REMINDERS: 70th Conference on Exceptional Children

Educators of Excellence
Thank you for submitting your nominees. At this time, we are unable to accept any new nominations.
We look forward to celebrating each of the EOEs at the conference. The live streaming link (YouTube) for
the Educators of Excellence Reception is https://youtu.be/L5Yh5z6Ugws. Please be sure to share it with your
nominees prior to the conference.

***So, This is Your First EC Conference* Recorded Video**
So, This is Your First EC Conference is a recorded, seven-minute video that orients first time, or even veteran
attendees, to conference happenings, the Koury Convention Center, and more. Please share this
informational video with anyone who is registered to attend the conference.
https://youtu.be/TXSfp7uafOw

Videos for Downloading and Using the Conference App
Once again, the Exceptional Children Division will utilize an App for the annual conference. Please share the
following videos with those who will be attending conference. These videos will help conference participants
to download and use the App to support a successful conference experience.
Downloading the App: https://youtu.be/tiCNGKFrMOk
Using the App: https://youtu.be/8heSCwI5Xic

Items of Interest

Federal Reporting
- **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 – 11/01/2021
Monday Message 11.1.21.pdf (govdelivery.com)

Grant Information
- **IMPORTANT: IDEA Grant Deadline**
All IDEA Initial Grant applications still pending must have the corrections submitted and the initial grant
approved by November 30, 2021. Fiscal Monitors will communicate with the EC Directors the specific areas
needing attention to complete the IDEA grant submissions. Upon receiving approval of the initial grant
application, PSUs will have fourteen days to submit the 2020-2021 MOE. Newly opened charter schools will
receive training for IDEA grant application in December and notification of IDEA grant deadline during the
training.

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**
The MOE Expenditure Table was due by October 31, 2021, for PSUs with approved IDEA grants. The MOE
Expenditure Table is a federal requirement, and the grant will remain open for late submission. If you were

unable to attend the MOE training or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint, are available on the Exceptional Children website here and on the NC CCIP Home Page.   If you have questions, please contact your fiscal monitor.

- **Special Grants**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly 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.

- **PRC 167 ESSERF**

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

- **IDEA/ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)**

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 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Basic – 611
The funds will align with the IDEA Section 611 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 611 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

PRC 186 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Preschool – 619
The funds will align with the IDEA Section 619 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 619 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

PRC 187 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) CEIS
For PSUs with mandatory CEIS, the funds will align with the CEIS Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the CEIS Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.
For PSUs with an approved IDEA grant and needing a grant revision, it should be submitted at the same time as your MOE Expenditures. Contact your fiscal monitor for additional information regarding the IDEA grant status and the submission of the budgets.
- Allotments can be seen on the allotment page of the IDEA Grant in CCIP
- Budgets are submitted through each PSU's budgeting system and will be pulled into CCIP
  o Directors/Coordinators can view the budgets once submitted by clicking on the budget link on the IDEA Grant Sections page
  o The funds can be utilized on any IDEA allowable expense. The Chart of Accounts now contains the allowable budget codes for PRC 185, 186 & 187. It can be found here:
    § https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-district-finance-operations/chart-accounts
- If the budget aligns with the current Section 611/619 and or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant does not need to be revised.
- If the budget includes line items not currently in the Section 611/619 or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant must be revised to include the new line items. Designate in the Use of Funds that the revision items are for PRC 185/186/187.
  o Example: Current Use of Funds does not include funds for professional development. Add to the Use of Funds:

- Revision for PRC 185: Professional Development Workshop Expenses
- After the IDEA Grant and all related budgets are approved, SPD notifies NCDPI School Business. SPD does not allot the funds or know when the funds will be allotted.

Updated Resource: Required Screening/Evaluations for Eligibility

The monitoring consultants have routinely provided this one-page resource to support EC staff in quickly identifying the required screening and evaluations for suspected disabilities. This resource has been updated to clarify observations and evidence-based interventions as it relates to specific disability categories. It is attached and will soon be posted on the EC Division website. **(ATTACHED)**

Medicaid Related Questions
Medicaid Presence Removed from ECATS

After a year-long effort, all Medicaid functionality has been removed from the ECATS Service Documentation module and the ECATS training site. This includes the removal of Medicaid-relevant reports and storage/tracking of Medicaid One Time Consent & Physician Authorization forms/prompts. Relevant ECATS training materials, videos, guides, and manuals have been updated to reflect these removals, which are summarized in the table below.

Reports Removal
Do Not Bill Provider Export Report
Medicaid Audit Report
Parent Consent Export Report
Parent Consent Report
Physician Authorization Export Report
Physician Authorization Report
Provider Do Not Bill List (Report)

Remove "billable services" option for multiple reports
Remove "claiming eligibility status" option for multiple reports
Non-Reporting Functionality Removal
Compliance Data Page (Medicaid One Time Consent & Phys Authorization Tracking)
Medicaid Events (Medicaid One Time Consent & Physician Authorization event)
No Ability to Bill Medicaid Certification Type
Do Not Bill Date Range Button

Medicaid Considerations for the End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE), January 16, 2022

In March, 2019, the NC Division of Health Benefits (DHB, NC Medicaid) added flexibility to Clinical Coverage Policy 1-H – NC Medicaid Telehealth, Virtual Communications and Remote Patient Monitoring. Subsections 1, 3, and 5 of this policy apply to NC PSUs. The federal public health emergency driving these flexibilities will end on January 16, 2022. PSUs with Medicaid claiming programs will want to prepare. The anticipated changes and/or enforcements to telehealth services that may impact NC schools are as follows:

- Section 3.2.1 (f) "Provider(s) shall obtain and document verbal or written consent" to provide telehealth services and
    - (h) "Provider(s) shall verify the beneficiary's identity using two points of identification before initiating service delivery via telehealth"
    - The expectation is that PSUs are documenting consent **prior** to delivering telehealth services, unless there are "extenuating circumstances when consent is unable to be obtained, this must be documented."
    - The expectation is that LEAs are documenting 2-point identification **before initiating services at each telehealth session**.
- Section 5.3.1 "**All** telehealth services must be provided over a secure HIPAA compliant technology…"
    - There was a relaxation of this during the COVID national emergency; policy 1H guidelines will apply once the PHE has expired.

Please contact Laurie Ray (laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov) or Lauren Holahan (lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov) with any questions.

Overview of School-Based Practice
NCDPI Consultants for PT, OT, SLP and School Psychology will host a Professional Learning Session covering a wide variety of topics on November 12, 2021. This session will include 2 recorded sessions and an optional live virtual session on November 12, 2021 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please see attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Understanding SLD in Math
The Exceptional Children Division is inviting currently certified and public school employed Foundations of Math instructors to complete the requirements for certification as a provider of NC DPI approved training on specific learning disabilities in math. Please see the memo and application. **(ATTACHED)**

Assistive Technology Conference Opportunity
ATIA Conference is being held in person and virtually for the 2022 year. Please see the attached flyer. **(ATTACHED)**

Extended Content Standards for Social Studies 2nd Public Comment Period
Alternate academic achievement standards set an expectation of performance that differs in complexity from a grade-level achievement standard. ESSA permits states to develop alternate academic achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In North Carolina, these alternate academic achievement standards are known as the Extended Content Standards. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division convened stakeholder groups to create, and review proposed extended content standards for Social Studies for students with significant cognitive disabilities.   The Extended Content Standards for Social Studies are open for the second public comment period from November 4 to December 7, 2021.

The Draft Extended Content Standards for Social Studies can be found on this link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RHDXd0ztI9ZgEnmQBDLisjaPrqm5gwBu?usp=sharing
Please submit all questions and comments to: ecspubliccomments@dpi.nc.gov .

Common Tools for Vision Screening
The Common Tools for Vision Screening recorded webinar is now available. This webinar provides information about new and existing vision screening tools since the SureSight Vision Screener is obsolete. If you have any questions, please contact the DPI consultants referenced at the end of the webinar. Here is a link and password to the recording:
https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=75a07971fc981de650eaec34eab79939
Password: Tools4VS

Listening and Spoken Language Junction – FREE Professional Learning Opportunity for Professionals Working with Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
It is time to register for the Winter 2022 Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) Junction. LSL Junction consists of online coursework in listening and spoken language with certified LSL coaches. This training is for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and teachers of the deaf who wish to develop skills in listening and spoken language support for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is free to professionals in North Carolina. Spaces are limited.

Please direct any questions to Virginia Madorin at virginia.madorin@dpi.nc.gov or Lillian Henderson at lillian.henderson@unchealth.unc.edu.

To view the flyers and forms for LSL Junction, including the application, please use the following link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vSbrakdVTH6wT1GQ7RXTDl_gC6pLGQhE?usp=sharing

New NCEES Courses for Professionals Working with Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section has created two new Canvas courses for individuals working with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. These courses are entitled "Overview of Hearing Loss and Educational Impact" and "Hearing Technology" and are available in NCEES for CEU credit. Both courses are completely asynchronous.
For more information about these course offerings, please click here, or contact Virginia Madorin, virginia.madorin@dpi.nc.gov.

East Carolina University Graduate Certificate in Deaf-blindness Studies
This January, ECU is starting another cohort to pursue the East Carolina University Graduate Certificate in Deaf-blindness Studies. The certificate is an exciting series of 5 online courses that will be offered throughout 2022. Additional information on the certificate is available at this link (embedded).

There are two basic requirements for admission to the certificate program: hold a bachelor's degree (in any discipline) from an accredited college/university and have an interest in learning more about learners with deaf-blindness. To begin the process, all interested applicants must apply to the ECU Graduate School by December 20, 2021. Information regarding ECU tuition is available at this link (embedded) and scholarship support is available for a select group of North Carolina applicants. The scholarship application is available at this link (embedded) this link (embedded). Scholarship applications are due Wednesday, November 24.

For any further questions, please contact Dr. Sandra Warren, warrens@ecu.edu.

November is Family Engagement Month
Governor Roy Cooper has declared November 2021 as Family Engagement Month. Please check out the Proclamation. Additionally, ECAC has a plethora of family engagement information and activities on their Family Engagement Month webpage.

PK EC Items of Interest

Family Engagement Month 2021:
Join the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center for Tool Time Tuesday, celebrating the important role families play in their child's education. They will be highlighting a different Family Engagement Activity calendar each week during the month of November. Tool Time Segments are 30 minutes or less and will feature a resource or a tool that families can use year-round! Every Tuesday at noon, ECAC staff and/or Community Partners will select a tool or resource to talk about, explain how it can be used and where you can find it. Tool Time Tuesdays can be accessed via Zoom or Facebook Live. Click here to register!

National Parent Involvement Day

In celebration of National Parent Involvement Day, the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center will be hosting a virtual "Pass the Mic" Parent Panel on November 18th from 6 pm – 7:30 pm. Sherry Thomas, NCDPI Director, Exceptional Children Division will be the opening guest followed by the Parent Panel. The panel will discuss family engagement, the role of parents and share their experiences of parenting a child with disabilities. You will be able to interact with the panelist through chat. Spanish interpretation and ASL interpreting will be provided. Click here to register!

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION