



April 6, 2022

News!

LEA Determinations

The EC Division has received a number of questions regarding the 2019-2020 LEA Determinations that were recently delivered to public school units. There are a few key points to keep in mind as you review and problem-solve for improvement based on the 2019-2020 data set:

- The EC Division will be delivering the 2020-2021 LEA Determinations by the end of June 2022. Therefore, PSUs are held harmless for the results of its 2019-2020 LEA Determination, meaning corrective action, if any, will not be ordered by the EC Division until the 2020-2021 IDEA Determinations are issued.
- Reason #1: The EC Division is resyncing its delivery of IDEA Determinations resulting in two notifications for two different data collection periods in close proximity to each other (April 2022 – 2019-2020 FFY and June 2022 - 2020-2021 FFY).
- Reason #2: Given the data lag for IDEA Determinations previously issued and inclusive of the 2019-2020 IDEA Determinations just issued, corrective action has likely already occurred and if effective, will result in improved data for the 2020-2021 IDEA Determinations to be issued in June 2022.
- Reason #3: A discrepancy in calculations for Indicators 11, 12 and 13 for the 2019-2020 FFY data set was identified when responding to an initial technical assistance request from a PSU. This discrepancy potentially improves the determination status for some PSUs and may result in slippage for others. This discrepancy has already been resolved for 2019-2020 IDEA Determinations and is visible in the data dashboard available on [Tableau](#). However, a new 2019-2020 IDEA Determination Memorandum will not be issued, and no corrective action is required at this time. Therefore, these data are currently for your information only.
- The 2020-2021 IDEA Determinations will be issued in June 2022. The data reflected in 2020-2021 IDEA Determinations will inform both the State and local required activities going forward. Any actions that must be taken, will be communicated at that time.
- This explanation will be provided via Memorandum to Superintendents next week through the same communication loops the 2019-2020 IDEA Determinations were issued.
- In the interim, PSUs are encouraged to review the data in Tableau as the authoritative source for 2019-2020 FFY IDEA Determinations. While no corrective action is required for these data, this data set may be important for predicting data trends for upcoming IDEA Determinations.

We sincerely apologize and thank you in advance for your understanding as we continue to improve our data collection. Human errors happen and we wanted to acknowledge these and provide further clarification.

As always, thank you for your inquiries regarding the 2019-2020 IDEA Determinations. The EC Division is committed to supporting your efforts to achieve meaningful outcomes for students as measured by the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR).

In case the Tableau link above does not work please copy and paste this into your browser:

https://public.tableau.com/views/ECAnnualReport_IndicatorsDashboard_LEADeterminations/ReportDashboard?:language=en-US&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link



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UPDATE

19-20 LEA determinations are currently being delivered via individual email to EC directors/coordinators. If you have not yet received your determination, you will receive a corrected copy by the close of business Friday (4/8/22). If you have already received your determination and there was an error associated with it, you will be notified via email.

HB 317 Data Collection for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The annual HB 317 survey that collects data on students who are deaf or hard of hearing, will be distributed prior to April 30 and will be due July 15, 2022. On April 13, a link to a short video tutorial will be provided in the Weekly Update. Please share this with relevant staff. This tutorial will highlight updates to this year's data collection including a feature that will minimize the amount of data collected for students previously submitted. We strongly encourage everyone who is responsible for inputting data within the survey links to watch this tutorial even if they have experience submitting this data in previous years.

Items of Interest

Federal Reporting

- **April Child Count 2022 Schedule**

Correction and Certification Window	
April Child Count opens for all LEAs, Charter Schools, and SOPs	4/1/2022
Deadline for Certification Status	4/22/2022

EC Directors or Data Managers should review the April 2022 Child Count Report 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.

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 Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov. All errors must be corrected, and all Public-School Units must certify their submissions no later than April 22, 2022.

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.



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- **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 – 04/04/2022**

[Monday Message 4.4.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

EC Division Webinar

The EC Division would like to invite all districts and charter schools to a webinar on April 7, 2022, from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. The EC Division will be providing an in-depth overview of the revised process of the Review of Policies, Practices and Procedures as required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Part B State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) measurement table for Indicator 4 - Significant Discrepancy and Indicators 9 and 10 - Disproportionate Representation. This is pertinent to all EC directors and coordinators regardless of their Indicator 4, 9 and 10 outcomes. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the EC director Padlet. Districts and charter schools who are identified as having significant discrepancy and/or disproportionate representation will be notified following the webinar and invited to participate in a session at the May Institute as well as other learning/collaboration opportunities to discuss their data and the review process. [Please join the webinar here.](#)

This meeting will take the place of the EC director's webinar scheduled for 4/19.

Grant Information

- **IDEA Grant Training**

The IDEA grant training is an overview of the submission process of the IDEA grant within NC CCIP. It will highlight changes, focus on areas of the grant, CEIS, and general submission of the grant. There will be two training days offered, Tuesday, April 12th and Wednesday, April 20th. You will only have to attend one of the sessions (Morning (9:00 – 11:30) or Afternoon (1:00 – 3:30)) on the day you choose to attend. Please click the registration link below. Once you have registered, you will receive the meeting link after registration has ended.

- April 12th - Please register for this session no later than, Monday, April 11th at 5:00 p.m.
Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4TvH2VyKCDQkm6g
- April 20th - Please register for this session no later than, Tuesday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m.
Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9HXbtzJFEkostp4

- **Revisions to IDEA Grants**

When a revision is made to the IDEA budgets (PRCs 049, 060, 070, 185, 186 & 187), the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the narrative Use of Funds section. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision



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will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log.

- **Revisions to CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant (PRC 167)**

When a revision is made to the CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant PRC 167 budget, the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the 2021 CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant application. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log of the grant application.

- **Special Grants**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. (If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, the review will start on the next business day 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. Final submission for special grants will be May 16, 2022.

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

American Rescue Plan budgets should be submitted as soon as possible.

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 and PRC 186 Budgets and Allotments Update

The full allotments for PRC 185 and PRC 186 have been released by NCDPI School Business. PSUs should check for discrepancies between the initial planning allotment and the actual allotment. Submitted budgets should be adjusted at this time based on the actual allotment.

Professional Development for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments

Session 2 of *We are going on Data Dives!* will dive deeper into data for providing quality programs for students with visual impairments. This session will be on Thursday, April 28 from 2:30-3:30pm. The Webex link and needed materials will be sent prior to noon the day of the session. Automated captions will be provided.

[Please register](#) now to reserve your spot. Registration closes on April 22. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Crystal Patrick](#). Participants unable to attend session one may contact Ms. Patrick to access the recording.

Scholarship for Students who are Deaf / Hard of Hearing

The TDI Scholarship Program is available to high school students graduating in 2022 who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, or deafblind. For more information about the scholarship, please visit the [scholarship webpage here](#).



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Assistive Technology Free Tool Spotlight:

Looking for a free, flexible, adaptive, and customizable digital learning environment for middle schoolers? What about a tool that also helps readers discover insights about their strengths, preferences, and challenges? A new tool from the Center on Inclusive Software for Learning (CISL) at CAST might be able to help. Check out Clusive. Clusive provides vocabulary-rich leveled versions of high-interest articles and full-length texts. It also provides teachers the ability to add their own documents in an EPB or .docx format.

[Clusive Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Clusive and Bookshare Webinar from CAST](#)

[Clusive Website at CISL](#)

Opportunities for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) has two upcoming opportunities for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Please pass along information about the [Pitch Competition](#) (also known as Youth Ambassador Program) and [Jr. NAD Pages](#). Both opportunities have registration deadlines. Contact Chanel Gleicher Bonheyo for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

School-Based Practice Spring Professional Learning Session

NCDPI Consultants for PT, OT, SLP and Psychological services will host a Professional Learning Session covering a wide variety of topics in April. It will include 2 pre-recorded sessions and an optional live virtual session on April 14, 2022, from 9:00-11:00am. Please see attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Virtual Ethics Course for School-Based OT Practitioners

The NCDPI Consultant for OT will host a virtual ethics course on April 6, 2022, from 3:00 – 4:30pm titled *An Ethical Approach to School Mental Health for Occupational Therapy Practitioners*. A recorded option will also be available by May 1, 2022. See the attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

New NCDPI Course Code Manual

The NCDPI Course Code Committee, which comprises staff from across the agency, has developed a new comprehensive resource for the field, the NCDPI Course Code Manual. This manual, loaded with detailed course information, combines the Course Code Guidance document with many of the other available resources regarding course codes.

The NCDPI Course Code Manual includes guidance on the following topics:

- Course Code Related Policies
- Course Code Digits
- Accountability
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Arts Education Course Manual
- Cambridge Assessment International Education (CIE)
- Career and College Promise (CCP) Course Code Guidance
- Career and College Ready Graduate (CCRG)



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- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Coding
- Course Code Master List
- Generic Course Code Scheduling
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Local Course Titles and Identifying Exceptional Children
- Math Options Charts
- Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Guidelines & Resources
- SBE Policies for Course Coding

The NCDPI Course Code Manual has been published to the NCDPI website for your convenience at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/homebase/course-code-manual>. If you have questions or comments regarding any information in the NCDPI Course Code Manual, please contact the Home Base Team at home_base@dpi.nc.gov

Recruitment for Alignment Studies Summer 2022

Educators from across the state play a critical role in our test development process and in reviewing alignment of the assessments. The Division of Accountability Services is contracting with an outside vendor to conduct two alignment studies this summer and is seeking recommendations for highly qualified teachers.

The first alignment study will be held in June or July (2 days in person) and will review the alignment between End-of-Grade (EOG), End-of-Course (EOC), and NCEXTEND1 tests to the North Carolina academic content standards and the extended content standards for:

- reading and mathematics, grades 3-8
- science, grades 5 and 8
- NC Math 1 and NC Math 3
- English II
- Biology

The second study will take place in July (2 days in person) and will review the alignment between the 2020 WIDA English Language Development Standards for English Learners, grades 1-12, to the North Carolina academic standards in mathematics, English Language Arts, and science.

The vendor will follow up with nominated educators in late April/early May with an additional survey. Further details concerning dates and location will be shared with the educators selected to participate. Educators will be compensated for their time and travel and awarded CEUs.

To nominate highly qualified content teachers, Exceptional Children teachers, English Learner teachers, and district level personnel, please fill out this nomination form <https://bit.ly/NCDPIAlignmentStudy>) by Friday, April 8. You may nominate up to 10 people per form.

If you have any questions, please contact your RAC or RCC.



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Exceptional Children's Division May 2022 Institute - Addressing Systems to Promote Educational Equity

The EC Division May Institute will begin at 9am on Monday, May 9, 2022, at Koury Convention Center, with three days of institute sessions. Post institutes, by invitation only, will occur on May 12, 2022. [Registration](#), hotel, and payment information can be found in the memo. The fee is \$120.00 to attend the general session. Registration packets will be available for pick up on Sunday evening from 4:30-5:30 pm and Monday morning from 7:30-9:00 am, at Registration Desk 1. All sessions will conclude by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 11th. A draft agenda has been placed on the EC Division [website](#). Registration deadline is COB on April 29th, 2022. There will be NO ONSITE registration; You MUST pre-register to attend any part of the Institute. Registration questions should be directed to Nina Adams, nina.adams@dpi.nc.gov. If you have May Institute questions, you may contact Matt Hoskins at matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov.

Parentally Placed Private School Student FAQ

Please see the attached FAQ document designed to address scenarios unique to families seeking evaluations for the purposes of scholarships to attend private schools.

PK EC Items of Interest

IDEA Data Center Webinar

Low Preschool Inclusion Rates: A Problem of Practice or Bad Data?

SPP/APR Indicator 6A data have not budged in decades. Is it true that there hasn't been progress on inclusion for preschoolers with disabilities or are data quality issues preventing us from seeing progress? We know that access to inclusive preschool environments remains elusive for many children with disabilities. We also know reported data may not accurately reflect where children are placed.

Plan to attend *Low Preschool Inclusion Rates: A Problem of Practice or Bad Data?* on April 14th from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET to explore solutions to promote high-quality preschool inclusion practices and methods to improve data quality for indicator 6A. Together, we will dig deeper to understand the relationship between inclusion, placement practices, and quality data collection.

Click [here](#) to find out more and to register.

Action Items/What's Due?

Call for Proposals for EC Conference

The [Call for Proposals](#) for general conference sessions for the 71st Conference on Exceptional Children is now open through May 13, 2022. This year's theme is *Lighthouse Leadership: Bringing Light into the Future*. The attached memo has all the pertinent details. Questions about the call for proposals may be directed to ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov. **(ATTACHED)**

Spring Mentoring Sessions Available for Educational Interpreters

The GAP Mentorship Institute is now accepting applications for the Spring Semester. Applications will be accepted through April 11th. The sessions are from April 12th-May 31st and NC educational interpreters receive 3 FREE sessions. For more information and cost, please see the flyer **(ATTACHED)**.



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<p>April Calendar Items</p>

- **April 7:**
EC Division webinar. Check Weekly Communication for details. Link to join webinar is [HERE](#).
- **April 12 & April 20:**
IDEA Grant Training (links above). Attendance only required for one training session. AM/PM options available on both dates.
- **April 22:**
[Child Count](#) deadline for certification status
- **April 30:**
PRC 29 [Quarterly Behavior Assessment](#) is due.