



Weekly Update
April 26, 2023

General Information

New Section: Early Childhood Exceptional Children

The Office of Exceptional Children is pleased to announce the addition of a new section devoted to Early Childhood EC services. The ECEC will facilitate the implementation of quality preschool programs and services for young children with disabilities through strategic planning that integrates federal and state guidelines with agency goals. This work will be led by two Section Chiefs - Keashia Walker and Dr. Dawn Meskil.



Keashia Walker



Dr. Dawn Meskil

Summer Institutes 2023

We are excited to announce the registration opening for the 2023 Office of Exceptional Children Summer Institutes! This year the division will host one week of in-person institutes as well as an additional week for virtual live institutes. Please reference the [Summer Institutes Guide](#) for information around the institutes offered, registration, payment, and much more. Registration ends on June 29, 2023.

LEA Representative Needed – Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children

The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (Council) is established as an Advisory Council to the State Board of Education. Its establishment is set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) federal regulations in §§ 300.167-300.169 and the North Carolina General Statutes in §115C-121.

The Council advises the State Board of Education with respect to the unmet needs of children with special needs and in the development and implementation of policies related to the coordination of services for students with disabilities. The Council also advises the State Board of Education with respect to developing evaluations, reporting on data, and developing corrective action plans to address findings in federal monitoring reports. For more information about the Council, please visit The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children section of the [Parent Resources webpage](#), or email Alexis Utz, alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov.

The Council is currently seeking a LEA representative to replace Jennifer DeGen who served on the Council for 8 years. The meetings are held in September, December, March, and June with virtual attendance options. The



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term for this position is July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027. If you are interested in becoming a member, please send a resume to Alexis Utz, alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov. All resumes will be shared with the Executive Committee of the Council for review and recommendation to the State Board of Education in June.

Call for Nominations: [School Psychologist Practitioner of the Year and Innovative Practices Awards](#)

Special education leaders are invited to nominate exemplary school psychologists for the awards described in the announcement linked above. Nominations for both of these awards will be accepted through **June 6**. Awards will be presented during the North Carolina School Psychology Association's Fall Conference in October.

Administrative/Supervisory

Procurement Information Related to Accessible Materials.

The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) has provided State coordinators [procurement information](#) that may assist PSUs in ensuring timely delivery of accessible formats to students. Please share this informative handout with anyone in your PSU involved in purchasing textbooks or educational materials. If you have additional questions about this or the provision of Accessible Educational Materials (AEM), please contact your state NIMAC Coordinator, [Crystal Patrick](#).

PRC 029 Request for Funding for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

The application process for the PRC 029 grant will open on May 1, 2023. Please see the attached memo for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Supervisor Stipend - School Psychology Intern: There are (limited) funds available to support the capacity building efforts of public-school units (PSUs) that utilize school psychology internship programs as a workforce development strategy. Local directors who would like to request stipends for fully employed school psychologists who have added 'supervision of interns' to their existing duties should refer to this [MEMO](#) for further details.

Medicaid Updates

We learned from NC Medicaid that an error was occurring in NC Tracks resulting in denied claims for certain telehealth services provided by LEAs. The error has been corrected and NC Tracks will now recognize place of service 03 under 96137 for MCCRIV payor. Please consult with your Medicaid vendor to reprocess relevant claims up to one year old. Questions about this issue can be directed to melissa.martin@dhhs.nc.gov

Instructional/Related Services/Disability Specific

East Carolina University Assistive Technology Foundations Course

The summer and fall dates for the Assistive Technology Foundations Continuing Education course are now on the [ECU website](#). There will be one session this summer and two sessions in the Fall semester.



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Concept Development for Families of Children with DeafBlindness at the NC Zoo

Families of children with DeafBlindness are invited to the NC Zoo in Asheboro on Friday, May 12, 2023, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Join us for a day of fun including learning about concept development and sensory awareness. To register, contact Debra Pickens, dpickens@ecacmail.org.

Dyslexia Capacity Building Instructor Opportunity

The Exceptional Children Division invites currently certified and public school employed Reading Research to Classroom Practice instructors to complete the requirements for certification as a provider of the NC DPI approved training on dyslexia. Please see the memo and application. **(ATTACHED)**

Understanding SLD in Math Capacity Building Instructor Opportunity

The Exceptional Children Division invites currently certified and public school employed Foundations of Math instructors to complete the requirements for certification as a provider of the NC DPI approved training on specific learning disabilities in math. Please see the memo and application. **(ATTACHED)**

PRC 118 Autism Request for Funding

The Office of Exceptional Children allocates PRC 118 Autism (AU) funding to assist Public School Units (PSUs) to increase capacity in the implementation of an effective autism program to improve outcomes for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

There are two levels of support and funding available, General Support or Team Support. PSUs can choose to participate in either General Support or Team Support based on the district's priorities regarding autism programming and its alignment with their strategic plans.

The **General Support** level will allow PSUs to access ASD specific professional learning (PL) for the purpose of increasing educators' knowledge and use of evidence-based programming in the provision of services to students with ASD.

The **Team Support** level is available for PSUs to:

- Access PL for the purpose of increasing educators' implementation of effective services to students with ASD.
- Develop or maintain an Autism Support Team (AST) with the skills needed to provide support within the PSU.
- Provide PL and ongoing support (including but not limited to consultation, coaching, PLCs, etc.) within the PSU.

Funding amounts allocated will be dispersed in a lump sum based on PSU Average Daily Membership (ADM). A memo outlining acceptable use of funding will be disseminated when allocations are disbursed.

To request PRC 118 AU funding, please follow these steps:



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1. Review these linked documents that provide details regarding [General Support](#) and [Team Support](#).
2. Choose the one option below that best fits your PSUs needs regarding PRC 118 AU funding. This will allow you to prepare your information for the Request for Funding submission (see #3).
 - [General Support Questions](#)
 - [Team Support Questions](#) for those who did **not** receive PRC 118 AU funds in 2022-2023
 - [Team Support Questions](#) for those who did receive PRC 118 AU funds in 2022-2023
3. Complete your [Request for Funding Form](#) by **July 1, 2023**. *Note: this submission date is earlier than years past.

Questions regarding PRC 118 Autism Funding may be directed to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov.

Early Childhood

Early Childhood EC Spring Meeting

Our **virtual** spring meeting is scheduled for **April 27, 2023, from 10 am - 3 pm**. Please register here:

<https://forms.gle/TxCaV69oGb9hRQ479>.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessment Training

We are planning to host a virtual, two-day TPBA training on May 31 and June 1, 2023, from 9am - 4 pm each day. More details to follow.

DCDEE: New Child Care Grant Applications Now Open!

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education invites current and potential North Carolina child care providers to apply for new, one-time, competitive [Child Care Expansion and Access Grants](#). Early Care & Learning Expansion & Access Grants can be used for startup costs and projects to expand capacity. Watch the [E&A Grants webinar](#) on YouTube and learn more [here](#).

OPPORTUNITY: Innovative Technology for Early Childhood Assessment

The COVID-19 pandemic forced practitioners in early intervention and early childhood special education to adopt new ways to conduct assessments. Using technology to administer assessments remotely provided new ways to learn about what children know and can do in everyday situations but it also presented challenges. An unanswered question is can early childhood capitalize on the opportunities technology provides for authentic assessment while addressing issues such as unequal access to technology, limited internet access, and security concerns.

Interested in using technology for authentic assessment (that is, have used or are currently using or would be interested in using technology in the future)? Learn more [here](#). To ensure a coordinated response from NC, please reach out to Dawn Meskil at dawn.meskil@dpi.nc.gov if this opportunity is of interest.



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ICYMI

Director's Webinar – April 18, 2023

The recording from the webinar was uploaded to this [google folder](#) last Thursday.

EESD Webinar Session 11

Session 11 of the Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality monthly webinar series will be held on **Thursday, April 27 from 3:00pm-4:30pm**. This month's presenter will be Amanda Goodenough, founder, and LEO (Lead Executive Officer) of Goodenough Consulting. Please view the EESD webinar document for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Calendar Items/What's Due?

- **OVERDUE** **Combined Expenditure Reports (due on March 15, 2023)**
Submit ASAP to cer@dpi.nc.gov
- April – May SE DeafBlind Webinar Series
- April 27 Early Childhood EC Spring Meeting
10:00am – 3:00pm
Virtual – Registration link: <https://forms.gle/TxCaV69oGb9hRQ479>.
- April 27 EESD Webinar Session 11
3:00pm – 4:30pm
- April 30 PRC29: Quarterly Behavior Support Assessment; NC Behavior Support Site
- May 1 IDEA Grant Opens
- May 1 PRC 029 Grant Application Opens
- May 16 Director's Advisory Committee Meeting
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
- May 31 Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessment Training
Virtual: 9:00am – 4:00pm
- June 1 Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessment Training
Virtual: 9:00am – 4:00pm



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- June 6 Nominations Due for *School Psychologist Practitioner of the Year* and *Innovative Practice Awards*
- July 1 PRC 118 Autism Request(s) for Funding Due