

EC Division Weekly Update
September 9, 2020

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

- FAQ will be updated by COB on Friday, September 11th.

Items of Interest

PRC 29 Submissions

Please disregard the September submission of the PRC 29 Student Identification Form report. This form was used to identify students that are currently receiving PRC 29 services but has been replaced by the Entrance Exit tool form. Below are current reporting documents and due dates:

The following reports are due on October 31st; January 31st; April 30th; June 15th

- Suspension form
- Entrance/Exit Tool
- Behavior Self-Assessment

For more information about progress monitoring your PRC29 grant please visit our Behavior Support Google Page. <https://sites.google.com/view/ncbehaviornews/home>

Special State Reserve

The PSU can apply for Risk Pool or Special State Reserve funding for students eligible for funding while the student is being served remotely. The funds may be held by DPI until the PSU returns to in-person instruction. Indicate in the narrative if the student is currently served remotely or in-person. If remote, an update will need to be provided upon re-entry to in-person instruction. An update form will be provided within the NCCCIP Grant System in the NCDPI Resources Section under EC Resources tab by Friday, September 18, 2020.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

The MOE Expenditures for the 2019-2020 school year is due by October 31, 2020. The MOE Expenditure section of the IDEA grant will be open for submission by the end of September for all PSUs with an approved IDEA grant. All others will be open for submission after the IDEA grant has been approved. The MOE Calculation Form and Justification Form have been uploaded to the NCCCIP Grant System in the NCDPI Resources Section under EC Resources tab.

REMINDER: EC Division Webinars

The EC Division has scheduled EC Director/EC Charter Coordinator Webinars each month for the remainder of 2020, to help address our unusual situation with COVID-19. Please **register** for each of these at the individual links below. You will find the registration link on the left hand side when the page opens. **PLEASE NOTE:** *The registration is restricted to EC Directors/EC Charter Coordinators only.*

October 13: <http://bit.ly/ECDW101320>

November 10: <http://bit.ly/ECDW111020>

December 1: <http://bit.ly/ECDW120120>

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REMINDER – PRC082

PRC 082 expenditure reports are due to the regional consultant on or before 9/30/2020. Funding decisions for 2020-2021 will be based, in part, on these reports and their timely submission by NC SIP LEA partners.

Upcoming Federal Reporting Training and Certification

The Exit count report, training video and tip sheets will be made available to districts in the coming week. The report will also be found under Standard Reports>Special Education in ECATS for users that have permission to view LEA reports. The final certification due date for the Exit count in ECATS is September 30, 2020.

The Indicators 7 and 11 training videos, tip sheets and reports will be made available no later than October 5, 2020. These reports will also be released to ECATS under Standard Reports. The certification due date for these Indicators is October 23, 2020.

The process to run the reports, correct errors and certify reports is the same as the December 2019 child count report. Once the required elements are released to ECATS, questions and issues will need to be filed in ZenDesk rather than emailed to consultants. This allows issues to be investigated and addressed quickly by both the vendor and the EC Division. Districts are encouraged to continue to utilize the advanced reporting tip sheets for these reports to identify missing and or incorrect data entry prior to the release of the actual count reports.

COVID-19 Delay Reason - (Indicators 11 and 12)

A new delay reason labeled 'COVID-19' has been added under the Part C to B Referral and the Part B Referral drop lists. This delay reason should only be used for students impacted by school closures in the 2019-20 School Year and for reporting on Indicator 11 and 12. Students who have this delay reason will still be counted as "Delayed" and will not affect the rate calculated based on number of students delayed beyond the 3rd birthday but will assist districts and the state in accurately explaining the reason for the delay.

Indicator 12 Spreadsheet - The COVID-19 delay reason for Indicator 12 has been added to the Indicator 12 spreadsheet. If you have already submitted your spreadsheet and need to revise it, please resubmit to ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov. The due date for districts to submit Indicator 12 is October 23, 2020. Charter Schools do not need to submit Indicator 12.

An updated Indicator 12 spreadsheet will be posted on the ECD ECATS page under Resources.

Changes to 5-year-olds in Kindergarten LRE in ECATS

OSEP has required that students aged 5 years old and in Kindergarten now be counted in a school-age environment. This change to the IEP/PSSP form is being tested currently for release to ECATS. Once released, students who will be 5 years old during the life of their IEP/PSSP, will require both a school age environment code and a preschool environment code. During the December child count, ECATS will be able to verify the grade and report the student with the environment coded required for their age/grade.

Due to the timing of this change to the IEP/PSSP forms, PCG will crosswalk students who are 5 years old in Kindergarten and have a preschool code to the matching school age code for reporting on the December 2020

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child count. Districts will not need to go in and change or update current IEP/PSSP forms for these students. As the annual review or reevaluation comes up, the new requirement will be captured on the IEP/PSSP form.

The changes for the IEP/PSSP forms and the child count are expected to be released to ECATS by December 1, 2020. More information will be shared at the time of release.

ECATS: Psychological Evaluation

The rule of completion requiring that a psychological evaluation be included in the required evaluations for students suspected of a specific learning disability has been disabled.

PRC 118 Autism Funding

This is a reminder that the PRC 118 Autism Requests for Funding are due on **September 18, 2020**. Please refer to this [memo](#) for details.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

EC Office Hours--EXTENDED

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to extend the “*Office Hours*” on Wednesdays. On **September 23rd**, we will hold office hours for all LEAs, from **10:00 am to 11:00 am** and again from **3:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. Click [on this link](#) to join the call.

PRC 132 COVID-19 Relief Act Funding Update

Due to a portion of unallotted funds after the grant application process, an approximately 16% increase to the **second** COVID-19 Relief Act grant allotment has been applied to approved applications. This second allotment of funding will be made in the near future. If there are expenditures from the additional funds that your PSU needs to make that are not aligned to your original PRC 132 applications, please alert your Regional Coordinator so this update can be made to the **second** grant application. Expenditures must align to the Public School Units (PSUs) application and be an allowable expense within the chart of accounts. Please be aware, there will be additional information concerning reporting requirements for these funds. As a reminder, these funds must be expended by 12/31/2020. If you believe you will be unable to spend your allotted PRC 132 funds in this timeframe, please alert your Regional Coordinator as soon as possible.

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)

This year the American Printing House for the Blind annual meeting is open to ALL and is FREE. Please share this professional learning opportunity with your staff that works with students with visual impairments. Registration is now open and can be accessed here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/bc8c3b75-6af5-4223-9650-5dd6a352ecc2/summary?rp=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000>

Considerations for New Referrals

For new referrals, the following guidance aligns with national guidance on this topic.

- For children referred for an initial evaluation during the pandemic, the IEP Team should carefully consider whether or not a disability was suspected prior to school building closures and whether or not a disability is suspected at the time the team discusses the referral. Intervention data prior to school building closures, current data, other existing data and a student’s response to and participation in remote learning are key elements the IEP Team must consider when deciding whether or not to

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conduct an initial evaluation. These decisions should be based on an individual basis following the procedures for when a written request for an evaluation is received and/or a disability is suspected.

- For students who were receiving intervention supports pre-pandemic, instructional factors should have already been considered during problem-solving before matching supplemental or intensive intervention supports to need. This information (progress monitoring, etc.) along with any other existing data should assist the team in determining whether or not a disability is suspected and whether an initial evaluation will be conducted.

Value of OT-Resources

OT practitioners provide a unique perspective and skillset to problem-solve and implement innovative solutions for the person, environment, and occupation. Due to the current context and disruption in routines, there is a need for OT practitioners to provide both systems levels of support and individualized interventions which address well-being, equity, and accessibility. This resource provides helpful considerations for shifting practices to support students and others during the era of COVID-19. **(ATTACHED)**