



EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

NC Department of Public Instruction

September 21, 2022

News !

REMINDER: 71st Conference on Exceptional Children: Conference & Hotel Registration closing soon!

The [Sheraton Greensboro Hotel](#) is offering a reduced rate of \$153.00, plus taxes & fees, for attendees to the conference. The hotel registration block will close on **September 30th**; Pre-conference Institutes and Conference registration will close **October 5, 2022 at 5:00pm**. Please use this [link](#) to register for the Conference. ***No onsite or late registrations will be accepted.***



National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event

Helen Keller Services is celebrating its 3rd annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) event! Save the date to join their nationwide virtual event on **October 13th at 2PM EST**. [Registration](#) is now open. *CRC Credits Available Upon Request. The US Department of Labor's theme for NDEAM 2022, "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation," recognizes the vital role people with disabilities play in making the nation's workforce diverse and inclusive. Please consider being a part of this event.

Professional Learning Opportunity for Special and General Educators: Building the Bridge: Fostering Family Engagement for Students with Disabilities

Please join us on **October 18 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** to take a deep dive into various factors impacting family and caregiver engagement in the education of students with disabilities in the general education setting. Presenters from the Autism Society of North Carolina will share practices that promote, facilitate and sustain strong, positive connections between students' families/caregivers at home and student's educational teams at school. Presenters will share content, frameworks and structures that apply to families and school teams working with any student with a disability. Additionally, presenters will share personal experiences as parents of children with a disability and how effective collaborations with schools resulted in positive outcomes for their children.

During this webinar, participants will:



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- Critically evaluate personal belief systems and assumptions that may affect perceptions of student behavior and family engagement.
- Identify critical perspectives and experiences that parents/caregivers bring to the team.
- Identify strategies to promote positive collaboration and communication with families/caregivers.
- Identify ways to promote generalization of strategies into the home and community settings.

Title: Building the Bridge: Fostering Family Engagement for Students with Disabilities

When: October 18, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Target Audience: Special Educators, General Educators, School Administrators, Guidance Counselors, School Social Workers, and other school staff who work with students with disabilities.

Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mG42Q019U4G1Dg

Important: Registration will close on **October 3, 2022**. The link to access the webinar as well as participant materials will be emailed to registrants one week prior to the event.

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**).

Items of Interest

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



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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

Registration Closes: January 17, 2023

Location: Asheboro, NC

Dates: February 8-9 and March 7, 2023

Registration Closes: January 17, 2023

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**).

Dyslexia Awareness

The NC Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is preparing for Dyslexia Awareness Month in October. They have released a [calendar](#) with daily facts and resources to help grow knowledge. They are also offering a learning opportunity through their annual Day of Dyslexia on Saturday, October 15th. The featured speaker is **Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson**, discussing ***Connecting Writing to the Science of Reading; Foundations for Developing Writing in Young Learners***. Several options are available for attendance to include in-person or virtual. More information, including registration, can be found on the [NC IDA's webpage](#).

ICYMI

EC Staff Vacancies - Guidance Document & EC Office Hours

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.



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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

Bookshare

Bookshare is the largest online Accessible Media Producer for various [accessible formats](#), including braille, large print, audio and e-pub. Student eligibility is unique, based on copyright laws, and specific qualified professionals in schools can determine a student's eligibility. This [presentation on Bookshare](#) demonstrates how this free service can positively impact reading skills for qualified students. If you have a designee or would like a technical assistance session about Bookshare, EC Directors and EC Coordinators please update your PSU information on the appropriate [regional spreadsheet](#) by Sep 30, 2022.

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.

2022 Child Find Materials

Child Find materials have been processed and mailed out. If you have not received your material by October 14th, 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 opened September 15, 2022 and is due by close of business September 30, 2022.

- **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.



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- **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.

- **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**

If you were unable to attend the first MOE Training Session, you will have an opportunity to attend the second session on Thursday, September 22nd - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Please click the registration link below to attend this training.

Registration Link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=rkd1b3943d3b41f97c2a84798228f3cc4>

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.



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- **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.

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.



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PK EC Items of Interest

CLARIFICATION The 10-day attendance / no-show rule does not apply to Pre-K students

Please see the update [Preschool Enrollment, Attendance and Discipline Reporting QRD](#) that clarifies that the 10-day attendance / no-show rule **does not** apply to Pre-K students (see Attendance section > 2nd paragraph > last sentence). The SASA manual is being updated to reflect the same clarification. Please share with data managers and other relevant LEA staff.

Teaching Strategies Gold: Upcoming Training Opportunity

Reminder: TSG is required for all LEA operated classrooms

The OEL is offering a second opportunity to participate in the TS Gold virtual training session. This session will occur on October 4th, 5th, and 6th from 3-5 pm. The 6-hour TS Gold training was divided into three 2-hour sessions to best support the diversity of schedules now that school is in session. Registration link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m0e73e4f5f5d71129ccccc9b131c28ee6>.

Fall 2022 Support for Local Communities: Transitions

Join us virtually for an opportunity to reconvene and collaborate with your local early learning partners to develop/improve transition strategies/plans.

After the winter transition meetings, we reviewed feedback and were excited to see the number of communities that are prioritizing transition activities. As promised, we are reconvening local early learning ESSA/transition teams to continue the conversation around transitions, utilize new resources, and provide an extended work session for planning and partnering with team members to develop/improve your local community transition plan. The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, NC Partnership for Children, NC Early Childhood Foundation, the SERVE Center at UNCG, and EducationCounsel will once again support local communities in collaborating to create/update transition plans that meet requirements for all community partners and create an opportunity for meaningful coordination and collaboration.

JOIN US! Build your team and attend a virtual regional meeting. See the attachment for registration and team planning details. **(ATTACHED)**

Action Items/What's Due?

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**.



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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)**

September Calendar Items

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| <input type="checkbox"/> September 22, 2022: | Last day to register for Program Compliance Cohort 2.0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 23, 2022: | EC Office Hours - EC Vacancies - 9:30a-11:00a
Join here: https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 23, 2022: | Last day to submit nominations for Educator of Excellence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 30, 2022: | Deadline for hotel room at the conference rate: Sheraton Greensboro Hotel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> October 5, 2022: | Registration deadline for the 71st Conference on Exceptional Children |