

**EC Division Weekly Update**  
**January 12, 2022**

<b>EC Division Padlet Updates</b>
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<b><u>Items of Interest</u></b>
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**REMINDER: 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 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)

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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](#).

**REMINDERS: Statewide Corrective Action**

We are seeing a rise in complaints alleging that old/inaccurate information remains on PSU websites (relating to State Complaint 20-043). Please check websites to ensure all “old” information has been removed.

As presented during the mandatory statewide corrective action webinars held in January and February 2021, each PSU was provided a template “Parent/Guardian Notification of Intervention”. Please be certain that you have a local policy and/or practice in place that instructs MTSS staff to provide this to each parent prior to their student participating in any tier, and also when a student moves between tiers. These notifications must be maintained in the student's cumulative file. If the PSU chooses to draft their own letter, please ensure that the content of the provided template is included.

**[ATTACHMENT]**

**NEW EC Monitoring Consultant**

Anikko Gorham joined the EC Division on January 3, 2022 and is serving Region 3 in partnership with Su Stone. Ms. Gorham previously worked in the EC Division and most recently served as the EC Director for Granville County Schools. The resource “Find My Monitor” has been updated and attached. PSUs in Region 3 should reference this document to determine whether their assigned monitoring consultant is Ms. Gorham or Ms. Stone. Ms. Gorham can be reached at [Anikko.Gorham@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Anikko.Gorham@dpi.nc.gov).

**[ATTACHMENT]**

**Legislative Update: Due Process Appeals**

North Carolina has historically had two tiers to Due Process. The first tier included the Due Process hearing held by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the Office of Administrative Hearings. The second tier provided parties the opportunity to appeal the final decision of the ALJ to a State Review Hearing Officer (SRHO) appointed by North Carolina State Board of Education through the EC Division.

As a result of Senate Bill 105 (11/18/21), North Carolina no longer has a second-tier process for appealing the final decision of an ALJ to an SRHO. Parties have the right to bring Civil Action within 30 days of receiving the final decision from the ALJ. Previously, this right was not triggered until the 2nd

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tier process was completed. Since there are no longer appeals to the SRHO, parties may go to Civil Action after the ALJ decision.

Since this is a significant change to the rights of parents and students, there are a number of documents and procedures that must be updated. One of these documents is the *Parent Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education: Notice of Procedural Safeguards*. The EC Division is aware that PSUs purchase these items from the NCDPI Publications Department in bulk at different times of the year. Every effort will be made to communicate when changes are expected to occur so that PSUs do not purchase materials that cannot be used. Please know that the timing of these updates is also contingent upon other requirements for rulemaking that may change the numbering conventions of NC Policy citations. To the extent possible, the EC Division intends to incorporate and complete all changes at one time as appropriate.

**ECATS Updates**

Please remember to review the ECATS Monday Message for this week. Updates regarding NCEXTEND 1 accommodations, the SLD worksheet, and new assessment services types in the service documentation module were provided.

**Federal Reporting**

- **Federal Personnel Survey**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2021-22 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. Responses should include all indicated personnel (employed, contracted, itinerant, full-time and part-time) that served students with disabilities on December 1, 2021. The revised survey includes headcount, FTE, vacancies, salary, and other helpful staffing information for programs supporting students with disabilities.

All LEAs, Charters and State Operated Programs that submitted a December 2021 child count are required to submit personnel data via this survey.

The survey tool will be available mid-February. Training on the new survey fields will be held via webinar on February 9, 2022. Repeat 1-hour sessions will be available at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. The link to attend the training is: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>

- **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 – 01/10/2022**

[Monday Message 1.10.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

**Grant Information**

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**

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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. (If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, the review will start of the next business day after the 15<sup>th</sup>). 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)**

**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 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.

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- 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 – 01/07/22**  
[School Business Newsletter 01/07/22](#)

**North Carolina Social and Emotional Learning Newsletter**

The North Carolina Social and Emotional Learning Newsletter is provided by the North Carolina Social and Emotional Learning Implementation Team which is comprised of cross-agency and cross-division representation from the State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, and Department of Health and Human Services, as well as representation from implementing districts and families/caregivers. This team is working to scale up systemic social and emotional learning across all North Carolina public schools. Please see the most recent edition [here](#) where you will find:

- Key NC Social and Emotional Learning Resources
- Summer and Fall 2021 Released Resources
- NC Social and Emotional Learning Implementation Update
- Social and Emotional Learning and Educational Equity Resources
- Important Dates

**Demystifying Dyslexia**

The EC Division provides the opportunity to engage in the professional learning course, Demystifying Dyslexia, virtually. This course is an introduction to dyslexia and provides educators information regarding evaluation, identification, and education of students with dyslexia. **(ATTACHED)**

**Learning Ally**

NC DPI provides a limited number of memberships for qualified students with a print disability. Please see the memo for more information and the Learning Ally NC Flyer. **(ATTACHED)**

**Upcoming Braille Challenge Events**

Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind for students who are blind or visually impaired and is a unique opportunity for students who access braille as their primary reading media. If you are unfamiliar with the challenge or would like more information, visit the [Braille Institute's Website](#). NC has an eastern and western Braille Challenge. Please feel free to register for the one that best meets your student's needs.

***Eastern*** Braille Challenge – Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 8am-2:30pm with a snow date of Thursday, March 10, 2022. This year's challenge will take place in Apex, NC.

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**Western** Braille Challenge - Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in Claremont, NC.

Permission forms for both the eastern and western braille challenge events are required and provided in this weekly update. Due dates for each are fast approaching and are listed on the forms along with other pertinent information. **(ATTACHED)**

**Webinar: Vision Health of Children with Special Needs – The Facts, The Law, and Best Practices**

The National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health will be hosting a webinar series on the vision health of special needs children. The first webinar will be Wednesday, January 19, 2022, from 4:00-5:15 pm Eastern time. For more information and to register, please visit the [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health Website](#).

**Learning Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP) for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

The AG Bell Association's LEAP Program is now accepting applications for high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing and use spoken language. The LEAP Program provides an opportunity for other teens who are deaf or hard of hearing to connect through activities that focus on a student's strengths. The program is FREE and virtual, and activities are run by adults who are deaf or hard of hearing and use spoken language. For more information, please visit the [LEAP Application Webpage](#). Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis; however, attendance is capped for each session so students should apply as soon as possible.

**Interpreter Workshop: Getting and Keeping Your EIPA Certification**

To work in NC public school settings an interpreter must take and pass the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) with a certain score to meet employment requirements. This workshop will review the EIPA process and each Roman in order to help interpreters get and keep up with their EIPA certification. The workshop will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 am; in order to register for this event please click on the link below: <https://bit.ly/EIPACert>

**Division of Services for the Blind**

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) offers a variety of free resources including Pre-Employment Training Services (Pre-ETS) to students 14 years and older who are Visually Impaired. This service is at no cost and can be in addition to transition services that are already in place in your PSU.

Students with Visual Impairments need to be taught skills related to the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). The ECC includes 9 areas where students with visual impairments may require specialized systematic learning to gain the same skills that their non-disabled peers acquire through incidental visual learning. While the instruction and SDI for these areas come from a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, DSB can provide transition activities and direct resources to assist students with Visual Impairments, similar to Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

It is the goal of DSB to help facilitate the understanding and increase the utilization of their resources with the PSUs across the state. Please access the fliers or contact your regional Consultant for Visual Impairment for more information. For regions 1-4, [Dr. Alan Chase](#), and regions 5-8, [Crystal Patrick](#).

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Questions directly related to Pre-ETS for students with visual impairments, please contact Ellie Heim.  
**(ATTACHED)**

**Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities**

There continues to be confusion in the field regarding documenting specially designed instruction (SDI) for students with low incidence disabilities on an IEP. “Hearing Impaired Service” or “VI Service” does not accurately reflect the SDI a student will receive. The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology section will be hosting a webinar on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm (webinar link will be provided next week) that will clarify any misconceptions. In the meantime, if you or your staff have questions about documenting SDI for a student with a low incidence disability, please contact your Regional Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vision Impairment or Deaf-blind.

<b>PK EC Items of Interest</b>
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<b>COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION</b>
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