



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools
Directors, State-Operated Programs

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Director *SH7*

DATE: September 27, 2021

70TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

We are excited to announce the opening of registration for the 70th Annual Conference on Exceptional Children!

Please note the following details concerning required safety protocols for the conference.

Considering the current COVID-19 rates, and to better protect attendees and staff, the following protocols will be required to attend the 70th Conference on Exceptional Children:

- This year, there will be a limit to the number of registrations available. We encourage PSUs to be mindful of the number of registrations so that all will have access. We will update availability prior to registration closing. We will also have a wait list if registrations reach capacity prior to November 1, 2021.
- Registration will close on **November 1, 2021 @ 5:00 pm**. No on-site registrations will be accepted.
- No registrations will be transferrable. If the person registered is unable to attend, there will be no substitution for the conference. Refunds will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- All persons attending the conference must submit either:
 - Verification of full vaccination
 - A negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to the first event attended. (EX: Attending a Pre-Conference institute on Wednesday would require a negative test by Sunday). Once at the conference, no additional testing will be required.
- While inside the Koury Center/Sheraton Hotel, masks will be required of all attendees no matter the vaccination status. This is a hotel requirement.
- Social distancing will be practiced during all meetings, Institutes, sessions, Plenary and Educator of Excellence events.
- Wristbands will be utilized this year, rather than nametags.
 - For those fully vaccinated: Upload a copy of your vaccination with your registration. Your wrist band will be mailed to you.
 - For those unvaccinated: Bring a copy of your negative COVID-19 test results to the registration area (Hollow Square outside Guilford EFGH). Upon receipt, you will receive your wristband.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (984) 236-2550 | Fax (984) 236-2683

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- Educator of Excellence attendees will not be permitted to include a guest this year; however, the Educator of Excellence ceremony will be available through live stream, so family and friends can virtually participate.
- Following standard protocols for COVID-19, frequent hand washing, or hand sanitizing will be encouraged. Hand sanitizer will be available around conference events, but participants are encouraged to bring their own as well.

The registration link is: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9FejG3acPB4Keg

If you have questions concerning registration, please reach out to Kelly Breest (Kelly.Breest@dpi.nc.gov) or Matt Hoskins (Matt.Hoskins@dpi.nc.gov).