



May 4, 2022

**News!**

**Related Services Lead/Statewide Meetings**

The related services team is happy to announce the Lead/statewide meetings to be held virtually Friday May 27th. Please see the attached flyer for an agenda and QR code for [registration](#). **(ATTACHED)**

**Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference**

The NC DPI Exceptional Children Division will once again offer the opportunity for all current Dyslexia Delegates to attend the virtual [Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference](#) on **June 9-10, 2022**. Delegates and corresponding EC Directors will soon receive an email regarding registration for this event. The information in the email may only be used by current delegates.

**Survey for Rural Special Education Teachers**

Special education teacher shortages are taking a toll on rural districts, and for that reason, researchers at **Old Dominion University, West Virginia University, and Radford University** are working together collaboratively to learn more about current professional learning and development experiences offered to special education teachers in rural communities.

This **brief anonymous national survey** has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and they kindly request your help by participating and/or disseminating the attached survey. A QR code and link to the survey is included in the attachment, and the link is provided here as well: <https://bit.ly/3vQZxqE>

Please share with colleagues in your district and beyond! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [ahorn@odu.edu](mailto:ahorn@odu.edu). **(ATTACHED)**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

***Due to the May Institute in Greensboro May 9-12, there will be no Weekly Update next week (May 11, 2022).***

**Items of Interest**

**SLD Quick Access Resource Reference**

To assist in easily locating frequently requested resources and information regarding SLD, a [one-page document](#) has been created which provides direct links to those resources. Please share it widely with general and special educators, school leaders, practitioners, related services, problem-solving team members, and others in the field as needed in the work encompassing students with SLD.

**Medicaid in Education Course**

[These on-demand modules](#) provide background on why public schools recover costs for health services from Medicaid, the three programs available for Public School Unit (PSU) participation, how each program works, helpful practices and considerations for all who participate (and much more...).



May 4, 2022

This course includes 4 modules; and will provide .3 CEUs (3 hours). Module 1 provides the context for Medicaid cost recovery. Modules 2-4, intended for school administrators, personnel and contractors cover Medicaid programs, documentation, and additional relevant information.

We hope you find this course helpful. If you have questions or require technical assistance, please contact us, Bill Hussey ([billhussey02@gmail.com](mailto:billhussey02@gmail.com)), Laurie Ray ([laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov)) or Lauren Holahan ([lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov)).

Link to course: [Medicaid in Education Course](#)

In the future, we will also be providing an additional course, open to the public which may assist parents, caregivers and families who have questions. Be on the lookout for this course coming soon!

### **Methodologies and Evidence-Based Practices with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

The provision of specially designed instruction for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) requires educators to have knowledge and understanding of evidence-based practices (EBPs) that support the unique needs of the individual learner. In some cases, these EBPs are applied systematically in unique combinations resulting in a methodology, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Please review and share as appropriate the guidance document on the NCDPI EC Division webpage ["The Role Of Methodologies and Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder."](#) Guidance is intended to provide information for LEAs to consider in order to support educationally sound Individualized Education Program (IEP) team decisions for the implementation of services and effective instruction for students with ASD.

### **ASL Interaction Day for Children**

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, the NC Transportation Museum is hosting an ASL Interaction Day for Children. All children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs) are welcome! For more information, [view the flyer here](#).

### **Accessible Educational Materials for 2022-2023 School Year**

Don't wait until it's too late, start your Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) plan now for the 2022-2023 school year. While it is challenging to know what materials or excerpts from books may be used in a class or course, being prepared is always best practice. It can take Accessible Media Producers (AMPs) months to prepare and produce accessible formats (braille, large print, e-pub, digital) and students require access to the to these formats in a timely manner (at the same time as their peers) in accordance with their IEP. A [template](#) has been created to assist teams in planning for AEM the upcoming school year. You will be asked to create a copy of this template, which will include directions, for security reasons.

As a reminder, Bookshare is a registered AMP with the largest online digital library free to qualified US Students with print disabilities, not just those with visual impairments. Bookshare is an option to ensure you are providing accessible formats in a timely manner. If you would like more information on [Bookshare](#) or would like to know if you already have an account that may not be active, please contact Crystal Patrick, [Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov).



---

May 4, 2022

**AMP Up for AEM (formerly AMP Up for Braille)**

In 2020, NC started the AMP Up for Braille Program, which expands beyond braille to include all accessible formats. So, the name has been changed to AMP Up for AEM. The goal of AMP Up for AEM is for PSUs to have their own Accessible Media Producer(s), or AMPs, who download files of print and digital educational materials from the National Instructional Materials Assistance Center (NIMAC) and produce them in accessible formats (i.e., braille, large print, digital, audio) for eligible students to receive in a timely manner. AMPs receive ongoing support through an AMP Professional Learning Community. To learn more about how your PSU can save time, money, and ensure students receive accessible materials in a timely manner by having an AMP, an informational session will be held on **Tuesday, May 17 at 2:00 pm**. For more information, please contact Crystal Patrick, [Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov).

**NC Accessible Books and Library Services**

NCABLS, the NC Accessible Books and Library Services (formerly NC Library for the Blind) would like to invite readers 21 and under to their Summer Reading Program. Children must be a patron of the library to participate. The program runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. If each participant reads at least 5 books, they receive a prize. The top three readers receive gift cards. If a student is not a patron of NCABLS, it is easy to join. Just go to the library website and download an application. The website is [Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped | NC DNCR \(ncdcr.gov\)](http://LibraryfortheBlindandPhysicallyHandicapped.org). Summer Reading programs are a great skill retention exercise. Help your students retain their literacy skills and have fun at the same time! If you have questions, please contact Gina Powell at [gina.powell@ncdcr.gov](mailto:gina.powell@ncdcr.gov).

<p><b>PK EC Items of Interest</b></p>
---------------------------------------

**Transitioning from Pre-K to Kindergarten**

In accordance with the Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021, a formative assessment must be administered at the end of the Pre-K school year **for all children enrolled in public school preschool classrooms** and the results of the assessment must be shared with the receiving kindergarten teacher. NC DPI, NC Department of Health and Human Services, and Teaching Strategies have collaborated to create a Transition Report to address this legislative requirement and support the state's transition to kindergarten efforts. All pre-k teachers in public schools, as well as teachers in community-based NC Pre-K programs, will complete a Transition Report within Teaching Strategies GOLD® for each child in their class no later than May 31. Pre-K teachers should have access to the Transition Report beginning next week. Transition Reports will be transferred to receiving kindergarten teachers via NC ELI as the new school year begins, providing information about a child's knowledge, skills, and abilities related to Widely Held Expectations for child development.

For a brief demonstration of the Transition Report for Pre-K teachers click [here](#). To review a recording of the April 20, 2022 webinar for Pre-K teachers click [here](#) (password is 9WhQqQyH). Information about the Transition Report for kindergarten teachers will be provided by July 1.

To register for Teaching Strategies Office Hours for the Transition Report click [here](#).



---

**May 4, 2022**

**Join PBS North Carolina at our Impact Early Childhood Education Summit**

The Impact Early Childhood Education Summit is a gathering of Early Childhood Education Professionals, parents, and caregivers aimed at celebrating and supporting those who are helping children, birth through third grade, to grow strong roots for a healthy foundation. What happens in the early years of a child's life shapes the rest of their lives in important ways, but too often, those who are doing the work in those early years are overlooked in professional development and parenting support events. *Content will be available in a hybrid format, with a maximum in-person attendance of 600 people. A select number of sessions will also be offered as online content soon after the conference. Sessions will be 45 minutes in length.*  
Saturday, June 18, 2022, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

LOCATION: UNC Charlotte Student Union, 8845 Carver Road, Charlotte, NC 28262

[Register Now](#) > There is no cost to attend! Teachers may use this Impact Summit for Continuing Education Units.

**NC Child 2022 County Data Dashboard**

NC Child county data cards & interactive data dashboard provide local snapshots of child well-being. 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. [Click here to view the full data sources for the interactive 2022 County Data Cards.](#)

**The Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical Post-Graduate Certificate** program at Georgetown is starting a new cohort. The certificate is a great way to build the capacity of birth through 5 professionals in infant early childhood mental health. Use the link below to explore the certificate program and find out how to apply.

The Certificate in Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health is a comprehensive program for professionals seeking to deepen their clinical knowledge and experience working with parents and young children. Participants will have the opportunity to review, discuss, and synthesize cutting-edge materials and learn from luminaries in the infant mental health field. <https://scs.georgetown.edu/programs/517/certificate-in-infant-early-childhood-mental-health/>

**Child Trends PDG B-5 Evaluation: Family Advisory Opportunity**

As part of Child Trends' work evaluating PDG B-5, they are forming a Family Advisory Group made up of parents and caregivers from across the state and we would love to ensure families engaged through the Transition to Kindergarten initiative are well represented. This group aims to connect the evaluation to the everyday life of families and is in keeping with [North Carolina's Family Engagement and Leadership Framework](#). Advisory group members will be asked to: help Child Trends make meaning of what they are learning through the evaluation, provide feedback on how findings compare to their experiences, and offer suggestions on the best way to ensure that families' voices are heard. The group will meet virtually 2 times per year for 2 hours or less, and families will receive a \$50 gift card for each meeting they attend.



---

**May 4, 2022**

Child Trends would appreciate your help connecting with *parents or caregivers with children under 5* to participate in the Advisory Group. Here are a few ways you can help:

- *Distribute the attached flyer and/or blurb to families in your network*, for example via email newsletters, social media, or printed flyers. If you'd like hard copies to distribute to families, let us know and Child Trends can mail them to you!
- *Connect Child Trends directly with individuals who you think would be a good fit for the Advisory Group* by sharing the attached flyer and contact information with families, or (with permission) sharing their contact information with Child Trends.

*Interested families should contact Child Trends no later than May 6<sup>th</sup> to be included in the first Advisory Group meeting.* They can send a message to [ncpdgevaluation@childtrends.org](mailto:ncpdgevaluation@childtrends.org), call or text 919-323-8463, or sign up [here](https://redcap.link/ncparents) (<https://redcap.link/ncparents>). **(ATTACHED)**

<b>Action Items/What's Due?</b>
---------------------------------

**Reminder: Call for Proposals for EC Conference**

The [Call for Proposals](#) for general conference sessions for the 71<sup>st</sup> Conference on Exceptional Children is now open through **May 13, 2022**. This year's theme is *Lighthouse Leadership: Bringing Light into the Future*. The memo in the 4.6.22 weekly update has all the pertinent details. Questions about the call for proposals may be directed to [ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov).

**PRC 029 Funds 2022-2023 Updates**

Please review your 2021-2022 PRC 029 budget and ensure all funds will be encumbered by **Thursday, June 30, 2022**.

**PRC 029 Request for Funding is now OPEN**

The application process for the PRC 029 grant is open for the 2022-2023 school year. A special budget provision in the 1999 Appropriation Act modified the use of these state dollars to allow expenditure of PRC 029 funds to provide services to "*(i) children with special needs who were identified as members of the Willie M class at the time of dissolution of the class, and (ii) other children with special needs.*" This provision provides the flexibility for PSUs to use these PRC 029 funds for services for students who have significant behavioral and emotional needs in public schools.

This application process will allow PSUs to complete a Comprehensive Needs Grant. The final submission deadline is **Friday, July 1, 2022**.

The application requires each PSU to identify services and indicators that measure the effectiveness of these supports. Prioritization will be given to innovative grant proposals that are designed to address the critical need for identified students.



---

**May 4, 2022**

All students eligible for PRC 029 services must have a completed [Entrance Tool](#). The Entrance Tool must be submitted during the time that the grant is open.

For questions regarding the grant application process please contact your regional Behavior Consultant. For regions 1-4, [Lisa Taylor](#), regions 5-8, [Felicia Goodgion](#) and Section Chief, [Dreama McCoy](#). **(ATTACHED)**

**Reminder: NCDPI Exceptional Children Virtual Assistive Technology Expo**

[The Call for Session Proposals](#) for the AT Expo is now open through May 13, 2022. Accepted proposals will be notified by May 20, 2022. The proposal form may also be accessed using [http://bit.ly/AT\\_Expo22](http://bit.ly/AT_Expo22)

**DeafBlind Intervener Fall 2022 Cohort**

The NC DeafBlind Project's Teacher Support Program through East Carolina University will hold a fall 2022 cohort for DeafBlind Intervener training. Please see the attached flyer for more information. The deadline to respond is **August 26, 2022. (ATTACHED)**

<p><b>May Calendar Items</b></p>
----------------------------------

- **May 1-31**

IDEA 611 & 619 Grant is open in [NC CCIP](#) (closes: **May 31st**) Pre-school Data Collection Survey: *Must be submitted prior to IDEA 619 Grant submission.*

PRC29 Application opens in [NC CCIP](#) (closes: **July 1st**)

*All students eligible for PRC029 services must have a completed [Entrance Tool](#).*

- **May 16th**

All [Special Grant](#) Final Application Submission in [NC CCIP](#) is due.

Indicator 14 (Post-School Outcomes) Survey pens for select PSUs

- **May 17th & May 27th (attendance is optional)**

IDEA Grant Technical Assistance Sessions

8:30am - 11:30 am. & 1:00pm - 4:30pm

- **May 31st**

[School Psychology Recruitment](#) Grant Application Due

IDEA 611 & 619 Grant closes in [NC CCIP](#). *Chief Administrator approval required by close of business.*