

**EC Division Weekly Update**  
**September 1, 2021**

**Updates to the NEW EC Division Padlet-SY21-22**

**TA Materials: EC Office Hours - August 27, 2021**

This session of EC Office Hours focused on remote learning, contingency plans, homebound, virtual academies and Long COVID.

We have created a new padlet for SY21-22: **2021 COVID-19** . The password is the same as the previous ECD COVID padlet, just a new location for information for the SY21-22. (Contact your EC Regional Coordinator if you have forgotten the password to the ECD Padlets). The SY21-22 Padlet can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/2021COVIDNC>

The following materials have been posted:

- EC Office Hours Slide Deck + Notes (*The notes contain the answers to the questions submitted previously.*)
- Example: Contingency Plan with Notes (*view only*)
- Example: Contingency Plan (*may be customized locally*)
- USDOE.OCR.OSEP Long COVID Fact Sheet
- OSEP Q&A March 2020
- Recording: EC Office Hours (*Please note there is a google link that will take you to the actual recording. The file was too large to be uploaded directly into the padlet.*)
- Hyperlinks inside of the slide deck/recording were added as the separate files listed above.

**Items of Interest**

**FYI: Save the Date: NC DPI's AIM 2021**

What: AIMConference 2021: Accelerate, Invigorate, Motivate

When: November 29 - December 1, 2021

Where: Raleigh Convention Center

Be on the lookout for more details!

**Regional Director Meetings - September 2021**

The September Regional Directors/Coordinators meetings will be held virtually Tuesday, September 14th - Friday, September 17th.

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Region 4 (Sandhills)	Region 3 (North Central)	Region 1 (Northeast)	Region 2 (Southeast)
Region 7 (Northwest)	Region 8 (Western)	Region 5 (Piedmont-Triad)	Region 6 (Southwest)

**Please utilize the survey link below to register yourself (and one guest, if you choose) to attend your region's meeting. The deadline for registration is this Friday, September 3rd.**

[Regional Director's Meeting Survey/Registration](#)

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**Federal Reporting**

**Exit Count**

September captures end-of-year reporting data on students exiting special education during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. The Exit Count opens September 15, 2021 and is due by close of business September 30, 2021.

**2020-2021 End of Year Data Submission for Indicator 12**

Indicator 12 captures data on students who received Part C services and were referred to Part B during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. All students must have an IEP developed within 90 days of the referral and receive services by their 3rd birthday. Indicator 12 will be submitted on spreadsheets by all PSUs and can be accessed by clicking this link: [Indicator 12 Spreadsheet](#) or by going to the ECATS site under Resources (<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/resources>). The spreadsheet has a tab with helpful clarifications to assist PSUs on entering their data and can be submitted at any time prior to the due date of October 29, 2021. Charter Schools do not need to submit an Indicator 12 spreadsheet this year. Please email all Indicator 12 spreadsheets to [ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov](mailto: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 has to finalize the data for your district. There will be penalties when data is not submitted in a timely manner.

**Information from Monday Message - 08/30/2021**

[Monday Message 8.30.21.pdf](#)

**Grant Information**

**Special Grants**

Grant applications will open on September 7, 2021.

**Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training**

MOE training will take place on September 21<sup>st</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a mandatory training for all Districts and Charter Schools. Please encourage your financial officers to attend this training. There will be four opportunities for you to attend this training, but you only have to attend one (see times below). The registration link will be available soon.

Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**PRC 167 ESSERF**

Please ensure that budget and grant use of funds align to ensure timely approvals.

**ECS Graduation Policy Information**

There is a new graduation policy for students graduating with a certificate of completion. This policy is for students with significant cognitive disabilities and are instructed towards the Extended Content Standards (ECS). The new policy affects incoming 9th graders for the 2021-2022 school year. The policy can be found on this [link](#).

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**CIDD in collaboration with NCDPI Webinar Series**

The 2021-2022 AAC/AT Webinar Series includes 10 sessions that will provide up-to-date information on a variety of topics addressing the assistive technology needs of students in the schools. Led by local and national AT experts, each session will focus on a targeted area, ranging from best practices, tools and devices, academic supports, and implementation strategies for integrating assistive technology across settings. The series will run September 7, 2021 - February 22, 2022; all webinars are from 3:00-4:00 pm ET. **(ATTACHED)**

**Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Employment Preparation (overview of courses recording)**

The Occupational Course of Study Employment Preparation overview is available at the link below. This 30-minute overview session will provide teachers with relevant information regarding the newly approved Employment Preparation courses.

Webex meeting recording: OCS-Employment Preparation Overview

Password: dUJvvJJ9

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=e340b0180a272bd02e93e34e0926e549>

This recording will be housed in the [OCS LiveBinder](#) Occupational Preparation and Employment Preparation tab.

**Accessing EC Courses in NCEES**

The ECD Division has developed several [courses](#) designed to build capacity for new and current educators covering a variety of topics including, the EC process, ECATS, Dyslexia, SLD, Extended Content Standards, and Autism. Please access this [link](#) to for a detailed list along with course contacts. In response to the most frequently asked questions regarding access to these courses, the following resources have been designed to provide step by step instructions on how to access courses in NCEES as well as problem solve the most common access issues.

**How do staff register for the Courses and access the completion certificate in NCEES?**

Here are some links that are helpful explaining how to access PD in NCEES:

- [NCEES Instructions for accessing the Professional Development System](#)
- [for finding, enrolling in, and withdrawing from courses](#)
- [for accessing your certificate.](#)
- [a NCEES Quick Video on Finding PD \(about 7 minutes long\)](#)

**Why is it that some of our teachers who have access to NCEES cannot register for the Canvas courses? (Error message: Failed to Log In-Canvas doesn't have an account for user)**

At the start of the school year, there is a sync process coordinated between multiple technologies at DPI for importing/updating of staff from NCEES to Canvas. This process for the entire state can take a week of turnaround time to complete and should occur in the next week or two.

If a staff member has access to NCEES but cannot register for the Courses:

PSU staff should contact their principal / [local NCEES lead](#) and that lead should open a ServiceNow Ticket.

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1. The tickets should include verbiage for the DPI support desk that the staff is signing up for courses in NCEES but cannot get into the Canvas course.
2. Include the staff UID and location.

ServiceNow Portal: [https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/sp\\_dpi](https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/sp_dpi) (log in with NCID)  
ServiceNow Phone: 919-716-1840

**National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Performance Study Group**

The North Carolina School for the Deaf is hosting a National Interpreter Certification (NIC) performance study group weekly from October 7 through November 4, 2021. There is a fee of \$30 for all five sessions or \$10 per session. The NIC is a national certification that, if passed, would satisfy the new educational interpreter requirements for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) set by the State Board of Education and effective 7-1-2021. Please contact Linda Fafard, [linda.fafard@esdb.dpi.nc.gov](mailto:linda.fafard@esdb.dpi.nc.gov). **(ATTACHED)**

**SureSight™ Vision Screening Device – Important Information**

Many districts across the state, especially preschool sites, currently use the Sure Sight device for vision screenings. We have learned that the Sure Sight devices are no longer supported by the company, and they will not be servicing them. This is important for PSUs to know as they may be using a device that would provide inaccurate vision screening information. The Office of Early Learning and the Exceptional Children Division will be putting forth additional information about what devices are available for vision screenings as well as hosting a webinar in early September. If anyone in your region has a question about this prior to the guidance coming out, they may contact:

**Regions 1-4 (NE, SE, NC, SH)**

Keashia Walker, Preschool Exceptional Children 619 Co-Coordinator, [keashia.walker@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:keashia.walker@dpi.nc.gov); OR  
Alan Chase, Consultant for Visual Impairment, [alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov)

**Regions 5-8 (PT, SW, NW, W)**

Dawn Meskil, Preschool Exceptional Children 619 Co-Coordinator, [dawn.meskil@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:dawn.meskil@dpi.nc.gov); OR  
Crystal Patrick, Consultant for Visual Impairment, [crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov)

**Cohort for Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI)**

If you have a newly licensed TVI (Beginning Teacher in years 1-3), a TVI who is new to North Carolina, or a provisionally licensed TVI and you would like to get him/her involved in the TVI Cohort offered by the Consultants for Visual Impairment, please contact Crystal Patrick, [crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov).

**Resources for Students with Visual Impairment Including Blindness**

The American Printing House for the Blind (with sponsorship from outside funders) has created a new resource to support secondary transition to college/career/community for students with visual impairments entitled, [Connect Center Transition Hub](#). Please share this resource with students, families, and teachers.

The Mississippi State National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision (funded by NIDILRR) has recently released the 4to24 app (iOS / web-based) for parents of children and youth who are blind/low vision. The app is focused on identifying and supporting the independence skills that students will need for successful employment and independent living. An Android version will be out soon, and versions of the app

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for students with deaf-blindness and/or cognitive disabilities are forthcoming.

<https://www.ntac.blind.msstate.edu/consumers/4-24-app>

**NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped offers a free library service for individuals who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of a reading disability. Any resident of North Carolina who is unable to read or use regular print materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual, physical, perceptual, or reading disability is eligible for this free library service. For more information about how to apply for this free service call Gina Powell, 984-236-1100.

Please note: This service is an excellent resource for students and families to be aware of and use. However, for students requiring accessible educational materials (AEM) per the IEP, please use the NIMAC request for Accessible Educational Material form. Please also consider Bookshare and Learning Ally as sources of AEM based on the student's unique needs. For more information on Bookshare, please contact Crystal Patrick; for Learning Ally contact Kim Balcerek-Hash.

**FCC Announces Second Application Window for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program**

In view of outstanding demand and the recent spike in coronavirus cases, the FCC will open a second application filing window for schools and libraries to request funding from the roughly \$2 billion in program funds remaining for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons for the current 2021-22 school year. The second window will open on September 28 and run until October 13. Eligible schools and libraries will be able to apply for financial support to purchase eligible equipment and services for students, school staff and library patrons with unmet needs.

We appreciate your interest in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and look forward to your ongoing engagement as we work together to close the Homework Gap. For more information, visit:

<https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund>.

**EC Division and North Carolina Education Corps Partnership**

North Carolina Education Corps is working with 22 districts and 1 charter school to provide tutors to many elementary students. There are currently 230 tutors and Ed Corps has partnered with a few of our instructors to provide professional development in Reading Research to Classroom Practice to tutors serving six districts. In addition, these tutors will receive training in the specific curriculum used by the district they support. It is very exciting to be a part of such strong preparation for providing the best possible instruction to the students in NC.

NCDPI is providing Ed Corps with the list of instructors who indicated their willingness to contract. It is our hope that more tutors will attend the course in the near future, and we want to assist Ed Corp with this endeavor. The tutors will fully participate in the course including the homework requirements. Extended time may need to be granted to tutors to complete the student diagnostic testing until they are directly working with students. It is our hope that even more tutors will participate in the blended or live courses beginning in January.

Please remember that if you are contracted by Ed Corps, it is still required that you put the course on the NC SIP calendar and upload a participant list when it is complete. You will also need to complete the permission

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form for using the copyrighted materials if the professional development is held outside of your own district. We encourage you to include these tutors whenever possible if you are holding a course in your district. The students in NC will greatly benefit. You can find more information about NC Education Corps at their website: <https://nceducationcorps.org/>

<b>PK EC Items of Interest</b>
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**ECAC Webinar: [Supporting Families Navigating Early Childhood Transitions](#)**

Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 12 pm-1:30 pm

Early childhood transitions, Early Intervention to Special Education Preschool Services to Kindergarten, can be full of excitement and apprehension for families. With change comes questions and desire for more information and resources. This webinar is designed to provide information, resources and tools to professionals in order to better support families who are experiencing these transitions. If families feel more confident and prepared, the children will likely have a smoother transition, feel more comfortable and be ready to learn!

**Teaching Strategies Gold Webinar: [Responding to Children's Needs: Key to Inclusion and Equity](#)**

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 | 2 PM ET

In this webinar, participants will explore strategies for intentionally creating learning environments that promote children's continued development, foster their well-being, and center responsiveness to keep the teaching relevant and meaningful. These strategies are critical to the teaching and learning relationship because they help create equitable learning experiences for all children and turn the learning environment into a place of belonging.

**New EC Preschool Coordinator Orientation Part I, October 7 & 8, 2021**

*Join us for a virtual Orientation!*

Welcome new EC Preschool Coordinators! Please mark your calendar for the New EC Preschool Coordinator Orientation. We are excited to be able to share part one of this year's orientation in two virtual sessions. Here are the details:

What: New Preschool Coordinator Orientation Part I

When: October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-12:00

How: Zoom links will be sent upon registration

During this event, you will be able to network with other new coordinators, Early Learning Network Consultants and DPI staff, as well as regional representatives who are available to assist you as you learn a new role.

Please register using this link: [https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cORyxgXt0OG3J2u](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cORyxgXt0OG3J2u)

Please don't hesitate to contact [eltraining@unc.edu](mailto:eltraining@unc.edu) with any questions or concerns.

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<b>COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION</b>
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**EC Updates: COVID-19 Padlet**

The padlet created to securely share COVID-19 information is still being maintained by the EC Division and is organized by school year. This padlet can be accessed at this address: <http://bit.ly/CovidECPadlet>  
The password is the same as the EC Division padlet password. Please contact your Regional Coordinator if you need a password reminder.

**Maintenance: COVID-19 Padlet**

Since this padlet includes information from the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, some items may no longer be considered current and relevant. Therefore, the EC Division will need to begin removing outdated guidance documents and resources. Before this occurs, it is recommended that PSUs download any items it would like to maintain. PSUs will have access to expired items until September 30th. At the close of business on September 30th, this padlet will be temporarily disabled until Wednesday, October 6th for maintenance. Reminders will be provided through the weekly update as the maintenance window approaches.