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News !

Homebound/Hospital Attendance Code

As previously communicated, a new H/H Attendance Code will go live in PowerSchool on July 1, 2022. The attached technical assistance guide is intended to illustrate appropriate use cases for this code, provide responses to the FAQs submitted since announcing the upcoming release of the code, and an explanation of the documentation necessary to support a homebound/hospital placement through medical necessity or IEP Team decisions. Please be aware that this information is also being shared concurrently with other appropriate district personnel. **(ATTACHED)**

NEW: Math Consultant for Northwest & Western Regions

The Program Improvement and Professional Development section of the EC Division is excited to announce that Paige Bode is the new Math Consultant for the Northwest & Western Regions. Paige comes to us from Asheville City Schools where she was the K-5 Math/Science & AIG Coordinator. Also, she has served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of North Carolina in Asheville. While in Asheville City, she was trained in Multi-Sensory Math, became a Foundations of Math Instructor and a Dyscalculia Delegate. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and energy to her new role. In her spare time, she enjoys being outdoors hiking, biking, and gardening. Her first official day was on **Wednesday, June 6th**. Paige can be reached at Paige.Bode@dpi.nc.gov

Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference

The Office of Exceptional Children have a few remaining seats to attend the virtual [Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference](#) on June 9-10, 2022. If you are unable to attend the conference virtually, you will have access to the information on demand until December 31, 2022. If you are interested, please complete the [Commitment Form](#) by June 8, 2022.

Vision Screening Reminder

If your PSU or program is still using the SureSight vision screening device, it has been discontinued and updates are no longer available. The manufacturer recommends purchasing a newer device. Currently, there is a [trade-in rebate worth \\$500](#) through School Health, but this offer ends June 30th. If you need to wait until after July 1, please check out the trade-in information from the manufacturer [HillRom formally Welch Allyn](#), they too offer a rebate through December 31, 2022. *Please note, this notification does constitute an endorsement of any product or service by the NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children.*

Items of Interest

Homeroom with Education Leaders Webinar: Building Robust Summer Development Opportunities for the Special Education Workforce

The COVID-19 pandemic upended the American education system and highlighted the greatest areas of need, especially for students with disabilities and their teachers. Some students with disabilities lost the additional supports and services they require to access the curriculum during virtual learning, putting them behind academically as schools returned to in-person learning. As special educators prepare for the new school year,



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they will need rigorous professional development to support them in meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Join us for a conversation around how school leaders can build robust summer development opportunities so that teachers feel properly supported to start the school year. Please join [The Hunt Institute](#) on **June 16th at 2:00 PM ET**.

ECATS: “Per Reporting Period”

“Per Reporting Period” will no longer be an option to describe the frequency of special education and related services in ECATS as of **July 1, 2022**. To support the transition away from the use of this frequency, an overview of the micro PD session titled “Determining Service Delivery” will be presented during the **June 21st EC Director’s Webinar** along with an overview of the Tip Sheet: “Interruptions in Service”. The tip sheet will provide technical assistance regarding whether compensatory services are required as a result of unique events that interrupt the service delivery of special education and related services. Once shared during the EC Director’s Webinar, the technical assistance materials will be released to PSUs via the following Weekly Update.

EC Directors are **highly encouraged** to invite local lead related service and low incidence personnel to participate during this portion of the Director’s webinar. This content will be provided at the beginning of the session in order to accommodate the participation of additional personnel who then can be released once the content has been provided. A mechanism for collecting questions will be provided during the webinar with responses provided through an FAQ and/or a possible EC Office Hours session.

Please note that the content of “Determining Service Delivery” will focus on the interrelationship between special education, related services, supplemental aids and services, program modifications and support for school personnel. This micro PD is not designed to demonstrate how to calculate the conversion of “per reporting period” frequencies to daily or monthly services; rather, it is intended to provide essential components to consider when services must be provided more frequently in order to meet IEP goals and other services that are less frequent to support access to all settings.

Summer Learning for Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Students with Vision Impairment

Teachers of the Visually Impaired and students with visual impairments can learn all summer long. APH is offering ExCel Camps for students and the [APH Hive](#) is buzzing for Educators. Please check their offerings in the [Virtual Academy](#).

Educational Interpreter Online AAS Degree Program

Western Piedmont Community College is offering working educational interpreters the opportunity to earn an [AAS degree in Interpreter Education](#) supporting the State Board of Education approval of educational interpreter classifications that were effective July 1, 2021. Any working educational interpreter in the state meeting the enrollment requirements may complete the online synchronous and asynchronous coursework. Please click on the above hyperlink for more information.



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DeafBlind Awareness Month

June is DeafBlind Awareness Month and there are multiple opportunities to engage and connect. Please share [DeafBlind Awareness Month activities](#) with educators and families.

2022 Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children's Vision Award

Nominations for the 2022 Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children's Vision Award are now open through August 1, 2022. Please consider nominating an individual or group making significant contributions to the field of children's vision and eye health. For more information and to download the nomination form, please visit the [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health](#).

Federal Reporting

- **Indicator 7 Schedule**

Indicator 7 count captures the percent of preschool students with IEPs who demonstrate improved childhood outcomes during the July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 reporting period. The correction and certification schedule for Indicator 7 is as follows:

Indicator 7 Correction and Certification Schedule	
Indicator 7 opens for all Public-School Units	8/1/2022
Deadline for Certification Status	8/19/2022

- **Indicator 12 Spreadsheet**

Indicator 12 captures data on students who received Part C services and were referred to Part B during the July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 reporting period. Indicator 12 must be submitted via spreadsheet by all Traditional Public School Units prior to the due date of October 31, 2022. Charter Schools and State Operated Programs do not need to submit an Indicator 12 spreadsheet this year. The Indicator 12 spreadsheet can be accessed from the ECATS Reporting website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>. Please email all completed Indicator 12 spreadsheets to ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov.

- **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.



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Grant Information

- **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.

Medicaid in Education Course

[These on-demand modules](#) provide background on why public schools recover costs for health services from Medicaid, the three programs available for Public School Unit (PSU) participation, how each program works, helpful practices and considerations for all who participate (and much more...).

This course includes 4 modules; and will provide .3 CEUs (3 hours). Module 1 provides the context for Medicaid cost recovery. Modules 2-4, intended for school administrators, personnel and contractors cover Medicaid programs, documentation, and additional relevant information.

We hope you find this course helpful. If you have questions or require technical assistance, please contact us, Bill Hussey (billhussey02@gmail.com), Laurie Ray (laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov) or Lauren Holahan (lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov).

Link to course: [Medicaid in Education Course](#)

In the future, we will also be providing an additional course, open to the public which may assist parents, caregivers and families who have questions. Be on the lookout for this course coming soon!

Overview of School-based Practice for Related Service Providers Canvas Course Access

The Overview of School-based Practice is offered annually as a Summer Institute to support the orientation of newly hired or contracted practitioners into educational practice. State consultants for Psychological Services (Lynn Makor), Occupational Therapy (Bridgette LeCompte), Physical Therapy (Laurie Ray) and Speech-Language (Perry Flynn) are developing this content into on-demand modules. Recognizing the current personnel turnover, this has been recorded and can be accessed at [Overview of School-based Practice sessions from the 2020 Summer Institute](#).



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ICYMI

June EC Directors Webinar

Date and time: **Tuesday, Jun 21, 2022 10:00-11:00 am.** Agenda will follow.

Please register at this link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=ra5163f5e045b3802e28687bbe610ac5d>

Information from Monday Message – 06/06/2022

[Monday Message 6.6.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 06/03/22

[School Business Newsletter 06.03.22](#)

ECATS Progress Monitoring Tool *(Repeat from 6.6.22 Monday Message)*

As we review and revise our user experience with ECATS, we have undertaken efforts to automate short-term objectives/benchmarks to populate the steps in the progress monitoring tool. We have a tentative target date of Fall of 2022 for this functionality in the system. More information, including a Tip Sheet and/or TA video, will be provided once the target date has been confirmed. For PSUs that have adopted the practice of using objectives/benchmarks for IEPs beyond the students served via the adapted curriculum, this functionality is expected to streamline use of the progress monitoring tool to reduce the manual entry of “steps”.

PRC 029 Funds 2022-2023 Updates

Please review your 2021-2022 PRC 029 budget and ensure all funds will be encumbered by **Thursday, June 30, 2022.**

PRC 029 Request for Funding is now OPEN

The application process for the PRC 029 grant is 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 final submission deadline is Friday, July 1, 2022.

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.



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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)

PK EC Items of Interest

***ATTENTION* NC Pre-K Rule Change Effective April 2022 with Implementation Beginning September 2022**

The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) is excited to share information about a child care rule change effective April 2022.

Child care rule 10A NCAC 09 .3013 NC Pre-K Teacher Assistant Education and Credentials has been amended. The revised rule language requires all teacher assistants hold a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; or hold or be working toward an associate degree or higher in birth-through-kindergarten, child development, early childhood education, or an early childhood education related field. Teacher assistants working toward the associate degree shall make progress by completing a minimum of six documented semester hours per year. Additionally, all NC Pre-K Teacher assistants shall complete at least 15 hours of annual in-service professional development.

Please note that Child Care Rule Section .3013 – NC Pre-K Teacher Assistant Education and Credentials only applies to teacher assistants working in NC Pre-K classrooms.

Over the next few months, technical assistance will be provided to assist programs with meeting the requirements in this rule. For specific questions regarding these changes, contact your child care licensing consultant or your local NC Pre-K contractor. Also, please ensure you are using the updated [April 2022 Child Care Rules](#).

Child Outcomes Summary Tips and Tricks

The NCDPI team participating in the ECTA/DaSy Supporting Part B 619 State and Local Child Outcomes Data Use Cohort has developed a “tips and tricks” resource for LEA staff to quickly access tools or learn more about the child outcomes, family engagement and data collection and more! Please share with your teams, new staff, etc... and feel free to submit additional resources, too.

Call for Applications: Training-of-Trainers on “Welcoming Families to the Table”

The “Welcoming Families to the Table” training is designed to provide child-serving organizations and professionals with the skills they need to engage parents and families as partners and leaders, and to support their continued role in decision making/leadership. These skills are especially important in order to equitably engage parents who have historically been marginalized, and whose voices and experiences have been undervalued. See Equity-Centered Family Engagement for information and resources on equitable family engagement and leadership.

The purpose of the Training-of-Trainers is to prepare teams of two (one parent and professional) to be able to offer the “Welcoming Families” training throughout North Carolina to groups of 10 or more early childhood



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stakeholders. Examples of groups include state, regional or local organizations, advisory councils, decision-making bodies, or community action groups. See Training Content Summary below for content details.

Full Description:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rp9vuVVCMLJOc7OAtXGm6eWYFun_PQpsPvX_peHally/edit?usp=sharing

Link to Application: <https://forms.office.com/g/rmaCfB6WSX>

Application deadline: All applications must be submitted by 5pm, Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

If you have any questions please contact Alexandra Morris at alexandra.morris@dhhs.nc.gov.

Vision Screening Reminder

If your PSU or program is still using the SureSight vision screening device, it has been discontinued and updates are no longer available. The manufacturer recommends purchasing a newer device. Currently, there is a [trade-in rebate worth \\$500](#) through School Health, but this offer ends June 30th. If you need to wait until after July 1, please check out the trade-in information from the manufacturer [HillRom formally Welch Allyn](#), they too offer a rebate through December 31, 2022. *Please note, this notification does constitute an endorsement of any product or service by the NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children.*

Action Items/What's Due?

- ☐ July 1, 2022: "Per Reporting Period" will be removed as a frequency option in ECATS
- ☐ July 1, 2022: Homebound/Hospital Attendance Code goes live in PowerSchool

June Calendar Items

- ☐ June 14, 2022: DAC Meeting
- ☐ June 15, 2022: Program Compliance Cohort Webinar (Last Session for Cohort 1)
- ☐ June 21, 2022: EC Director's Webinar