 CEUs.

**Registration Information** will be forthcoming. Questions about this professional learning can be directed to Thomas Page at [thomas.page@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:thomas.page@dpi.nc.gov) or Nancy Woytowich at [nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov).

**Adapted Physical Education Spring Webinar**

Dr. Kaky McPeak, CAPE will present the Spring webinar discussing APE screenings and APE assessments on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 3:00 pm. Please see the attached document for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

**Self-Paced Canvas Course: Comprehensive Literacy for All Book Study**

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children is offering a self-paced book study using the Canvas LMS platform.

The book under study in this course is entitled "Comprehensive Literacy for All: Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities to Read and Write" by Karen Erickson and David Koppenhaver. This book is one resource available to educators who want to learn more about literacy instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. However, this book and the resources contained in this course do not reflect an endorsement from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. If you choose to participate, you must acquire a copy of the book on your own. There are many retail outlets that offer this book for sale at a reasonable price. Use the [Book Study registration link](#) to access this course. **(ATTACHED)**

**Professional Learning Opportunity: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the General Education Setting**



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The NCDPI Autism Team is providing the professional learning opportunity *Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the General Education Setting* in the following locations:

Greenville, NC

Elementary: February 22, 2023

Secondary: February 23, 2023

Sylva, NC

Elementary: April 12, 2023

Secondary: April 13, 2023

These one-day workshops are intended for professionals working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the general education setting. Participants will be provided with an overview of the characteristics of ASD to support the planning and provision of Specially Designed Instruction (SDI). Particular attention will be given to the use of visual supports to increase student engagement in and completion of standards-aligned tasks and assignments.

Each workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and participants will receive .6 CEUs upon completion. Content is focused on grade-level academic instruction; therefore, participants should register for the session that corresponds to their work setting. Please follow this [link](#) to access registration. **Registration will close on February 15, 2023.** Please email questions to [asdteam@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:asdteam@dpi.nc.gov).

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**Combined Expenditure Report**

The Combined Expenditure Reports have been sent out. **Please note that the due date for the Mid-Year is March 15, 2023 and not January 31, 2023 (per spreadsheet).** If you did not receive one or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Sinclair at [nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov).

**Federal Reporting**

- **Federal Reporting Preparation**

In preparation for upcoming federal reporting, the following reports are available to check data each month for accuracy and address any possible errors that must be corrected prior to the certification schedule:

- April Child Count – April 2023 | 04/02/2022 – 04/01/2023
- Indicator 7 – August 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Exit Count – September 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Indicator 11 – October 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023

These reports are accessible in ECATS from Reporting > Standard Reports > Special Education tab. As a reminder, the schedule for the upcoming indicators and counts are listed in the Important Dates Calendar at the following link:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>.

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



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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.

**Monday Message**

This week's MM announced new functionality to be released into ECATS on February 17, 2023, for documenting support services. A user guide was attached to the announcement. PSUs should consider whether additional guidance or messaging is needed to support local implementation prior to use in ECATS.

[Monday Message 1.30.23.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

**Grant Information**

- **CEIS/CCEIS Plans**

The Office of Special Education (OSEP) has made a change in the data collection for PSUs with CEIS/CCEIS plans and these changes are now required for the 2022-2023 school year. The attached spreadsheet has been updated with the changes. PSUs currently implementing a CEIS/CCEIS plan will receive a follow-up email from the fiscal consultants for support. **(ATTACHED)**

- **Developmental Day Center (DDC) Funds Reminder**

To be eligible for Developmental Day Center funds, each student must be placed in the DDC as the least restrictive environment by the IEP team. As discussed in the Special Grants training, the placement decision should be documented on the IEP or Prior Written Notice. As with all placement decisions, the placement in the DDC should be reviewed and documented at all subsequent IEP team meetings for the student. Additional criteria for receiving DDC funds for preschool students are:

- Require special education 5 days a week and one of the following
- At least three hours each day of specially designed instruction or
- At least two hours each day of specially designed instruction with at least one weekly related service
- At least one hour each day of specially designed instruction with at least two weekly related services

For school aged students, the need for specially designed instruction should be 5 days a week for a minimum of four hours each day.

- **IDEA American Rescue Plan (PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187)**

New Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been sent out through CCIP for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187. The previous GANs that were provided incorrectly stated that the Subaward Budget Period of Performance/Subaward Period ends on 9/30/2024. The newly issued GAN has the correct period of performance of 7/01/2021-9/30/2023 with a subaward amount of 0.00 because all funds are carryover funds with no new allotment. All funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and spent by 12/31/2023.

- **IDEA Funds and Overtime Pay**

Overtime pay for classified employees is an allowable expense in federal grants. For the classified employee to receive overtime pay out of federal funds the employee is required to be serving students with disabilities 100% of the time. If the employee is serving non-disabled students in any capacity, then the overtime cannot be paid out of federal funds.



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- **IDEA Grant and Budget Update**

The Object Code 122 EC-Salary-Interim Teacher-Non-Certified has been removed from the Chart of Accounts for all federal EC Funds. EC Teachers paid from federal funds are required to hold licensure in Exceptional Children.

**Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives**

[Registration](#) is open for the Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives.

The spring 2023 meeting will be held in two locations (east and west), allowing for a greater chance to attend our in-person sessions! Content presented will be the same at both sessions. These sessions will not be recorded. Please see the attached flyer for additional details and [registration link](#). (ATTACHED)

**Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**

The Office of Exceptional Children is pleased to offer Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities series. This course aligns the Foundations of Math with the Extended Content Standards. It is a four-day offering in which three days are devoted to participants learning Evidence-Based Practices in Mathematics and the fourth day focused on the Math ECS. Participants must be able to attend all sessions and partial credit will not be awarded. Attendance is limited to the first 30 registrants for each location.

Registration for Lillington dates of March 21-22 and April 18-19

[https://ncdpi.azure1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3B1slvgJoxHgSbA](https://ncdpi.azure1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3B1slvgJoxHgSbA)

Registration for Wilmington dates of March 29-30 and April 26-27

[https://ncdpi.azure1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dclUiUyK5rcXh4O](https://ncdpi.azure1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dclUiUyK5rcXh4O)

**Professional Learning: Complex Learners with Hearing Loss**

This professional learning will be held in-person (with no virtual option to attend) on March 15th from 8:30am-3:30pm. The location of the training is at the West Concord Resource Center Olive Room located at 509 West Concord St in Morganton NC. This workshop is geared toward professionals who work with complex learners with hearing loss in NC public schools. In this workshop, professionals will identify and understand the complex learner, communication goals, and create strategies to help their students achieve within the classroom on a daily basis. This is presented by M. Antwan Campbell, Heidi Carico, and Matthew Martinez. For questions about this professional learning, please contact [M. Antwan Campbell](#). Please [register](#) soon as registration will close on March 1, 2023.

**Announcing the new Assistive Technology Resource Hub**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new [NCDPI Assistive Technology \(AT\) Resources Hub](#). This resource hub will replace our previous Assistive technology Google site. On the AT Resource Hub, you will find information about training opportunities, AT legislation, data collection tools, and links to other organizations. It is our goal that this site becomes your go to location for helpful information and resources for assistive technology in the state of North Carolina and beyond.

**Assistive Technology Webinar - Math Tools**

We are pleased to announce the first Assistive Technology webinar in our 2023 webinar series focusing on tools and assistive technology to support students in mathematics. We will offer this webinar on two different dates and times to allow for greater opportunities for participation: Wednesday 2/22/23 from 12:00 - 1:00 (EST) and again on Friday



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2/24/23 from 3:00 - 4:00 (EST). To register, please complete the [February 2023 Assistive Technology - Math](#) registration form. **Registration will close on 2/7/23.** If you have questions, please contact [Josh Barton](#).

**PK EC Items of Interest**

**Allocation for PRC 119- Preschool Targeted Assistance**

The Office of Early Learning and the Office of Exceptional Children are pleased to announce the release of PRC119 funds. These Targeted Assistance Funds are used to support:

1. *PSU Preschool Coordinator professional learning,*
2. *Preschool Pyramid Model (PPM) Implementation, and*
3. *Preschool Regional Representative Support*

Each PSU has been allotted \$2,000 to ensure their preschool leaders and/or staff participates in professional learning events designed to support preschool initiatives related to child find and serving children with disabilities. Funds can also support related travel expenses as applicable. Cumberland, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, and Forsyth Counties will be allotted \$4,000 to support additional staff participation. PSU Preschool Coordinators who serve as regional representatives will also receive additional funds.

A PRC119 budget or budget amendment must be submitted that aligns with the NCDPI Finance allotment amount. Allocation amounts for PPM implementation, and regional support must align with the approved activities, spending plans and assurances. The use of a unique identifier would assist with tracking and efficiently monitoring the use of funds per spending initiative.

Per the Federal Grant Programs [Allotment Policy](#), current year awards for which a PSU is eligible have been reduced by the amount of funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. If you have any questions, please contact Keashia Walker at [Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov).

**Save-the-Date: Preschool PowerSchool Technical Assistance Opportunities**

Please join us for reminders, updates and technical assistance regarding Preschool PowerSchool data entry and reporting. There are two opportunities to join:

February 15 - 10:00-11:00 - registration link

<https://ncgov.webex.com/webex/register/r05603f64bf86ed7f7c27bcdabb6fad84>

OR

February 16 - 2:00-3:00 - registration link

<https://ncgov.webex.com/webex/register/r4c28bf3863f6cfec2f7afa1649898c29>

**Compliance Tip of the Week**

**Case Management Report**

Consider using the new case management report to track Home/Hospital and modified day placements. These types of placements should be reviewed often for appropriateness given the student's unique circumstances. To filter for modified day placements, select school days that are less than 5 hours or 300 minutes to begin identifying students with shortened school days. Some students, RECPs, may need to be excluded from the review as you analyze the data. An



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important resource to support the appropriate use for these placements can be found [here](#). [\[Guidance for Homebound and Modified Day Placements\]](#)

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| <b>February Calendar Items/What's Due?</b> |
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- February 1 - February 14  
Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students continues
- February 15th  
DeafBlind Census opens on February 15th and closes on March 15
- February 17th  
**Registration** for March Institute & Recruitment & Retention Summit closes
- February 27th - March 1st  
March Institute (memo) (website information)

**Coming Soon**

- March 2nd  
Recruitment & Retention Summit
- March 28th - March 30th  
NC SIP Annual Spring Networking Conference