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News!

The Third Annual Virtual Assistive Technology Expo (AT Expo)

The third AT Expo will be held virtually August 2, 2022. [The Call for Session Proposals](#) for the Expo is now open through **May 13, 2022. Accepted proposals will be notified by May 20, 2022.** The proposal form may also be accessed using http://bit.ly/AT_Expo22

NCDPI Exceptional Children Division announces Assistive Technology Listserv

The NCDPI Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce that a new listserv has been created called the Assistive Technology Listserv. This listserv will share important information regarding opportunities to engage with information as it relates to Assistive Technology, tools, training, and other opportunities. You can join the listserv by visiting the [Email Updates sign up site](#).

OSEP Fast Facts: Students with Disabilities who are English Learners (ELs) Served under IDEA Part B

OSEP has released a new [OSEP Fast Facts: Students with Disabilities who are English Learners \(ELs\) Served under IDEA Part B](#), which explores IDEA, Section 618 data with the specific lens on one of the fastest-growing populations of students with disabilities served under IDEA.

NEW: Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality

Please find materials, including recorded webinars from the EC Division on Significant Disproportionality at this [link](#).

Items of Interest

Tip Sheet: Modified Day Placement and Documentation in ECATS

The directions for documenting a student's modified day placement in ECATS has been attached to this communication. Please consider establishing local practices to ensure the appropriate use and local monitoring of modified day placements. These placements should be considered short-term in nature, reviewed frequently for appropriateness, and include a plan for transitioning back to a full school day. Also, as a courtesy alert, the use of Home/Hospital and Modified Day placements will be a priority area for fiscal and program monitoring when the new cycle of monitoring begins July 1, 2022. Technical assistance regarding this area and other monitoring priorities will be provided in advance of any public-school unit (PSU) being monitored. **(ATTACHED)**

Program Monitoring Activities - Spring/Summer 2022

Currently and during the 2020-2021 SY, the Policy, Monitoring and Audit team has worked to complete the modified Program Compliance Reviews and associated corrective action for the PSUs delayed as a result of COVID-19. These efforts were designed to complete the 5-Year Cycle Program Monitoring for the State's PSUs and provide a respite for PSUs during the transition back to in-person learning amid staff shortages.

Program Monitoring Consultants have also collected data through desktop audits for Indicator 11 (Child Find/90-Day Timelines), Indicator 12 (Transition from Part C to Part B), and Indicator 13 (Secondary Transition) for federal reporting required for the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). The



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aggregate data from this monitoring cycle has been analyzed and will inform the new monitoring cycle beginning July 1, 2022. Targeted technical assistance will be provided to PSUs prior to the start of this cycle.

In the interim, some monitoring activities can no longer be delayed and are described below. A great deal of consideration has been given to how and with whom these activities must occur in order to cause as little disruption as possible to PSUs, particularly as the end of the 2020-2021 SY approaches.

1. SPP/APR Indicator 13: Secondary Transition

This activity will be conducted using an ECATS virtual desktop audit of IEPs developed during the 2021-2022 SY with an emphasis on secondary transition components only. ***No action is required to be taken by PSUs in preparation for monitoring.***

The selection criteria for PSUs to be included in this sample is based upon the State's aggregate data collected during the Program Compliance Review (PCR) Cycle that occurred between the 2014-2015 SY and 2019-2020 SY.

PSUs selected for the upcoming Secondary Transition Monitoring are PSUs that:

- Achieved < 70% compliance on its Secondary Transition sample when monitored during the PCR cycle;

PSUs that will be *excluded* from the upcoming monitoring are PSUs that:

- Participated in the modified PCR activity during the 2020-2021 SY;
- Remain in corrective action from its PCR visit;
- Do not provide services to student aged 16 or older; and
- Achieved > 71% compliance on its Secondary Transition sample.

The purpose of selecting PSUs for Secondary Transition monitoring based on statewide aggregate data is intended to achieve the following:

- Determine whether corrective action taken at the time the PSU was monitored continue to improve student outcomes for secondary transition;
- Inform statewide targeted technical assistance; and
- Improve postsecondary outcomes for students statewide.

PSUs selected for this activity (approximately 94 PSUs) will be notified by memorandum in the next couple of weeks. In the interim, if there are questions, please contact Carol Ann M. Hudgens, Section Chief for Policy, Monitoring and Audit, at CarolAnn.Hudgens@dpi.nc.gov.

2. Exceeding 1.0 Participation in the NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment during the 2020-2021 SY

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to ensure that the total number of students assessed in Reading, Mathematics, and Science using the alternate assessment, based on the alternate academic achievement standards, does not exceed 1.0 percent of the total number of all students assessed in each subject.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) anticipated exceeding the 1.0 percent cap on students assessed with the alternate assessment, NCEXTEND1, during the 2020-2021 SY and



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requested a waiver of section 34 C.F.R. §200.6(c)(2). As part of the waiver, NCDPI is required to monitor PSUs exceeding the 1.0 percent cap.

PSUs selected for this targeted monitoring activity will be notified by memorandum next week.

Federal Reporting

- **April Child Count 2022 Schedule**

Correction and Certification Window	
April Child Count opened for all LEAs, Charter Schools, and SOPs	4/1/2022
Deadline for Certification Status	4/22/2022

EC Directors or Data Managers should review the April 2022 Child Count Report for errors such as duplicate records, incorrect age, grade, setting, and disability. Please remember that when certifying the child count, the EC Director is assuring that all data submitted is accurate.

According to the State Auditors, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs and Lead Administrators of Charter schools must certify the child count data. For this to occur, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs must use their “username” and “password” to log into ECATS to verify and certify the child count data. If the EC Director does not certify the count, a signed and scanned verification form must be submitted to Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov. All errors must be corrected, and all Public-School Units must certify their submissions no later than April 22, 2022.

Thank you for your attention to this vital transfer of information. If you have questions regarding child count procedures or technical issues while submitting the child count, please contact ZenDesk.

- **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 – 04/11/2022**
[Monday Message 4.11.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **IDEA Grant Training**

If you were unable to attend the training yesterday, you will have another opportunity on April 20th. You only have to choose one session (morning or afternoon). Please click the link below to register. Registration will



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close on Tuesday, April 19th at 5:00 pm. Once registration ends, an email will be sent to you with the link for the webinar.

Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9HXbtzJFEkostp4

A recording of the training will be available on the EC Division website after both sessions are completed and a link will be shared on the April 27th communication.

- **Revisions to IDEA Grants**

When a revision is made to the IDEA budgets (PRCs 049, 060, 070, 185, 186 & 187), the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the narrative Use of Funds section. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log.

- **Revisions to CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant (PRC 167)**

When a revision is made to the CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant PRC 167 budget, the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the 2021 CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant application. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log of the grant application.

- **Special Grants**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. (If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, the review will start on the next business day after the 15th). 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. Final submission for special grants will be May 16, 2022.

- **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 and PRC 186 Budgets and Allotments Update

The full allotments for PRC 185 and PRC 186 have been released by NCDPI School Business. PSUs should check for discrepancies between the initial planning allotment and the actual allotment. Submitted budgets should be adjusted at this time based on the actual allotment.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 04/08/22

[School Business Newsletter 04.08.22](#)



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Notifications: Unresolved Noncompliance

The EC Division has recently started sending notifications to PSUs that are within 30 calendar days of its one-year timeline due date for the correction of noncompliance identified through monitoring. In exercising the State's monitoring authority, the NCDPI EC Division must ensure that when it identifies noncompliance with a requirement of Part B of the IDEA by PSUs, the noncompliance is corrected as soon as possible, and in no case later than one year after the State's identification of noncompliance. [§300.600\(e\)](#)

Unfortunately, despite grace periods, extensive technical assistance and additional flexibility provided as a result of COVID-19, some PSUs are coming to the end of their corrective action timeline with far too many pending activities left to resolve in a timely fashion. While the current notifications have been currently tied to corrective action associated with Program Compliance Reviews, this standard operating procedure will likely be extended to any EC Division activity that requires a corrective action timeline. More details will be provided about this process in the coming weeks.

Accessibility with Desmos Calculators

Desmos calculators used within the NC online EOG/EOC platforms have many accessibility features and functions in addition to ongoing work with screen reader software. Please mark this video as a resource for [Desmos' general accessibility](#).

<p>PK EC Items of Interest</p>

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning, April 2022 Newsletter:

[Individualizing Instruction for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder characterized by social, communication, and behavioral strengths and challenges. Children diagnosed with ASD show behaviors and delays in social communication skills and restricted and repetitive interests. However, each child has unique strengths and challenges across the autism spectrum. This makes planning for individualized instruction important. Each child's strengths, interests, and learning style should be considered when selecting learning goals and planning for instruction.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2022 marks the third year Child Abuse Prevention Month occurs during the COVID-19 pandemic. While children and families are facing unprecedented stress during the pandemic, child maltreatment is preventable. There are programs, strategies and policies proven to strengthen families so they can address their basic needs and better care for their children.

Register for this Prevent Child Abuse NC's webinar to learn the basics of child maltreatment prevention and how you can take action to ensure children have positive experiences, and families have the resources they need, when they need them:

Ensuring Strong Foundations for NC's Children Webinar

Learn the Basics & Take Action – open to the public

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 10:30 AM | [Register Now](#)

For more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month, including a toolkit with customized resources for early care and education teachers, please visit preventchildabusenc.org.



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NEW Pre-K to Kindergarten Transitions Report Information Sessions

NCDPI is excited to invite you to a Webex information session hosted by Teaching Strategies for the NEW Pre-K to Kindergarten Transitions Report that will be required this Spring! These sessions are designed for Pre-K teachers and Pre-K administrators. In addition to an overview and demonstration of the Pre-K to Kindergarten Transitions Report, the transitions to kindergarten initiative, its background and significance, the legislative requirements and ways to monitor the TS GOLD data will be presented. Links for the virtual sessions are below.

Dates & Times (Teachers Only)	Session Links
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session April 13, 2022 Time: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2750c12652dd7258467d821acdfd88b5
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session April 20, 2022 Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e06d3c2dedec400f8e9b83d53debd8d9c
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session April 27, 2022 Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=edce675ca2148d508a7e09e3335c124a6
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session April 27, 2022 Time: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee156cd991338ca356e5bd18fc2e2fe07
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session April 28, 2022 Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5fcd1911f7b1a26a9f4fab78ec34abac
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session April 28, 2022 Time: 3:00pm - 4:30pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2caaeaca87ab0b15a47b055997a6609d



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Dates & Times (Administrators Only)	Session Links
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session May 2, 2022 Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed53d16bbe6739acfebd3abedbae15c9b
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session May 2, 2022 Time: 2:00pm - 3:00 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5dbbec87ce92acf4fa17806ec6fdd3b5
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session May 4, 2022 Time: 11:30 am – 12:30pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e086e03998ba415990140506d087edc27
Transitions to Kindergarten Report Information Session May 4, 2022 Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Use link below to join as an attendee: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee09e0c3d84e1f0a58cbd53b229dab0ca

Action Items/What's Due?

PRC 029 Funds 2022-2023 Updates

Please review your 2021-2022 PRC 029 budget and ensure all funds will be encumbered by **June 30, 2022**. The original date for reversions was April 1, 2022. If your PSU will have an excess of funds, please revert the funds no later than April 15, 2022. Please see the attached reversion form. **(ATTACHED)**

PRC 029 Request for Funding for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

The application process for the PRC 029 grant is currently open for the 2022-2023 school year. A special budget provision in the 1999 Appropriation Act modified the use of these state dollars to allow expenditure of PRC 029 funds to provide services to *"(i) children with special needs who were identified as members of the Willie M class at the time of dissolution of the class, and (ii) other children with special needs."* This provision provides the flexibility for PSUs to use these PRC 029 funds for services for students who have significant behavioral and emotional needs in public schools.

This application process will allow PSUs to complete a Comprehensive Needs Grant. The application process will open on **May 1, 2022**. Please note the final submission deadline is **July 1, 2022**.



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The application requires each PSU to identify services and indicators that measure the effectiveness of these supports. Prioritization will be given to innovative grant proposals that are designed to address the critical need for identified students.

All students eligible for PRC 029 services must have a completed [Entrance Tool](#). The Entrance Tool must be submitted during the time that the grant is open.

For questions regarding the grant application process please contact your regional Behavior Consultant. For regions 1-4, [Lisa Taylor](#), regions 5-8, [Felicia Goodgion](#) and Section Chief, [Dreama McCoy](#), 984-236-2557.
(ATTACHED)

Webinar: Language as the Missing Link in Student Behavioral Health and Education Outcomes

On Thursday, April 14 from 10:00-11:30 am, the Get Georgia Reading Campaign will host a webinar that focuses on how to support children with speech language deficits and behavioral challenges. ASL Interpreters, CART and Spanish interpreters will be provided. Please use the [Zoom link](#) to register and receive a link to join the webinar.

Braille Literacy Grant

The Friends of the NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is now accepting [applications](#) for its 2022 Braille Literacy Grant! The deadline to apply is May 1, 2022. The two grants are valued up to \$1,000 and designed to address the needs of children and adults who are visually impaired. Some possible uses of the grant funding include, but are not limited to, training services, education, braille access, and outreach. For more information or questions contact the [Friends of the NC Library](#).

Call for Proposals for EC Conference

The [Call for Proposals](#) for general conference sessions for the 71st Conference on Exceptional Children is now open through May 13, 2022. This year's theme is *Lighthouse Leadership: Bringing Light into the Future*. The memo in the 4.6.22 weekly update has all the pertinent details. Questions about the call for proposals may be directed to ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov.

April Calendar Items

- **April 20:** IDEA Grant Training (links above).
Attendance only required for one training session.
AM/PM options available
Please register for this session no later than, Tuesday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m.
Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9HXbtzJFEkostp
- **April 22:** Child Count deadline for certification status
- **April 30:** PRC 29 Quarterly Behavior Assessment is due