

EC Division Weekly Update
January 5, 2022

Happy New Year!

Greetings in this new year, from the EC Division!

We hope each of you and your families had a joyful, restful and restorative holiday season. As we look to this new year, we bring wishes for health, safety and less stress as you navigate the work of special education in your PSUs. May 2022 be a year filled with successes, progress, fulfillment and many less challenges!

Sherry and the EC Division

Items of Interest

January 2022 Regional Director/Coordinator Meetings Registration

The Regional Director/Coordinator Meetings for January 2022 will be held virtually from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following dates:

Region 1- Northeast: January 20th
Region 2- Southeast: January 21st
Region 3- North Central: January 19th
Region 4- Sandhills: January 18th
Region 5- Piedmont-Triad: January 20th
Region 6- Southwest: January 21st
Region 7- Northwest: January 18th
Region 8- Western: January 19th

The EC Director/Coordinator of each PSU along with one guest should register in advance of attending the January Regional Director/Coordinator virtual meeting for their respective region. Once registered, participants will receive the meeting link and agenda information from their Regional Coordinator. The deadline for registration is January 7, 2022 and can be accessed at this [link](#).

Director Advisory Council (DAC) - Newly Elected Representatives

Congratulations to the following EC Directors and Coordinators who have been elected to serve new terms as the DAC representative or Alternate DAC representative for traditional PSUs or charter schools in their respective regions. These new DAC members will begin serving at the first Director's Advisory Council meeting of the new year on January 18th, 2022. They will join current DAC members who are completing the 2nd year of their term. We appreciate the ongoing commitment and support of all DAC members.

Newly Elected DAC Members

Northeast/Region 1: Traditional - Rep: Karen Branch (Bertie), Alternate: Jorgette Williams (Northampton)

Southeast/Region 2: Traditional - Rep: Susan Smith (Duplin), Alternate: Danielle Bryan (Jones); Charter - Alternate: Robert Lawson (Wilmington Preparatory Academy)

North Central/Region 3: Traditional - Rep: Connie Crimmins (Orange), Alternate: Kristin Bell (Durham); Charter - Rep: Julie McCauley (The Expedition School), Alternate: Ashley Barnette (Oxford Preparatory School)

Sandhills/Region 4: Traditional - Rep: Chuck Dulin (Montgomery), Alternate: Kim Bullard (Moore); Charter - Alternate: Carmen Officer (Capitol Encore Academy)

EC Division Weekly Update

January 5, 2022

Piedmont-Triad/Region 5: Traditional - Rep: Pam Watkins (Rockingham), Alternate: Amber Flippen (Surry); Charter - Rep: Beth Barber (Davidson Charter Academy), Alternate: Angela Alonzo (Appalachian Academy at Middle Fork)

Southwest/Region 6: Charter - Alternate: Taryn Kilbert (Union Prep @ Indian Trail)

Northwest/Region 7: Traditional - Rep: Amy Wilson (Catawba); Charter - Rep: Lisa Ervin (New Dimensions), Alternate: Michelle Dellinger (Williams Academy)

Western/Region 8: Traditional - Rep: Brandi Stephenson (Haywood); Charter - Rep: Laura Marsden (Invest Collegiate-Imagine)

Complete List of DAC Members

With the completion of recent elections, all DAC positions are currently filled. You can view a complete list of all current DAC members, including DAC alternate representatives, and their contact information at [this link](#).

LEA Self-Assessments & Follow Up Conversations

We look forward to sharing your regional LEA Self-Assessment data during our January Regional EC Director/Coordinator meetings. Like last year, the next step in processing your LEA Self-Assessment submission is an opportunity to meet virtually with two of your DPI EC Division Regional Team Members on March 1-3 (or otherwise scheduled based on your/EC Division staff availability).

The purpose of these conversations is to:

- Strengthen the partnership between you and DPI EC Division/your regional team
- Support you in your EC improvement planning and implementation
- Inform alignment of DPI support to your needs

This is the [format of these conversations](#); we anticipate they will take 30 minutes or less.

We strongly recommend you take advantage of this opportunity to process your LEA Self-Assessment and the review(s) that were conducted on it. Please indicate your interest to engage in one of these conversations [HERE](#) by February 11, 2021.

Your DPI conversation partners will be in touch with you by February 25 with meeting date/time confirmation and login information.

North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP) Intent to Participate

The Program Improvement and Professional Development (PIPD) Section of the EC Division would like to thank the 71 PSUs who completed the NC SIP Intent to Participate document expressing their participation interest in the 2021-2026 state personnel development grant.

Currently, the NC SIP Intent to Participate PSU information is being reviewed and partnership announcements will be announced by **January 31, 2022**. PRC 082 funding information will follow the partnership announcements.

Federal Reporting

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

EC Division Weekly Update
January 5, 2022

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 – 01/03/2022**
[Monday Message 1.3.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- 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.

EC Division Weekly Update
January 5, 2022

- 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
- 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 – 12/29/21

[School Business Letter 12/29/21](#)

Deafblind / Support Service Provider (SSP) Training

The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a Support Service Provider (SSP) Training. Come explore your awareness, thoughts, and perceptions associated with working with people who are DeafBlind. After completing the session, participants will have a basic understanding of the diversity within the DeafBlind community; have a clear understanding of SSP/interpreter roles, responsibilities, and expectations; be able to incorporate human guiding techniques; be able to provide visual information; and know how to access national and state resources.

For more information about this training, [view the flyer here](#).

For more information about the roles and benefits of an SSP, [click here](#).

Spoken Language Facilitation Course

The spring offering of the Spoken Language Facilitation Course will begin on January 23, 2022. This course is a beginner level exploration of auditory development, vocabulary development, linguistic development, and the numerous strategies (AV strategies) used to enhance language development for students who are deaf or hard of hearing using listening and spoken language. The course has seven modules and there will be numerous opportunities for reflection and application of learning. The learning is asynchronous.

If you have individuals working as Spoken Language Facilitators, or others (including Teachers of the Deaf, Speech Language Pathologists, etc.) supporting students who are deaf or hard of hearing in your PSU and are interested in this course, please email virginia.madorin@dpi.nc.gov.

Reminder: American Printing House for the Blind Legally Blind Registration

The American Printing House for the Blind Legally Blind Registration opened **January 3, 2022**. Please see the December 15, 2021, weekly update for the memo and the parent permission forms in English and Spanish. If you missed the live webinar on December 14 regarding updates to this registration, please contact Terri Terrell, ncaph@dpi.nc.gov for access to the recording or for any other questions related to the legally blind registration.

Funding to be Released through PRC 118

Please see the attached memo regarding disbursement of funding through PRC 118 for Related Services Providers Recruitment and Retention and Autism Problem-Solving teams. **(ATTACHED)**

EC Division Weekly Update
January 5, 2022

PK EC Items of Interest

Recruiting NEW aRPy Ambassadors!

In partnership with the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children and Parent to Parent of Georgia/the Region B PTAC, the ECTA Center is recruiting a new cohort of Ambassadors. If you would like to nominate someone to take advantage of this opportunity, please send them the [link to the application request](#).

What is an aRPy Ambassador?

The ECTA Center established the [aRPy Ambassador initiative](#) to disseminate information about and promote the use of the DEC Recommended Practices (RPs). aRPy Ambassadors are DEC Members who help build state capacity to use the ECTA Center's [Practice Improvement Tools](#) to support implementation of RPs by local practitioners and families. The ECTA Center's [Practice Improvement Tools](#) are aimed at bringing awareness and support to the dissemination and use of the DEC RPs, and include Performance Checklists, Practice Guides for Practitioners, Practice Guides for Families, online modules, and training materials.

Recruitment

We are recruiting a 2022 cohort of professional-level Ambassadors (state agency representatives, IHE, technical assistance and professional development organizations) and family-level Ambassadors representing the Parent Centers (PTIs, CPRCs, and PTACs) to become part of the aRPy Ambassador Initiative. Ambassadors will receive TA resources and support from the ECTA Center and DEC. Individuals should apply with the support of their Parent Center, DEC Subdivision leaders, state Early Intervention coordinator (Part C), state Preschool Special Education Coordinator (Section 619), and applicable employer/supervisor.

Applications are due January 31st, 2022. Applicants will be notified of their status by February 28th, 2022. Request an application using the following link: <https://ectacenter.org/decrp/arpy-application-request.asp#request>

Questions? Email Allison Jones: allison.jones@unc.edu

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
