News!

NC State Improvement Project (NCSIP) Reminders:

As we close out this year of the NC State Improvement Project, there are several items that must be completed in CCIP. The 2022 Implementation Plan Reviews must be finalized by **September 30th**. Please remember that to be finalized, it must be in **Chief Administrator Approved** status. Also, on **September 30th**, the 2022 Expenditure Reports are due in CCIP. Here is a short tutorial on completing the Expenditure Report.   We will also provide Office Hours to answer any questions and provide support in completing your NCSIP Expenditure Report. The first session will be on Monday, September 19th from 1:00pm-2:30pm, and the 2nd session will be Wednesday, September 21st from 9:00am-10:30am. Click on the following link to join the Office Hours: https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/ginger.cash

Professional Learning Opportunity: Literacy Framework for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Literacy Framework for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities professional learning (PL) is aligned with research based in the Science of Reading as well as evidence-based practices for literacy instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) who are accessing the general curriculum through the Extended Content Standards. Current research supports the vast majority of students with SCD can learn literacy skills when research validated instructional and learning techniques are effectively employed.

In this PL, participants will:

- explore evidence-based practices, structures and planning tools to support and enhance literacy acquisition skills for students with SCD.
- unpack North Carolina Extended Content Standards.
- apply informal assessment to case studies.
- use assessment information to plan for instruction across the curriculum.
- utilize a guiding rubric for literacy instruction.
- create a holistic classroom schedule embedding literacy.

The format for this course will be a blended model of adult learning which includes three face-to-face days as well as asynchronous assignments. Participants will be expected to complete all face-to-face days and all assignments. Participants will attend days one and two, then break for a period in order to apply the content with students with which they work, before returning for day three. At the end of this series participants will be awarded 2.4 CEUs. Participants must be able to attend all sessions; partial credit will not be awarded. **Attendance is limited to the first 30 registrants for each location.** If registration is full for the location you select, you will have the option to be placed on a waitlist or select a new location. Please use this link to register: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0kR7dJ87egZl9sy For questions, please contact Nancy Childress at nancy.childress@dpi.nc.gov or Matthew Martinez at matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov

Sessions:
Each session will be from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Location: Asheville, NC
Dates: November 15-16 and December 8, 2022
Registration Closes: October 25, 2022

Location: Clinton, NC
Dates: February 6-7 and March 8, 2023

September 14, 2022

Registration Closes: January 17, 2023

Location: Asheboro, NC
Dates: February 8-9 and March 7, 2023
Registration Closes: January 17, 2023

Speech Sound Development

Recent research provides new speech sound norms representing current Evidence Based Practices. This memo details the updates for Speech-Language Pathologists in North Carolina Schools **(ATTACHED).**

Improving Programs Through MTSS- Leveraging Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Practitioners Sessions & Communities of Practice

Several options for PSUs are offered to increase OT and PT practitioner involvement in local MTSS frameworks- 3 professional learning sessions (in-person) and quarterly OT/PT MTSS Communities of Practice (CoP, virtual). Occupational therapy and physical therapy practitioners, administrators, special educators, general educators, instructional staff, related service providers, and all interested parties are all welcome to participate. Working within MTSS provides ways to begin initiatives (like increasing physical activity, promoting mental health efforts, influencing wellness and access) that OT and PT practitioners have long hoped to impact our students, families, instructional staff, administration, and school communities. We hope these sessions and CoP will support this important work.

In-person:
Please see the dates below (and in attached flyer) for Improving Programs Through MTSS- Leveraging Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Practitioners sessions. This content was offered as a Summer Institute (2022). Registration is open (see link below).

- **West:** McDowell Technical Community College
October 4, 2022 | 9:00am - 4:00pm

- **Central:** McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center (Lee County)
October 11, 2022 | 9:00am - 4:00pm

- **East:** Wilson Community College
October 19, 2022 | 9:00am - 4:00pm

Registration: Improving Programs Through MTSS-Leveraging Occupational and Physical Therapy Practitioners -
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pOec7IvSyy7yNE

If all requirements are successfully completed, participation in this professional learning results in .6 CEUs (6 Contact Hours). Questions about this professional learning can be directed to Amy McLemore, amy.mclemore@dpi.nc.gov

Virtual CoP:
To support PSUs as OT and PT programs invest in MTSS efforts, we are offering Communities of Practice quarterly (all on Thursdays at 3pm)

- **9/15**
- **10/13**

- **1/19**
- **3/16**
- **5/4**

We will follow wherever these communities lead us but intend to focus on these areas:
- UDL
- Instruction through Movement
- Written Expression
- SEL/Mental Health

One group will be devoted to PSUs/practitioners in the exploration stage of this effort.

Registration - OT/PT MTSS Community of Practice: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abe7iLy8AfEUynY

Please continue to share ways that OT and PT programs/practitioners are participating in MTSS or ways that you have worked to impact your whole district/PSU or school-wide initiatives. Contact Bridgette LeCompte, bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov and/or Laurie Ray, laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov with any ideas, questions or comments. **(ATTACHED)**

Autism Support Team Meeting

Autism Support Team (AST) meetings are for those Public School Units (PSUs) who receive PRC 118 Autism funding at the Team Support level. The content provided is to support capacity building in effective implementation of services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and will focus on the critical components that are needed to pursue that goal. Updates from the NCDPI Autism Team will be provided as well as time to network with other PSUs.

The meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

Date	Regions	Locations
October 5, 2022	Piedmont-Triad and Southwest	Summerfield
October 6, 2022	North Central and Sandhills	Lillington
October 12, 2022	Northeast and Southeast	Washington
October 19, 2022	Northwest and Western	Morganton

It is recommended that teams attend in their assigned region. If this is not feasible, it is required that team members sign up and attend the same session as there will be opportunities during this meeting for ASTs to work collaboratively on PSU specific application of content.

Registration can be accessed at this link and will close on **September 30, 2022**. Attendance for the full day is required in order to earn 0.5 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov or contact your NCDPI Consultant for Autism with any inquiries.

Note: Autism Support Teams who choose to apply for general support funding or not apply for funding at all, are more than welcome to register and attend. Please inform your regional consultant for autism to ensure that you continue to receive AST specific communications.

Items of Interest

FREE: The Burnett Seminar
The Burnett Seminar services parents of teens and young adults with ADHD/LD. Its mission is to inspire this population that success in life is possible. The next seminar is scheduled for **October 4th**– just 3 weeks away. There's still time to register! This year's topic is *We're Not Broken - Changing the Autism Conversation: A Conversation About Academic Success.* Please see the flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Class Size/Caseload Waivers
As a reminder, the policy, NC 1508-1 Class Size: School Age and Preschool, requires that a request for waiver be submitted to the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) whenever the "pupil-teacher ratio for a class period/caseload exceeds requirements."

During school closures and the subsequent reopening of schools, the OEC did not publish waiver submission windows and responded to requests for waivers on a case-by-case basis. Given the current shortage of EC Teachers and Related Service Providers, the OEC plans to continue this practice. Therefore, PSUs may submit a request for waiver to the assigned Program Monitoring Consultant or the Consultant(s) for Related Service, as appropriate. The directions for requesting a class size or caseload waiver and updated waiver forms have been posted to the OEC website and attached for your convenience. **(ATTACHED)**

Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality (EESD) Webinar Series
Session #2 of SY 2022-2023 EESD webinar series will be held on Thursday, September 22 from 3:00-4:30 pm. Each session is 90 minutes in length with questions and answers during the last 10 minutes of the webinar. If you wish to attend this series, please complete the registration form and additional information will follow.

Please see the attached document for additional information on the upcoming webinar.
Questions regarding EESD Webinar series may be directed to Dreama.McCoy@dpi.nc.gov or Alysha.Gray@dpi.nc.gov **(ATTACHED).**

Fall Statewide/Lead Meeting of Related Service Providers
Please save the date for our Fall Statewide/Lead Meeting of Related Service Providers:
When: **Monday, October 3rd from 9am-4pm**
Where: Durham Technical Community College (Durham campus) 1637 E. Lawson St. Durham, NC.
We have received requests for topics and are finalizing the agenda/confirming speakers.

Once approved, the agenda will be provided in a Wednesday message and through respective listservs.
Mark your calendars and watch this space for further details, we hope to see each PSU represented! **(ATTACHED)**

Occupational Course of Study (OCS)
The Occupational Course of study is a diploma pathway available to students with disabilities who are identified as appropriate for this program of study.
The requirements are listed in sections II, IV, VI, and VII of the GRAD-004 policy and can be found here:
View Policy GRAD-004: State Graduation Requirements (eboardsolutions.com)

OCS Resources
Please feel free to use the OCS resources found at the link below to gain a better understanding of the OCS and to provide district level professional development.
MjM0ODkxOTc= (livebinders.com)

Updated Teacher Support for Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
The Regional Consultants for Deaf and Hard of Hearing under the Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section want to remind you of the development of an ongoing cohort of support for Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing starting in October, 2022. The purpose of this cohort is to support teachers who may be in Beginning Teacher status (years 1-3), those new to working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, or even those who are working in new settings (resource versus itinerant, etc.) throughout the 2022-2023 school year. If you have a Teacher(s) of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing within your district who would be interested in joining this cohort, please email Virginia Madorin at virginia.madorin@dpi.nc.gov.

Meaningful Employment Opportunities for Students who are DeafBlind - Webinar
Registration is now open for the Hellen Keller Services (HKS) celebration of its 3rd annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)! Join us for a free webinar on October 5th at 2PM EST, airing nationwide. Employment for persons with DeafBlindness can be a major barrier. We invite school districts, vocational rehabilitation agencies, and local businesses to join this webinar to learn how they can provide meaningful opportunities for individuals who are DeafBlind.

Learning Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP) for Middle School Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing - Virtual Session
The Learning Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP) offers the opportunity for middle schoolers to connect with other students who are deaf or hard of hearing and use Listening and Spoken Language to communicate, virtually! This program is **FREE**. Registration is open through October 1, 2022. Attendance is capped at 20 students. For more information visit the AG Bell LEAP website.

ICYMI

Determining Service Delivery - Sunset of "Per Reporting Period"
A package of Technical Assistance materials was provided via shared google folder in the 6.29.22 Weekly Update. These items remain available at https://bit.ly/DetServiceTAPack and include a FAQ, two Tip Sheets, a TA Guide and a TA Video. Please be certain to share these materials with related service providers and other EC staff that may have previously documented services using "per reporting period".

EC Vacancies - Guidance Document & EC Office Hours

September 14, 2022

In last week's update, the OEC provided a guidance document designed to support local problem-solving during EC Teacher and EC service provider vacancies. An EC Office Hours was also hosted last Friday for any follow-up questions. In the event EC Directors/Coordinators were unable to either submit questions or participate during last week's EC Office Hours, this opportunity will be repeated.

Please submit your questions using this link by COB on September 20, 2022: https://forms.gle/Q5E1gPrSTC36AnWt7
EC Office Hours (EC Vacancies) - September 23, 2022 - 9:30a-11:00a
Join using this link: https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens (no registration required)

All Weekly Updates are archived on the NCDPI EC Division Memo padlet at https://bit.ly/ECDMemos. This site is password protected. Access can be made available to EC Directors/Coordinators via a request to the Regional Coordinator.

ECATS Monday Messages are archived on the Office of Exceptional Children website.
OEC > ECATS > Monday Messages

2022 Child Find Materials
Child Find materials are being processed at this time and will be mailed out by the end of September. For any questions, please contact Jamie Davis at Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov.

Federal Reporting
 ● **Exit Count**
All Public-School Units are responsible for certifying the Child Exit Count: September in ECATS. The certification schedule for the Exit Count opens September 15, 2022 and is due by close of business September 30, 2022. Please see memo.

 ● **Indicator 11**
All Public-School Units are responsible for certifying Indicator 11: Child Find in ECATS. The certification schedule for Indicator 11 begins October 3, 2022 and is due by close of business October 31, 2022.

 ● **Indicator 12**
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.

 ● **Indicator 14**
Selected Public-School Units are responsible for documenting post school outcomes survey data in ECATS for each student that graduated, dropped out, received a certificate, or aged out during the 2020-21 school year as reported in the 2020-21 Exit Report. **All Post-School Outcome survey data are to be entered in ECATS by September 16, 2022.** Your cooperation in meeting the deadline for data submission is greatly appreciated. The ECATS Reporting site has access to multiple resources on Indicator 14, including the recorded Indicator 14 training session. You can access these resources from the following link: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/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.

Grant Information

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training**

MOE Training will be offered on the following dates:
Monday, September 19th - 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Registration Link: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=rc04174aff0369b15631d83cfe506aa0b

Thursday, September 22nd - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Registration Link: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=rcd1b3943d3b41f97c2a84798228f3cc4

Please use the links to register. You only have to attend one session. The Fiscal Consultants will review the requirements for MOE and discuss the allowable exceptions. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Jamie Davis (jamie.davis@dpi.nc.gov .

- **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.

- **Special Grants Training**

If you were unable to attend the Special Grants Training or just need a refresher, please click here for the recorded session and PowerPoint. Special Grant applications opened on September 2, 2022.

- **2023 IDEA Grant for New Charter Schools**

Charter schools opening for the first year in 2022-2023, will be trained on the IDEA Grant application in early December 2022. The application will open for submission after the mandatory training. A due date for the submission will be determined when the planning allotments for the new charter schools are released by DPI School Business.

- **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.

PK EC Items of Interest

Pyramid Model Webinar Series
The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) is offering a 3-part webinar series called *Inclusion Benefits Everyone (Children, Families, Providers, and Directors).* Register here:
https://challengingbehavior.org/training/webinars/upcoming-webinars/

Exploring the Relationship between Early Childhood Special Education Preservice Preparation and Certification Requirements and Teacher and Student Outcomes
The purpose of this exploratory research project is to identify malleable variables that affect student outcomes for preschool age children receiving special education under IDEA.

One of the research activities is a national survey of preschool special education teachers that will measure the perception of the preparation the teacher received in their preservice program, as well as their ability to teach according to the national personnel standards for preschool special education teachers. Please share this opportunity with preschool exceptional children teachers. **(ATTACHED)**

Action Items/What's Due?

PRC 118 Autism Funding Request for Funding
The Office of Exceptional Children allocates PRC 118 Autism (AU) funding to assist Public School Units (PSUs) to increase capacity in the implementation of an effective autism program to improve outcomes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

There are two levels of support and funding available, General Support or Team Support. PSUs can choose which level based on their priorities regarding autism programming and in alignment with their LEA Self-Assessment.

The General Support level will allow PSUs to access ASD specific professional learning (PL) for the purpose of increasing educators' knowledge and use of evidence-based programming in the provision of services to students with ASD.

The Team Support level is available for PSUs to:

- Access PL for the purpose of increasing educators' implementation of effective services to students with ASD.
- Develop or maintain an Autism Support Team (AST) with the skills needed to provide support within the PSU.
- Provide PL and ongoing support (including but not limited to consultation, coaching, PLCs, etc.) within the PSU.
Funding amounts allocated will be dispersed in a lump sum based on PSU Average Daily Membership (ADM). A memo outlining acceptable use of funding will be disseminated when allocations are disbursed.
- Review these linked documents that provide details regarding General Support and Team Support.
- Prepare for your Request for Funding by reviewing and planning responses for these Questions:
  ○ General Support Questions
  ○ Team Support Questions
- Complete your Request for Funding Form by September 19, 2022.
Questions regarding PRC 118 Autism Funding may be directed to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov.

Applications for Model Programming Sites for Autism Spectrum Disorder
The Autism Model Program Site (AMPS) initiative is intended to increase capacity in the implementation of an effective autism program to improve outcomes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Using an Implementation Science framework, NCDPI autism consultants work collaboratively with selected Public School Units (PSUs) to leverage existing infrastructure and resources, such as the Autism Support Team, to address critical components of capacity building.

We are pleased to announce that a new cohort will be added for the 2022-2023 year. To begin the process of becoming an Autism Model Program Site, your PSU will need to complete the application as a team. Selected applicants will receive an additional $3,000.00 in PRC 118 Autism funding to support the requirements of being a part of this initiative. Applications need to be submitted to Davina Elliott, davina.elliott@dpi.nc.gov no later than September 27, 2022.

September 14, 2022

The NCDPI Autism Team will hold two optional informational sessions regarding this initiative and submission of the application. Join us either on September 20, 2022, from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm or on September 21, 2022, from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. Both sessions can be accessed at https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/amanda.passmore.

Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov with any inquiries. **(ATTACHED)**

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.

September Calendar Items

☐ September 20, 2022:   Submit questions by COB for EC Office Hours - EC Vacancies
https://forms.gle/Q5E1gPrSTC36AnWt7

☐ September 22, 2022:   Last day to register for Program Compliance Cohort 2.0

☐ September 23, 2022:   EC Office Hours - EC Vacancies - 9:30a-11:00a
Join here: https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens

☐ September 23, 2022:   Last day to submit nominations for Educator of Excellence