

# Exceptional Children Information for Parents

August 18, 2021

## STEM Opportunity for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Hands & Voices, a non-profit national organization, has partnered with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) to create a project called "Casual Conversations." This project pairs a deaf or hard of hearing role model in the STEM field with a deaf or hard of hearing student who is interested in a STEM career. This project is currently looking for middle/high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing and who are interested in: IT field/software, nursing/medical, or chemistry/biology.

Students or families interested in this opportunity should fill out this form: [www.tinyurl.com/HVSTEMProject](http://www.tinyurl.com/HVSTEMProject)

## School-Based Mental Health Policy

In June of 2020, [Session Law 2020-7](#) was approved by the North Carolina General Assembly. It is an act to require the State Board of Education to adopt a school-based mental health policy and to require k-12 school units to adopt and to implement a school-based mental health plan that includes a mental health training program and a suicide risk referral protocol.

The NC State Board of Education then adopted [SHLT-003:School-Based Mental Health Policy](#) that aligns with legislation and details compliance requirements.

The mental health plan will address the following topics:

- A. Youth mental health
- B. Suicide prevention
- C. Substance abuse
- D. Teenage dating violence and, in accordance with SL 2019-245,
- E. Child sexual abuse prevention and
- F. Sex trafficking prevention

For additional information visit the DPI School Mental Health Policy [website](#).

You can find previous newsletter in the Parent Newsletter google folder at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ECParentNewsletters>



North Carolina Department of  
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## Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
  - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Arc of the Triangle [Events](#)
- Autism Society [Workshops](#)
- Autism Speaks [Information Topics](#)
- CADRE [Parent Resources](#)
- ECAC [Events](#) & [Recorded Webinars](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](#)
- NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](#)
- Special Olympics NC [Events](#)

## Run/Walk for Autism

The Autism Society of NC's [Fall Run/Walks](#) in WNC, the Triad, and the Triangle will be in-person! Make plans now to join us for an amazing day of community that will improve the lives of children and adults with autism.

For each event, we're also offering the opportunity to participate virtually, which is a great option for friends and family across the country who want to be part of your team and help fundraise, or for people who can't attend the event. Virtual participation includes a T-shirt.

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