



Weekly Update
December 14, 2022

News !

Happy Holidays!



The Office of Exceptional Children wishes each of you a wonderful holiday season! May you enjoy family and friends as you take time to reflect on the magic of the season. Find ways to rest and rejuvenate during this break and thank you as you continue to support students, families, educators and administrators.

*The Weekly Update will return on **January 4, 2023**.
Sherry & the OEC*

Teacher Recruitment PSU Structures

NCDPI has partnered with CEEDAR (*Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform*) Center to support teacher recruitment and retention efforts across our state. The stakeholder group is seeking feedback from all PSUs related to teacher recruitment structures. Please take a moment to [complete this brief survey](#). The purpose of this study is to help us learn more about the needs of districts in NC. This survey should take around 15 minutes to complete. You do not have to participate in the survey and there are no foreseeable risks by taking this survey. Any information you will share will be delivered to the team anonymously unless you choose to identify yourself. ***If teacher recruitment efforts are the responsibility of another department within your PSU, please forward this brief questionnaire.*** The survey will close on December 23rd.

SIMR Office Hours

Everyone is welcome to attend SiMR Office Hours on the following dates from 11a-12p:

- Friday, Dec. 16
- Monday, Dec. 19
- Thur, Dec. 22

Join at: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan>

Additional sessions will be added in January based on need.



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Discipline Blog from OSEP

Valerie C. Williams, director of the Office of Special Education Programs, [introduced a blog series](#) that will explain topics of interest related to the discipline and behavior guidance package released by her office this past summer.

The blog series will expound on topics such as alternatives to exclusionary discipline, informal removals, discipline disparities, and behavior as part of a free appropriate public education. The series will also feature relevant resources for stakeholders to encourage a shift to address challenging behavior proactively, positively and preventatively.

DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR SERIES

Introduction

NC State Improvement Project (NC SIP) Newsletter

Program Improvement and Professional Development is pleased to share the [2022 Winter Edition](#) of NC SIP Connect. Check out what's new, information, and resources related to NC SIP and its three priority areas: literacy, mathematics, and adolescent literacy. Feel free to share with others.

Save the Date: March Institute

The March Institute will take place Monday, February 27 through Wednesday, March 1. Special meetings will take place on Thursday, March 2. The meeting will be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. Registration information will be available in the near future.

Items of Interest

ECATS Advanced Reporting: Update

The ECATS Advanced Reporting platform will update to Business Objects, version 4.3, by Friday, December 16, 2022. ECATS Advanced Reporting will be view-only on Thursday, December 15th and Friday, December 16th. On Monday, December 19, 2022, users will see the upgraded version when opening Advanced Reporting in ECATS.

ECATS Data Manager Contact Directory

Please click the following link to access the ECATS Data Manager Contact Directory:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tQFdgbqV1kqhMXN9PIGR38JrYbvR8UuZ/edit?rtfpof=true>

Be sure to review and update the ECATS Data Manager who serves as the point of contact for your Public School Unit. Thank you for your attention to this.

The MAGIC of Math for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students:

This two-day in-person presentation held on **Thursday February 9th** and **Friday February 10th** will help decipher and navigate the Magic of mathematics to support the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. These two days will not only teach the theory behind the language of math but will provide hands-on



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experience and teaching strategies to take back to the classroom and use when interpreting math. Register by clicking the following link as seats are limited: <https://bit.ly/DHHMath23> Times for both days will be from 9:00 am-4:00pm and will be held at DPI Room 150 S located at 301 N. Wilmington St. Raleigh NC. Questions about this professional learning can be directed to M. Antwan Campbell at antwan.campbell@dpi.nc.gov.

ICYMI

Science Extended Content Standards Stakeholder Input

The Offices of Academic Standards and Exceptional Children is pleased to share the first draft of science standards. The comment period for the draft science standards will close on December 18. We encourage all PSUs to share this information regarding the draft surveys (K-12 and Extended Content Standards) with their stakeholders.

State Board of Education policy specifies that the NC Department of Public Instruction will formally collect feedback from educators, administrators, parents, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry representatives, national organizations, and other education agencies on each draft of the revised K-12 Science Standards and the Science Extended Content Standards.

Every Student Succeeds Act allows states to adopt alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities if they are aligned with the challenging state academic standards noted above and reflect professional judgment as to the highest possible standards achievable by such students. These alternate academic achievement standards in North Carolina are called the Extended Content Standards.

This survey aims to obtain input from each PSU on the K-12 Science Extended Content Standards to inform revision decisions, which may include changes, clarifications, additions, deletions, or replacements to the current standards. This survey is meant for stakeholder input. The survey link can be found here: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNG5U6QPtlzhXg

Coming Soon - Combined Expenditure Report

We are excited to announce that we are working on a Combined Expenditure Report to help you track all funds in PRC118, PRC029, and PRC119! Be on the lookout for the Wednesday Communication announcing its release.

Federal Reporting

● **December Child Count**

The December Child Count captures federal reporting data on students receiving special education as of December 1, 2022. The December Child Count certification window opened on December 1st and must be certified by close of business on December 20th. **There will be no extensions to the December 20th due date.** It is expected for the EC Director to certify the December Child Count by the due date. The integrity of the data is always at risk when the Department of Public Instruction must finalize the data for any PSU. So, it is imperative that the EC Director reviews and certifies the December Child Count data on time. If someone other than the EC Director certifies the December Child Count in ECATS, the Child Count Verification form



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must be completed and submitted to Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at Khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov. The December 2022 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 – 12/12/2022**

[Monday Message 12.12.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **IDEA American Rescue Plan (PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187)**

New Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been sent out through CCIP for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187. The previous GANs that were provided incorrectly stated that the Subaward Budget Period of Performance/Subaward Period ends on 9/30/2024. The newly issued GAN has the correct period of performance of 7/01/2021-9/30/2023 with a subaward amount of 0.00 because all funds are carryover funds with no new allotment. All funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and spent by 12/31/2023.

- **IDEA Funds and Overtime Pay**

Overtime pay for classified employees is an allowable expense in federal grants. For the classified employee to receive overtime pay out of federal funds the employee is required to be serving students with disabilities 100% of the time. If the employee is serving non-disabled students in any capacity, then the overtime cannot be paid out of federal funds.

- **IDEA Grant and Budget Update**

The Object Code 122 EC-Salary-Interim Teacher-Non-Certified has been removed from the Chart of Accounts for all federal EC Funds. EC Teachers paid from federal funds are required to hold licensure in Exceptional Children.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF LEGALLY BLIND STUDENTS Reminder!

The annual registration of students who qualify as legally blind will open **January 3, 2023**. The Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students is used to calculate the amount of Federal Quota Funds designated for the purchase of educational materials for eligible students through the American Printing House for the Blind. Students in public and private schools, including home schools, are eligible to participate in this program. A Webex recording containing detailed instructions and information is available here: [NC APH 2023 Census](#) Password: NCaph#2023. All updated information and necessary forms are attached and will be available 12/15/2022 here: [Visual Impairments | NC DPI](#). **[ATTACHED]**

Please note: All APH orders need to be in by December 20, 2022. Ordering will be paused from December 28, 2022 until March 16, 2023 in order to complete Phase 1 of the Census.



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PK EC Items of Interest

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Early Learners Professional Learning

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children in collaboration with the Office of Early Learning are pleased to offer a new professional learning opportunity, [Autism Spectrum Disorder and Early Learners](#). This is a 12-hour online course that includes 10 hours of asynchronous online content and two 1 hour live webinars for a total of 12 contact hours (1.2 CEUs). This series is designed for preschool teachers serving in LEA-operated classrooms or in itinerant roles who would like to learn more about evidence-based strategies for serving young children with autism and related disorders. Please consult the overview linked above for additional information, timelines, and steps for registration. Inquiries may be directed to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov

Listserv Update

Beginning January 2023, preschool exceptional children updates will transition from the current NCPEN (ncpen@listserv.unc.edu) to a DPI GovDelivery listserv specifically for the Preschool Exceptional Children Program. This is a closed listserv available to LEA staff members who have an interest in preschool exceptional children updates. Please complete this [form](#) to be included on the listserv.

Compliance Tip of the Week

No Tip for this week

December Calendar Items/What's Due?

December 1st - December 20th

- Child Count opens on December 1st and closes on December 20th. All PSUs are required to submit.

December 5th - 16th

- Regional Meeting registration window opens on December 5th and closes on December 16th. Registration link will be forthcoming.

December 8th

- State-identified Measurable Results (SiMR) virtual make-up session. If you were unable to attend the Administrative Institute on November 2nd, a link to join the session is [HERE](#). (12 - 3:30pm)

December 9th

- EC Director Webinar (9-10) Registration is [HERE](#).

January 6th

- EC Office Hours: Topic - Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plans
9:30a - 11:00a
No registration required. Join using this link. <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>