



Weekly Update
April 5, 2023

Message from Carol Ann

As Sherry transitioned into retirement, she encouraged us to keep our focus firmly on our students. I consider it a privilege and an honor to have been selected to lead this work going forward. Over the last couple of weeks, it has been a rare and wonderful opportunity to be able to shadow Sherry and begin planning with our leadership team for a smooth transition -- a transition I hope will be successful with your support.

Much like our PSUs and IEP Teams across the state, it is time for the OEC to assess our present levels of performance and review and revise our programs to ensure we have reasonable and appropriate supports and services in place for the 2023-2024 school year. In order to do that, we must have time to plan a responsive approach to the needs already shared by PSUs and through the reflection of our individual, section, and collective partnerships with you over the past year. Our Leadership Team will facilitate this through an internal discussion of what is working well, what requires revision, and what statewide work needs to be prioritized differently during the April Section Meetings.

Based on the discussions from the April Section Meetings, our Leadership Team will move on to coordinating structured feedback from the Director's Advisory Committee and the PSUs during the month of May. It is my hope that our engagement with the field for the 2023-2024 SY can be communicated to the greatest extent possible during the month of June. While this goal may be ambitious and will have some limitations, I am hopeful that the more details we are able to communicate about what lies ahead and the resources that will be made available to accomplish those tasks, the greater success we will be able to achieve in managing our limited resources and increasing our capacity to serve our students well.

Thank you so very much for the leadership you provide locally and the work we will achieve together in the days ahead!

Carol Ann

Message from Matt

I would like to take an opportunity to share that I have accepted a position with the Integrated Academic and Behavior Systems team as a consultant for the North Central region. This transition will begin May 12, 2023.

I quite honestly can't express what a blessing and gift each of you has been in my previous and current roles. I have learned so much from you, personally and professionally, and am as committed as ever to collectively supporting students with the greatest obstacles and needs in our state.

Over the past two years, I have experienced some health challenges that have contributed to a re-prioritization of my energy and this opportunity is ideal. Consequently, and due to the timing, I also want to be clear and express my full gratitude to and confidence in the Office of Exceptional Children. We have worked and advocated together for students in a way that has positively altered the landscape of special



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education in North Carolina. However, there is still so much good work ahead to advance equitable opportunities and foster systems that work for ALL students.

I can ensure you all, as you already know, the office is in incredibly wise and competent hands. I look forward to continuing to contribute to the amazing work from a different role and perspective.

There is important and complex work ahead, and we can only meet our collective responsibility together. Onward!

General Information

SiMR Root Cause Analysis Tip of the Week

Communicating your SiMR Data Analysis with internal stakeholders is an important first step in your SiMR Root Cause Analysis. Key internal stakeholders include superintendents, Chief Academic Officers, Elementary ELA leads, and school board members. Sharing the findings of your Data Analysis can be an invitation to collaboration and planning together about Root Cause Analysis site selection and engaging external stakeholders. Don't hesitate to reach out to your OEC Regional Data Team members or [Lauren Holahan](#) if you'd like support in working with your internal stakeholders.

Also, keep in mind, the OEC is holding open SiMR Root Cause Analysis office hours at the following dates/times at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan>

Administrative/Supervisory

April 18th - Director's Webinar

Agenda:

- Micro-PD: IDEA Grant
- 2023 LEA State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Plan Determinations
- 2023-2024 OEC Planning: Targeted Technical Assistance and Support

Date and time:

- Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 10:00 AM | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Registration link:

- <https://ncgov.webex.com/weblink/register/rf74c12bf7774ded96d41b838942b4603>

Now Available: 2023 Recruitment & Retention Summit Presentations

All presentations from the 2023 Recruitment & Retention Summit have been uploaded to the Office of Exceptional Children's website. You can access all materials at the following link:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/conferencewebinars/recruitment-retention>



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PRC 29 Funding Review

Due to staffing issues, PRC 29 Funds for students with severe emotional needs have not been able to be utilized in several PSU's. If there is a concern that the funding will not be utilized by June 30, 2023, consult with the Finance Director to determine the amount that will need to be reverted. If you have any questions, talk with the Behavior Support consultant that supports your region. Regions 1- 4, Lisa Taylor (lisa.taylor@dpi.nc.org) or Regions 5- 8 Felicia Goodgion (felicia.goodgion@dpi.nc.org) [Reversion Form](#) - complete this form to revert funding.

Instructional/Related Services/Disability Specific

Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Testing

We are VERY excited to announce that EIPA testing has resumed here in NC for Educational Interpreters and will be administered through TASK12. For those who wish to register to take the test on one of the four dates available for the month of April, please use the following registration link to do so. The test dates are April 22, 23, 29, & 30.

Virginia DeafBlind Transition Retreat for Young Adults and Their Families

Virginia is hosting a DeafBlind Transition Retreat on June 30-July 2, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia. More information about the event and registration link can be found on the [event flier](#).

Your Invited: North Carolina 7th Annual Inclusion Summit

The North Carolina 7th Annual Inclusion Summit will be hosted by Western Carolina University at the North Carolina Center for Advancement of Teaching in Cullowhee, NC on June 26th & 27th. Registration is open to individuals with disabilities and their families, community members, researchers, graduate students, advocates, administrators, community-based service providers, employers, and all others who participate in inclusive practices across the lifespan of an individual. For registration information, go to the Summit website: <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/professional-enrichment/conferences-and-community-classes/inclusionsummit.aspx>

Autism Spectrum Disorders and Early Learners: Application of Visual Supports

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children, in collaboration with the NCDPI Office of Early Learners is offering an invitation-only professional learning opportunity: *Autism Spectrum Disorders and Early Learners: Application of Visual Supports*.

This invitation will be sent to participants who completed the *Autism Spectrum Disorders and Early Learners* online course and demonstrated mastery with the content. During this one day in-person training, participants will be provided with the ability to practice applying how to plan and develop individualized visual supports using case scenarios. Columbus County Schools has offered to host this training on **May 19, 2023**, in an early



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childhood setting. Registration will close on May 12, 2023. Further details will be communicated to registrants upon the closing of registration. Please email questions to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov.

Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Meeting a student's unique mealtime needs is a complex process often requiring specialized interprofessional evaluation, intervention, and progress monitoring. Students who require support for mealtime participation have needs that vary in type, resources required, intensity, and duration. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) are pleased to announce in-person professional learning opportunities this spring for **Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)**. Dates and locations are listed below. Using MTSS as an organizing framework, this full-day course will equip school leaders in establishing and sustaining individualized programming while adhering to multiple requirements under USDA, IDEA, Section 504, state law, and local policies. The session will investigate best practices, relevant statute and policies, and existing state and local resources for supporting students with unique mealtime participation needs and provide teams with planning time. Participants only need to attend one session.

- April 17, 2023, 9 am - 4 pm, Four Points by Sheraton Asheville Downtown, Asheville
- April 26, 2023, 9 am - 4 pm, Jarrell Lecture Hall, Jackson Library, UNC Greensboro, Greensboro
- May 5, 2023, 9 am - 4 pm, New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern

Interprofessional teams are encouraged to attend and will be given priority during registration. Only ONE representative from each discipline per public school unit (PSU) or local education agency (LEA/Charter) should register to attend. School teams addressing mealtime needs include:

- School Nutrition Administrators
- School/District Administrators (e.g. 504 Coordinators, School Principals, Exceptional Children Directors)
- School Nurses
- Occupational Therapy Practitioners
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Exceptional Children/General Education Teachers
- Other related service providers/educators

See the [flyer](#), a QR code and link to [register](#) are included. Please contact your discipline's state/regional consultant with any questions.

Preschool

LICC MINI GRANT Application Period is Open!

The LICC Mini Grants are \$800 grants that are made available from the North Carolina Infant Toddler Program (NC ITP) that can be used towards costs for implementing Child Find activities, family engagement activities and/or providing information to families on the transition from Early Intervention services to Special Education Preschool services. These funds can be used toward a variety of activities including, but not limited to, costs related to holding Child Find events, printing materials, paying stipends to families for participating in



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LICC meetings, or hosting training events for families or community partners who work with young children and families on topics such as Child Find, developmental milestones, the Early Intervention referral process, transition to preschool, and utilizing resources such as “Learn the Signs. Act Early” materials from the CDC. The application period is open now and closes on April 20, 2023. All LICCs are encouraged to apply. LICCs that receive this grant will be required to fill out an activity report on how the funds were utilized.

Grant Timeline:

Application period: March 20, 2023 - April 20, 2023

Notification of grant award: On or by April 24, 2023

Checks will be mailed to LICCs within 2 weeks of notification date

Activity Report emailed to LICC contact on application: September 1, 2023

Activity Report due date: September 29, 2023

Please contact Terri Leyton at tleyton@ecacmail.org with questions. [Apply Here!](#)

ICYMI

HB 317 Data Collection for 2022-2023

We forgot to remind EC Directors and Charter School Coordinators last week to confirm the primary and secondary contacts for HB 317 that will receive the data collection spreadsheet along with the list of students your LEA needs to report for the 2022-2023 school year. Therefore, the deadline has been extended. Please [update your contacts](#) by April 21, 2023. Thank you.

April Child Count

EC Directors or Data Managers should review the April 2023 Child Count Report for errors such as duplicate records, incorrect age, grade, setting, and disability. According to the State Auditors, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs and Lead Administrators of Charter schools must certify the child count data. All errors must be corrected, and all Public School Units must certify their submissions no later than April 24, 2023.

April 2023 Child Count Correction and Certification Schedule	
April Child Count opened for all LEAs, Charters, and SOPs	4/3/2023
Deadline for Certification Status	4/24/2023

Significant Disproportionality, Indicators 4, 9, 10

The memo, *Educational Equity Indicators 4, 9, 10 and Significant Disproportionality*, has been distributed through the Weekly Update over the last few weeks. It is now archived on the NCDPI EC Division Memos padlet.



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Monday Message 4.3.23

IDEA American Rescue Plan (ARP) for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187

ARP funds allocated through PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187 have a period of availability from 7/01/2021-9/30/2023. All ARP funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and liquidated by 12/31/2023.

Calendar Items/What's Due?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 3 | April Child Count Opened |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 18 | Director's Webinar
10:00 am - 11:00 am |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 20 | Last Day for LICC Application (Preschool Mini Grant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 21 | HB 317 Data Collection Due |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 21 | EC Office Hours – Responding to Formal Written State Complaints
9:00 am - 10:30 am
https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/polly.lilly (no registration required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 24 | April Child Count Closes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 30 | PRC29: Quarterly Behavior Support Assessment; NC Behavior Support Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 1 | IDEA Grant Opens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 16 | Director's Advisory Committee Meeting
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm |