Updates to the EC Division Padlet

Items of Interest

CANCELLED: Summer Institutes
Due to feedback from the field, the uncertainty of required summer school and the heavy lift for teachers and administrators, the EC Division has made the decision not to offer Summer Institute sessions this year. We hope this is not an inconvenience for you or your staff. We will continue to offer professional development throughout the year and look forward to resuming our full offering of Summer Institute for Summer 2022.

The Role of Methodologies and Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
This guidance is provided in response to current discussions from LEAs regarding implementation of methodologies and strategies addressing the special education needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. **(ATTACHED)**

Secondary Transition Tip Week 13
Please see the latest Transition tip sheet. **(ATTACHED)**

Standards Aligned Instruction in Mathematics
Matthew Martinez, Consultant for Significant Disabilities and Heidi Carico, Consultant for Autism will be offering a 4-part webinar series that will focus on building capacity to plan for standards aligned instruction in Mathematics. The target audience for this webinar series is teachers and other educators, specialists, or related services personnel who support instruction of students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) who are accessing the Extended Content Standards (ECS).

This series will be a combination of three synchronous 1-hour webinars, one asynchronous session and two homework assignments and will result in .8 CEU credits. Dates for the synchronous sessions are April 20, 2021, May 4, 2021 and May 19, 2021 from 3:30 until 4:30 pm. The recorded session and homework will be assigned in between the synchronous dates. Participants must agree to attend all sessions to be considered.
Registration link: (Closes April 9, 2021)
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemBI2Aryo4kHZSQbTFPNISOBM6p7HZRjlze-S18kjA7ljOCw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Save the Date
On April 15, 2021, from 3:00-4:00 pm, Elli Heim, Program Specialist for Transition with Division of Services for the Blind (DSB), will present a live webinar on the free services, including Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) that are available through her office. Pre-ETS services for students who are visually impaired, or blind should start as early as 14 years of age.

This will be a great opportunity to connect Teachers of the Visually Impaired as well as EC staff who are case managers for students with Visual Impairments to ensure the students and their families are aware of the available services. If you wish to attend, please complete this registration form.
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFH59Afj52Efklo

New Canvas Module: Federal Reporting – Child Count

The Special Programs and Data section is happy to announce the release of a new Canvas module on guidance for the upcoming Child Count in ECATS. The Canvas Module, Federal Reporting – Child Count, is self-paced and designed to provide participants with a basic understanding of child count federal reporting requirements along with demonstrations of the active child count process in ECATS. The intended audience for this course includes EC Directors, EC Coordinators, Data Managers, and other personnel responsible for maintaining child count data. Access to this Canvas module will be available on Thursday, April 1st, through NCEES located in NCEdCloud.

Schedule for April 2021 Periodic Child Count

NC 1505-3.4 (Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities) requires each local education agency (LEA) to certify Exceptional Children child counts to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. These child counts are taken on December 1 and April 1 of each year. The December 1 child count is used to generate federal funds and the April 1 child count is used for state funding purposes.
The submission schedule is as follows:

LEA	Correction and Certification Window
Initial Submission from all LEAs and all Charter Schools and SOPs	4/01/2021
Deadline for Certification Status	4/23/2021

EC Directors may run the 2021 child count, prior to submission, for errors such as duplicate records, incorrect age, grade, setting and disability. Please remember that when certifying the Child Count, the EC Director is assuring that all data submitted is accurate.

As a reminder, students with an active IEP by April 1, 2021 will be included within the child count. In addition, out-of-state transfer students with an open referral and a Comparable Services Plan can be included if the Out of State IEP has not expired. Please reference the ECATS Child Count Reporting Checklist listed in ECATS under Resources/Federal Reporting.

The April child count will no longer verify that a reevaluation is complete in order to include a record on the count. However, please be aware that compliance requires that reevaluations be completed in a timely manner. Lapses in reevaluation timelines will be monitored by compliance staff. The exception to the child count requirement for reevaluation is for students who have a Developmental Delay and are 8 at the time of count. These records will be caught in the Exceptions tab and must be excluded from the count if a reevaluation has not been completed.

According to the State Auditors, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs and Lead Administrators of Charter schools must certify the child count data. For this to occur, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs must use their "username" and "password" to log into ECATS to verify and certify the child count data. If the EC Director does not certify the count, a signed and scanned verification form must be submitted to Kelley

Blas at kelley.blas@dpi.nc.gov. All errors must be corrected, and all LEAs must certify their submissions no later than April 23, 2021.

Thank you for your attention to this vital transfer of information. If you have questions regarding child count procedures or technical issues while submitting the child count, please contact ZenDesk.

Assistive Technology Expo

The NCDPI Assistive Technology team is calling for proposals for the 2021 Assistive Technology Expo. This year, the AT Expo will be held virtually on August 3, 2021, from 8:30 until 4:30. We are searching for professionals willing to present for one hour about an Assistive Technology topic. Topics for these one-hour sessions can range from a single subject success story to how Assistive Technology processes affect student outcomes. Interested parties can submit a proposal to the link provided below. This form will ask: Name, email, place of employment, title of presentation, description of session and preferred time slot(s).
https://forms.gle/XZJBy1842sRQ793Y8

2021-2022 IDEA Grant Training

Two training sessions will be offered: Basic Overview and a Deeper Dive **(See descriptions below).** Your PSU is **only** required to attend **one** session based on the training level needed.

IDEA Grant Submission Brief Overview - April 13th (2 sessions)

This IDEA grant training is an overview of the submission process of the IDEA grant within NC CCIP. It will highlight changes and focus on components for general submission of the grant. There will be two sessions offered, you only have to attend one.
Please click on the link of the session you would like to attend and register no later than, Friday, April 9th.
Session 1: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1BTMUsgLCS75IQS

Session 2: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3J13wVY27BZ0TOu

IDEA Grant Submission In-Depth Session

This IDEA grant training will be a deeper dive into the process of submitting the IDEA grant within NC CCIP. This training is a step-by-step information session on completing each section of the IDEA grant. There are two sessions for this training, but you only have to attend one. Please click on the link below for the session you would like to attend and register.

April 15th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Please register for this session no later than, Wednesday, April 13th.
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEsjNrN0SzUKItw

April 20th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Please register for this session no later than, Friday, April 16th.
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5bci9Yb7O7ABqe2

**Grant window opens on May 1, 2021 and will close on May 31, 2021

Special Grants training will be held at a later date. Additional information will be provided.

PK EC Items of Interest

ECTA/DaSy Child Outcomes Summary - Knowledge Check *Field Testing*

The COS-KC is the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Knowledge Check. Upon its completion, the COS-KC will provide a way for states and local programs to determine whether practitioners have the basic knowledge needed to participate effectively in the COS process. At this stage of development, ECTA & DaSy need to test the COS-KC items in the field. *EI/ECSE practitioners who use the COS process and COS professional development providers are invited to participate! Participants will receive a $20 gift card (up to 300 participants) and be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a $100 gift card.* The final version of the COS-KC will be made available nationally at no cost. Learn more about participating in the field test here and contact Robin Rooney at robintheresarooney@gmail.com to sign-up.

Pyramid Model Updates *The Return to School: Finding a New Normal*

As states, school districts, and early childhood programs across the country have weathered the pandemic for a full year now, we have seen a variety of decisions made to address each unique situation--from closing schools and shifting to 100% online education, to in-person-online hybrid models, to keeping classrooms fully open. Now, as the Biden administration promotes a national push to reopen all schools across our country. Many early childhood programs are finding themselves having to make a significant pivot from their operations of the last year. This issue of Pyramid Model Updates provides guidance and resources as programs across the country are finding their new normal.

NC Child 2021 County Data Dashboard

NC Child's county data cards & interactive data dashboard provide local snapshots of child well-being by county. For 2021, the county data indicate how NC's children were faring before the pandemic and give key indicators of child well-being to track as recovery unfolds. County data cards present the latest data for key indicators in five areas of children's well-being: A Strong Start, Family Economic Security, Nurturing Homes and Communities, Health and Wellness, and High-Quality Education.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION