



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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October 7, 2020

TO: Superintendents
 Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
 Director, Office of Charter Schools
 Dale Armstrong, Division Director, Department of Health and Human Services
 Martin Pharr, Superintendent, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
 Rick Smith, Director of Education Services, Division of Adult Correction
 Barbria Bacon, Superintendent, Education Services for the Deaf and Blind

FROM: Dr. Beverly Emory *BE*
 Deputy Superintendent, District and Regional Support

Sherry H. Thomas, Director *DS*
 Exceptional Children Division *ST*

2020 EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN EXTRAORDINARILY EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

In lieu of the regular Educator of Excellence celebration, which will not occur this year due to the cancellation of the annual Conference on Exceptional Children, the Exceptional Children Division has created a new way for districts to recognize outstanding educators, related service personnel and special education support staff providing services to students with disabilities during this unprecedented time.

Exceptional Children Program Directors and Coordinators are invited to recognize Extraordinarily Exceptional Educators in their district throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. The 2020-2021 Extraordinarily Exceptional Educator Recognition will be presented via a virtual recognition board and each person recognized will receive a certificate of recognition. There will be three opportunities to submit recognitions this school year. A table below outlines the recognition submission schedule.

Recognitions will be accepted from EC Directors and Coordinators from each of the 115 traditional school systems, charter schools, the Education Services for the Deaf and Blind schools, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Division of Prison Education Services, and Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities.

Each special educator, related service provider or special education support staff will:

- Have his/her name with appropriate information displayed on the virtual recognition board.
- Have his/her picture displayed on the virtual recognition board.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Sherry H. Thomas, *Director* | sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

The person being recognized must:

- Be an employee or direct hire of the LEA.
- Be recognized as a leader in service to the school and/or school system through innovative instructional programs or methodologies that have demonstrated positive outcomes for students with disabilities during this unprecedented time.

Recognitions will be submitted electronically, and the following information will be required:

1. Name of the person being recognized;
2. LEA and School Name;
3. Brief description of why the person is being recognized;
4. One digital color photograph (jpg) of the person (Photo should have a tall orientation to include head and shoulders, not cropped close to the head. Minimum size 360x480 at 72dpi is ideal, larger files preferred);
5. Mailing address to send a certificate of appreciation;
6. Name and email address of the person making the recognition.

Recognitions may be submitted at the following link: <http://bit.ly/EEE2021>. The schedule for submitting recognitions and when they will be displayed on the virtual recognition board is as follows:

Recognition Submission Window	Recognitions Displayed Starting
October 7 – October 30, 2020	November 15, 2020
January 4 – January 29, 2021	February 15, 2021
April 5 – April 30, 2021	May 15, 2021

We look forward to your participation in this event to recognize and honor Extraordinarily Exceptional Educators. Questions or concerns may be directed to Melissa Towery, melissa.towery@dpi.nc.gov, or Sherri Vernelson, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov.