

EC Division Weekly Update
December 8, 2021

NEW: ECD Division Staff Updates

Section Chief for Program Improvement and Professional Development (PIPD)

It is with great pleasure that we share Ginger Cash is the new Section Chief and will continue to support and grow the work of PIPD. Ginger brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position, including being a trainer for both courses in the NC SIP project and much work with dyslexia training provided by the EC Division. Ginger began her new position in mid-November. She can be reached at Ginger.Cash@dpi.nc.gov.

IDEA Fiscal Monitors

The EC Division is happy to share that the IDEA fiscal monitor positions previously vacant are now filled. Milinda Martina began in her role with the EC Division on October 1 as an IDEA Fiscal Monitor. Milinda came to us from her most recent position as EC Director in Pender County. She brings her experience as an EC Director to her new position and is actively involved in grant reviews. Milinda is supporting the Northeast and Southeast regions. She can be reached at Milinda.Martina@dpi.nc.gov.

Lisa Blanton joined the EC Division in mid-November as the other new IDEA Fiscal Monitor. Lisa comes to NC DPI from Rutherford County Schools, where she was the EC Director. As with Milinda, Lisa brings the EC Director lens to this position and is involved with grant and budget reviews, special grants and MOEs. Lisa is supporting the Piedmont-Triad region and Charters in the Southwest. She can be reached at Lisa.Blanton@dpi.nc.gov.

Current Support from EC Division IDEA Fiscal Monitors is as follows:

Northeast & Southeast	Milinda Martina
North Central & Sandhills	Elizabeth Millen
Piedmont Triad & Southwest Charter Schools	Lisa Blanton
Southwest Traditional LEAs, Northwest & West	Adam Parent

Assistive Technology Consultant

The Exceptional Children Division is excited to announce the addition of an Assistive Technology Consultant to the team. Mr. Josh Barton from Henderson County Schools has accepted the position and will start January 10, 2022. Josh will be leading the Division's cross-sectional AT Team and providing technical assistance and support to PSUs. Please join us in welcoming Josh to the team. Contact information for Josh will be shared once he officially begins.

Items of Interest

Autism Support Team Meeting

This virtual meeting is required for those Public School Units (PSUs) who receive PRC 118 Autism funding at the Team Support level. Participants will receive 0.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at the conclusion of the meeting.

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Per feedback from the field, we are providing differentiated content. When registering, participants will choose to attend either **January 12th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or January 13th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Please select the session that best aligns with your level of experience.

- **Experienced Teams:**

Please register for **Capacity Building of Evidence-Based Programming for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**. All team members will need to register for this session on the same date to effectively engage in team activities. The content provided will further detail the critical components of capacity building and outline how these components come together to effectively implement evidence-based programming for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

- **New Teams or New Team Members:**

Please register for **New to Autism Support Teams: What You Need to Know**. A team or team member may be considered new if they have been established in the past 2-3 years. This session will provide foundational information specific to the purpose, actions and effective teaming structures of an AST within their PSU to support building capacity of evidence-based programming for students with ASD.

Registration can be accessed at: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2mZm5rMTfIMcOge and will close on **January 5, 2022**. Within the registration survey you will be able to indicate which meeting and which topic session you will be attending.

Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov or contact your NCDPI Consultant for Autism with any inquiries.

NEW Canvas Course - Special Education Surrogate Parents

This asynchronous course is available on demand and is designed to support PSUs in identifying the appropriate circumstances to appoint and how to train surrogate parents. Additional information can be found in the Universal Professional Learning Resources. The course can be located in NCEES by following this link:

<https://ncees.homebase.ncpublicschools.gov/ia/empari/learning2/registration/presentRegistrationDetails/33436>

Application Extension for the North Carolina State Improvement Project

The application timeline for the NORTH CAROLINA STATE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (NCSIP) has been extended to **Wednesday, December 15th, at 5:00PM**. *Please note that special considerations, in this year's application, are given to districts with low performing schools.* Refer to the [memo](#) for additional information about the application process. For further guidance on locating the application in the CCIP system, see the attachment. Please ensure applications in CIPP have been completed through the appropriate workflow. The final step in the workflow is "Chief Administrator Approved".

Additional information about the Application Extension for the North Carolina State Improvement Project can be found on this link:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/NCSBE/2021/10/20/file_attachments/1971291/2021-2026%20NC%20SIP%20Application%20Memo.pdf

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If you have any questions, contact Ginger Cash (Ginger.Cash@dpi.nc.gov) or Melissa Towery (Melissa.Towery@dpi.nc.gov). (ATTACHMENT)

IABS Newsletter

Please view the link for the IABS Newsletter which contains information on meetings, grant and training opportunities. <https://www.smores.com/j6tyr>

Federal Reporting

- **December Child Count**

The December Child Count captures federal reporting data on students receiving special education as of December 1, 2021. The December Child Count opened December 1, 2021 and must be certified by close of business December 20, 2021. It is expected that EC Directors/Coordinators certify the December Child Count by the due date. The integrity of the data is always at risk when DPI must finalize the data for the district. So, it is imperative that the EC Director/Coordinator reviews and certifies the December Child Count data on time. If someone other than the EC Director/EC Coordinator certifies the December Child Count, the Child Count Verification form must be completed and submitted to Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at Khalilah.Ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov

The December 2021 Child Count Verification Form is accessible from the ECATS Main Menu > Resources section > Federal Reporting tab.

- **Important Federal Reporting Reminder: Submission Timeliness**

If your district does not certify the data required for Indicators by the due date, your data may be certified by state staff. The integrity of the data is always at risk when the Department of Public Instruction must finalize the data for your district.

- **Information from Monday Message – 12/06/21**

[Monday Message 12.6.21.pdf](#) (govdelivery.com)

Grant Information

- **Fiscal Monitors**

For questions regarding grants for your region, please contact your Fiscal Monitor listed below:

Milinda Martina: Regions 1 & 2

Elizabeth Millen: Regions 3 & 4

Lisa Blanton: Regions 5 & 6 (Charters Only)

Adam Parent: Regions 6 (Traditional Only), 7 & 8

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**

The MOE Expenditure Table was due by October 31, 2021, for PSUs with approved IDEA grants. The MOE Expenditure Table is a federal requirement, and the grant will remain open for late submission. If you were unable to attend the MOE training or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint, are available on the Exceptional Children website [here](#) and on the NC CCIP Home Page. If you have questions, please contact your fiscal monitor.

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- **Special Grants**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. Notification of review is made through NC CCIP. For your review, the Special Grants Training recording, along with the PowerPoint are available on the EC Website [here](#) under the Special Grants section.

- **PRC 167 ESSERF**

Please ensure that budget and grant use of funds align to ensure timely approvals.

- **IDEA/ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)**

The American Rescue Plan funds have been allotted under the following Program Report Codes. The budgets will be submitted the same way as the IDEA budgets. A new application is not required.

PRC 185 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Basic – 611

The funds will align with the IDEA Section 611 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 611 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

PRC 186 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Preschool – 619

The funds will align with the IDEA Section 619 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 619 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

PRC 187 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) CEIS

For PSUs with mandatory CEIS, the funds will align with the CEIS Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the CEIS Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

For PSUs with an approved IDEA grant and needing a grant revision, it should be submitted at the same time as your MOE Expenditures. Contact your fiscal monitor for additional information regarding the IDEA grant status and the submission of the budgets.

- Allotments can be seen on the allotment page of the IDEA Grant in CCIP
- Budgets are submitted through each PSU's budgeting system and will be pulled into CCIP
 - Directors/Coordinators can view the budgets once submitted by clicking on the budget link on the IDEA Grant Sections page
 - The funds can be utilized on any IDEA allowable expense. The Chart of Accounts now contains the allowable budget codes for PRC 185, 186 & 187. It can be found here:
§ <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-district-finance-operations/chart-accounts>
- If the budget aligns with the current Section 611/619 and or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant does not need to be revised.
- If the budget includes line items not currently in the Section 611/619 or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant must be revised to include the new line items. Designate in the Use of Funds that the revision items are for PRC 185/186/187.
 - Example: Current Use of Funds does not include funds for professional development. Add to the Use of Funds:
 - Revision for PRC 185: Professional Development Workshop Expenses

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- After the IDEA Grant and all related budgets are approved, SPD notifies NCDPI School Business. SPD does not allot the funds or know when the funds will be allotted.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 12/03/21
[School Business Newsletter 12/03/21](#)

Math Competition for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Grades 6-8

The Rochester Institute of Technology would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 2022 Virtual Math Competition for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Students can compete independently or as part of a team. All deaf and hard of hearing 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in the US, US Territories, and Canada are invited to participate - there is no fee!

Registration is now open for individual and team registrations. Team registrations close December 15, 2021, and individual registrations close January 15, 2022.

For more information, [visit the RIT website to learn more!](#)

Legally Blind Registration Informational Webinar

Please join us on Tuesday, December 14th at 2:00pm for a webinar to discuss the **updated process** for registering students on the upcoming American Printing House for the Blind Legally Blind Registry.

The complete webinar link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=md28bd30b6881ca2075f691e89c7f4e4b>

Meeting number: 2423 139 6467

Password: APH22

Join by phone

1-415-655-0003

Access code: 242 313 96467

Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Hearing Loss

There continues to be confusion in the field regarding documenting specially designed instruction (SDI) for students with hearing loss on an IEP. "Hearing Impaired Service" does not accurately reflect the SDI a student will receive. The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology section will be hosting a webinar in January that will clarify any misconceptions. In the meantime, if you or your staff have questions about documenting SDI for a student who is deaf or hard of hearing, please contact your Regional Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

PK EC Items of Interest

No new information this week.