

General Information

Congratulations on Your Retirement - Dr. Mike Marcela, Watauga County Schools

The OEC would like to congratulate Dr. Marcela on his upcoming retirement at the end of this month. We are so very appreciative of his many contributions. We'd like to honor him by using his own words to share the career highlights that made him most proud.

It has been my honor to spend my last 39 years working to improve the lives of children with disabilities in North Carolina. I began teaching special education in 1984 and taught for twelve years. I have since been an administrator for the past 27 years.---8 years as an Accountability Specialist in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools overseeing compliance, parent complaints, state complaints, mediations and due process cases and 19 years as an EC Director (8 years in Wilkes County and 11 years in Watauga County. I have been involved in so many initiatives with so many wonderful educators to help our students, it is almost mind-boggling. As a Director I have helped create and implement programs such as Project L.I.F.E (a pre-cursor local program before the creation of the OCS), Developmental Day, self-contained and Day Treatment classes, a Transdisciplinary Play Based PreK Evaluation center, Assistive Technology teams, helped develop local and state level curriculum and implemented many district-wide and individual programs to support students and improve learning. I am drawn to all things legal and compliance and have served on DPI audit teams, developed local compliance procedures and attended what feels like thousands of IEP meetings. Over the years I've handled 122 legal cases (40 state complaints, 47 mediations and 35 due process cases). I have been blessed to serve as NCCASE President for three years and an NCCASE Board member for 9 years and am very honored to have received an NCCASE Distinguished Service award. I have served the NC CEC as Regional Representative and Child Advocacy Network (CAN) Coordinator. I enjoy presenting and in addition to an untold amount of local presentations, I have presented at over 25 conferences during these years.

The things of which I am most proud of during my career include 1.) My work with NCDPI on committees such as DAC, Homebound policy, the SMHI, ECATS, Funding changes, Medicaid, the original OCS, paperwork revisions and others which improved services statewide. 2.) I am extremely proud of being the President of NCCASE when we were able to secure a "carve out" to continue Fee for Service Billing and approval of additional billable services which resulted in over 125 million dollars annually being available to school districts. 3.) I am most proud of those moments when parents have come up to me to say thank you for helping or standing up for their child or by helping to create a program (such as our Day Treatment programs) that they said "changed their child's life forever." You can't buy the way that makes you feel and overall, very

few people have the opportunity to make such a difference in the life of a child and their family. I feel very, very fortunate to have played a small part in doing that for children in my districts and the state.



Fall Conference on Exceptional Children

Registration will open on **August 1, 2023**, and close on **September 1, 2023**, or earlier if conference capacity is reached. We anticipate conference capacity will accommodate 2100 participants.

To support ease in registration, public school units may register and pay for multiple participants at one time. However, please be advised that adhering to the registration window is extremely important as it provides the OEC the opportunity to ensure accessibility for all participants, and ensures that the amount of space accommodates the number of participants. While high interest sessions may fill quickly, the OEC is striving to ensure that seating is available across sessions to accommodate the number of registered participants.

Fall Conference on Exceptional Children - Educator of Excellence

Nominations for EOE will open on **August 1, 2023**, and close on **September 1, 2023**.

Administrative/Supervisory

Maintenance: EC Director's Padlet

OEC Communication prior to July 1, 2023, will be removed from the padlet by close of business Friday, July 28, 2023. This is to ensure that the most current and relevant information is available for reference and to be consistent with its defined purpose.

Early Childhood (EC|EC)

New Preschool EC Coordinators and Listserv Updates

Please be sure to update the EC|EC contact list if your LEA has a new Preschool EC Coordinator. The update form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/CekTcSD28Ez95Y53A>

Also, if your LEA needs to add or remove EC|EC Listserv subscriptions, please use this form: <https://forms.gle/DREHYoiwUJQgA3wQ9>

Pyramid Model Implementation Planning

All Pyramid Model sites should have received information regarding the 2023-2024 Beginning of the Year submission requirements (due July 31, 2024). If you have any questions OR your PSU is interested in learning more about joining the Pyramid Model project, please contact [Dawn Meskil](#).

ECATS Updates



ECATS BOY Update

ECATS Beginning-of-Year (BOY) process is in progress. Data for the 2023-24 school year is being loaded including new students and updated PowerSchool data. Files will return to their normal load schedules once the initial loads take place.

Please be aware that student data transfers will take longer than usual due to the number of transfers occurring at the beginning of the school year.

In addition, the process to update graduation data in ECATS will occur after the August deadline for entry of graduation data into PowerSchool. Once this file is processed, students who have graduated will be exited in ECATS. After that point, districts will be able to select the Modified Exit Reason in ECATS for the 2022-23 Exit Count and these students will no longer appear active in ECATS.

Training Site - Refresh

The ECATS Training Site will undergo a full refresh on Thursday, July 27. This will include reset user accounts and fixed passwords for each PSU, as well as reset test students and parents. The site will include sample student data for EC and MTSS workflows. DPI will distribute more information in the coming weeks, including lists of user accounts and passwords.

Revisions to OEC Activities Guide

OEC 2023-2024 Activities Guide

Added

- Registration links for OEC Director's Webinars [Communication Loops & Director's Webinars]

Calendar Items/What's Due?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPERVISORY

[OEC 2023-2024 Activities Guide](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

[NCDPI OEC Calendar of Events in List View](#)

[NCDPI Calendar of Events in Calendar View](#)