



Weekly Update
November 22, 2022

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Office of Exceptional Children wishes you a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are so very thankful for you and all you do each and every day to support students, families, educators and administrators. May you enjoy some much deserved rest and reconnection with family and friends over the holiday!



News!

NOTICE: December Directors' & Coordinators' Webinar

The Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) will host a webinar on **December 9th at 9:00 am**, to share with local EC Directors/Coordinators proposed policy and rules changes from the OEC that will go to the State Board in January & February.

Please Register for this webinar at the link below:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=re4b6ca2e1a19ce2cdbfc17f1937e7d3d>

Science Extended Content Standards Stakeholder Input

The Offices of Academic Standards and Exceptional Children is pleased to share the first draft of science standards. The comment period for the draft science standards will close on December 18. We encourage all PSUs to share this information regarding the draft surveys (K-12 and Extended Content Standards) with their stakeholders.

State Board of Education policy specifies that the NC Department of Public Instruction will formally collect feedback from educators, administrators, parents, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry representatives, national organizations, and other education agencies on each draft of the revised K-12 Science Standards and the Science Extended Content Standards.

Every Student Succeeds Act allows states to adopt alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities if they are aligned with the challenging state academic standards noted above and reflect professional judgment as to the highest possible standards achievable by such students. These alternate academic achievement standards in North Carolina are called the Extended Content Standards.

This survey aims to obtain input from each PSU on the K-12 Science Extended Content Standards to inform revision decisions, which may include changes, clarifications, additions, deletions, or replacements to the current standards. This survey is meant for stakeholder input. The survey link can be found here:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNG5U6QPtlzhXg

Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality Webpage

The Office of Exceptional Children invites you to view the Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality (EESD) [webpage](#) where you will find the EESD webinar series, which include the most recent recording of [sessions](#) 5-7.

Federal Reporting Office Hours – December 7, 2022

As a reminder, the Federal Reporting Office Hours are open at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month. Please contact Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions. To join in and ask any questions about upcoming federal reporting, please use the following link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>.

Coming Soon - Combined Expenditure Report

We are excited to announce that we are working on a Combined Expenditure Report to help you track all funds in PRC 118, PRC029, and PRC119! Be on the lookout for the Wednesday Communication announcing its release.

Announcing: Assistive Technology Stakeholders

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children Assistive Technology team is happy to announce the creation of an Assistive Technology Stakeholders group. The intended outcome of this group is: To determine the current state of Assistive Technology (AT) Assessment and Utilization by the PSUs across the state as well as the barriers preventing PSUs from completing AT assessments and implementation. The first meeting for the AT Stakeholders will be on January 31, 2023, in Winston-Salem, NC. If you or a member of your team would be interested in being considered for participation in these meetings, please complete this registration form for that consideration: [AT Stakeholders Application](#). Our goal is to have a diverse representation of staff and PSUs from across the state to participate in these meetings. We hope to have staff serving in a variety of roles in their districts (i.e., EC Director/Coordinator, program specialists, AT specialists, Related Service Providers, Teachers, etc.) as well as representation from Traditional and Charter PSUs of all sizes. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Barton at joshua.barton@dpi.nc.org

Items of Interest

The Pre-ETS STAR Virtual Training

The Pre-ETS STAR provides virtual training for students with disabilities to help prepare them for a future beyond high school. Exceptional Children's Assistance Center and DisabilityIN:North Carolina are offering the STAR program, a Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre- ETS) to students with disabilities (ages 16-21) beginning in Fall,2022. The STAR program will serve students with disabilities from across the entire state, including students who attend public schools, charter schools and students who are homeschooled via online instruction. Please see the flyer for more information. **(ATTACHED)**

Assistance with Research Study

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Michigan State University, Franciscan University, and Catawba College are conducting a study to examine the experiences of paraeducators (e.g., teacher assistants, paraprofessionals, classroom assistants) in relation to addressing challenging behavior among students who receive special education services.

The perspectives of school administrators, special and general education teachers, and paraeducators will be gathered through an anonymous online survey and an optional follow-up interview.

Should you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact virginia.walker@uncc.edu or cell (404-542-6393). Please share this information as appropriate with staff in your PSU. **(ATTACHED)**

Tasty Pickles by Carson: A Parent Perspective about Entrepreneurship

On December 12, 2022, from 4:00-5:00, NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children will host a webinar featuring Debra Lester, mother of Carson Lester, who has autism. Debra will share her story about Carson's time in school and subsequent entrepreneurship. Carson's autism made him hesitant to participate in job interviews but wanted to be employed. Through exploration, Carson discovered his love of making pickles. With the support of his family, Carson opened Tasty Pickles. Join this webinar to hear a parent's perspective about Carson's education experience and subsequent entrepreneurship. Please register:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5szVH8fpsQrPonI

Professional Learning: Complex Learners with Hearing Loss

This professional learning will be held in person on December 1st at the Sadie Saulter Educational Center room 214, located at 1019 Fleming St. in Greenville, NC. This collaborative workshop presented by SSAT and STARS sections is geared towards professionals who work with complex learners with hearing loss in NC public schools. In this workshop, the professional will identify and understand the complex learner, communication goals, and create strategies to help their students achieve within the classroom on a daily basis. This is presented by M. Antwan Campbell, Nancy Childress, and Matthew Martinez. For questions about this professional learning, please contact [M. Antwan Campbell](#) and [use the bit.ly link to register](#).

Unpacking the Mathematics Extended Content Standards

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children is looking to assemble a workgroup to unpack the Mathematics Extended Content Standards. NCDPI OEC is looking for inspired professionals to analyze the Extended Content Standards to help create unpacking documents to assist professionals across the state in teaching mathematics to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Standard Course of Study unpacking documents can be found [here](#) for reference. Interested professionals should be well versed in the instruction of mathematics and knowledgeable about standards, not necessarily the student population. This will be an approximate two-to-three-day commitment in the spring held in a hybrid format. Individuals should complete the following form to express interest in participation in this unique and important opportunity.

<https://forms.gle/MwaHB72WeQ5PVUha7>

Any questions can be directed to Matthew Martinez at matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov.

Federal Reporting

- **December Child Count**

The December Child Count captures reporting data on students receiving special education as of December 1, 2022. The certification window for the December Child Count begins December 1st and ends by close of business on December 20th. See the memorandum for more information. (ATTACHED)

- **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 – 11/21/2022

[Monday Message 11.21.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **IDEA American Rescue Plan (PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187)**

New Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been sent out through CCIP for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187. The previous GANs that were provided incorrectly stated that the Subaward Budget Period of Performance/Subaward Period ends on 9/30/2024. The newly issued GAN has the correct period of performance of 7/01/2021-9/30/2023 with a subaward amount of 0.00 because all funds are carryover funds with no new allotment. All funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and spent by 12/31/2023.

- **IDEA Funds and Overtime Pay**

Overtime pay for classified employees is an allowable expense in federal grants. For the classified employee to receive overtime pay out of federal funds the employee is required to be serving students with disabilities 100% of the time. If the employee is serving non-disabled students in any capacity, then the overtime cannot be paid out of federal funds.

- **IDEA Grant and Budget Update**

The Object Code 122 EC-Salary-Interim Teacher-Non-Certified has been removed from the Chart of Accounts for all federal EC Funds. EC Teachers paid from federal funds are required to hold licensure in Exceptional Children.

House Bill 1030 Consent for Release of Information to the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind

Districts should be in the process of disseminating the annual release of information form to parents of students who are eligible as DeafBlind, Deaf, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, or Multiply Disabled with a vision and/or hearing loss. The form must be distributed to parents by October 1, 2022. Parents who provide a yes consent to receive more information about the schools must be reported using the electronic reporting tool by November 30, 2022. The [HB 1030 Memo](#), [electronic reporting tool](#), and [complimentary consent forms in English](#) and [Spanish](#) may be found on the [Federal Regulations & State Policies webpage](#) under the Forms tab and then Supplemental Forms. For questions, please contact Sherri Vernelson, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov.

Assistive Technology Networking Session(s)

The North Carolina Department of Public Instructions Office of Exceptional Children is excited to announce a new opportunity for school-based staff who are working in or providing support in Assistive Technology. The

Assistive Technology Networking Sessions will be offered three times this school year, with the first session being scheduled for December 12, 2022. These networking sessions will offer an opportunity for staff across the state to meet in a virtual capacity and share their experiences, troubleshoot challenges, and grow the practice through the shared knowledge of other staff doing similar work across the state. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Barton at joshua.barton@dpi.nc.gov. To register for the first networking session please use the following link: [Assistive Technology Networking Session \(Winter 2022\)](#)

Assistive Technology Webinar Series

Seeking a free way to expand your understanding of Assistive technology, tools, and practices? Then this new opportunity is for you. Starting in January we will host twice monthly webinars highlighting various aspects of assistive technology, tools and practices. Besides these sessions being offered twice a month, sessions will also be recorded to expand learning opportunities for school-based staff supporting work in and around assistive technology. Please be on the lookout for future announcements sharing the topic being covered for the month as well as providing a sign-up link for the session of your choosing. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Barton at: joshua.barton@dpi.nc.gov

PK EC Items of Interest

Virtual Preschool Exceptional Children Fall Meeting Follow-Up

We will host an abbreviated follow-up session for those who were unable to attend the in-person meeting on November 14th. The follow-up session will be held on **December 8th from 3-5pm**. Please use this [link](#) to register. Registration closes December 4th.

Compliance Tip of the Week

Creating IEP Teams in ECATS

Please remember to assign all service providers to the IEP Team in ECATS that will be directly or indirectly serving individual students. This includes any related service providers that may provide services directly to the student or on behalf of the student, and/or providers that may need to record evaluation results in the assessment summary. Assignment to the IEP Team is an essential part of case management that allows all providers access to the student's electronic record.

November Calendar Items/What's Due?

- **November 30th** -HB-1030: Report consent for release to Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind using the electronic reporting tool
- **November 30th** - Improvement Plans due for Postsecondary Transition Monitoring [applies only to PSUs that participated in Targeted Monitoring for Postsecondary Transition and have required corrective action]
- **November 30th** - Improvement Plans due for 1.0 Percent Participation in NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment Monitoring [applies only to PSUs that participated in Targeted Monitoring for 1.0 Percent and have required corrective action]
- **December 1st** -Child Count is due