



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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February 10, 2021

To: Exceptional Children Directors
EC Coordinators, Charter Schools
Directors, State Operated Programs
Directors, ESDB Schools

From: Sherry H. Thomas *SH T*

Subject: House Bill 317 Data Collection for the 2020-2021 School Year

The annual data collection for Session Law 2013-119, House Bill 317: *An Act To Improve Educational Outcomes For North Carolina Children Who Are Deaf Or Hard of Hearing*, was paused for the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19. The data collection is resuming for the 2020-2021 school year. However, the Sensory Support and Assistive Technology (SSAT) section needs to confirm the primary and secondary contact that will receive the data collection spreadsheet with a list of students for which your LEA needs to report. Please complete the brief survey [by clicking this link](#) by Monday, March 8, 2021, to update this information.

Each LEA who has students identified with a primary eligibility category of deaf or hearing impaired will receive a spreadsheet of the student links on Thursday, March 11, 2021. This data will come from the Qualtrics system. If you have not received an email by that date, please check your spam or junk email folder as a first course of action. If that proves unfruitful, please contact your Regional Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, listed below, for assistance.

The SSAT section continues to work with Dr. Thomas Page, Research Specialist from the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill, to assist in the collection and management of the data. The Qualtrics system will once again be the platform for the collection and reporting of data. Dr. Page is recording an updated tutorial video that will review the Qualtrics reporting tool and the updates to it. The link to the updated video will be provided via the EC Director Weekly Update by March 1, 2021. The video will be a valuable resource that should answer any questions that could arise as data is entered into the electronic tool. Specific questions about the tool may be directed to your Regional Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing or to Tom Page directly at Thomas_page@med.unc.edu.

All data must be completed and submitted within the Qualtrics platform by Friday, July 16, 2021.

Your compliance with this legislative directive is greatly appreciated. Improving the educational outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing is the primary purpose of this data collection. Therefore, complete and accurate data is necessary to inform decisions that will meet the unique needs of students. Your Regional Consultants for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are always ready and available to help you review your data and work with you to develop a long-range plan for improving outcomes for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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