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News!

Learning Ally

The NCDPI Learning Ally Memo and Decision Sequence have been updated and can be found in the attached document. A reminder that NCDPI provides a limited number of memberships for qualified students with a print disability. **(ATTACHED)**

Free Assistive Technology Webinars

Please see the list of [free webinars for Assistive Technology \(AT\)](#) to find a variety of different AT and accessibility topics for the month of October 2022.

Adapted Physical Education (APE)

The Office of Exceptional Children is committed to continuing to support and advocate for effective services in the area of Adapted Physical Education. Please see the memo for APE advisory information. **(ATTACHED)**

IMPORTANT Survey: School Performance Grades

NC DPI is engaged in creating new School Performance Grades (SPG) for North Carolina schools. Stakeholder meetings have provided feedback around new indicators/measures for SPGs and a survey has been developed for additional stakeholder feedback across the state. The survey can be found [here](#). Additionally, to support the communication of this work, a new webpage with additional information has been created on the DPI website which can be found [here](#).

Please consider completing the survey and feel free to share it with your various communities.

Items of Interest

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](#).

IDEA Grant Update

PSUs with IDEA Grants which have been returned for areas needing attention or with budgets not submitted, need to complete these steps prior to **September 30, 2022**. The MOE Expenditure Section cannot open until the IDEA Grant has been approved by the Fiscal Consultant. If you have questions regarding the areas needing attention or issues with the budget submission, reach out to your Fiscal Consultant.

Maintenance of Effort Expenditures

Maintenance of Effort Expenditures will open on October 1, 2022, for all PSUs with an approved 2023 IDEA grant and is due on October 31, 2022. The training information is located in the NCDPI Resource tab of CCIP



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and [here](#) on the OEC website. The Fiscal Consultants will be available for drop-in technical support sessions on:

October 11 from 9:00 – 4:00 with a lunch break at 12:30 <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/adam.parent> and
October 26 from 9:00 – 4:00 with a lunch break at 12:30 <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/adam.parent>.

Please see the MOE Expenditure Quick Reference document for further information. **(ATTACHED)**

2021 CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant (PRC 167)

The period of availability for PRC 167 is through 09/30/2022. PSUs submitting budgets for carryover for PRC 167 will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN). The GAN indicates \$0.00 Total Amount of Subaward with a period of availability through 09/30/2024. The initial award must be encumbered by 09/30/2022.

2022 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act (ARP PRC 185, PRC 186, & PRC 187)

The period of availability for PRC 185, 186 and 187 is 07/01/2022 through 09/30/2024. PSUs submitting budgets for carryover for PRC 185, 186 and 187 will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN). The GAN indicates \$0.00 Total Amount of Subaward with a period of availability through 09/30/2024. The award must be encumbered by 09/30/2023 and spent by 12/30/2023.

Federal Reporting Office Hours – Wednesday, October 5th

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>.

EC Office Hours - EC Teacher Vacancies

The recording for this office hours has been posted on the ECD Memo padlet. This recording captures the questions and responses provided for both the September 9th and September 22nd office hours.

NCDPI EC Division Memo padlet can be found 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.

ICYMI

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



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parents of children with a disability and how effective collaborations with schools resulted in positive outcomes for their children.

During this webinar, participants will:

- 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.

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.



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- **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.

- **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 – 09/26/2022**

[Monday Message 9.26.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **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.

- **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.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 09/23/2022

[School Business Newsletter 09.23.22](#)



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PK EC Items of Interest

Discipline Data Reporting Course is now available

There is now a *Discipline Data Reporting* Course available through NCDPI Canvas. This site contains the 2022-2023 Discipline Data Webinar Series and links to Additional Resources and Documentation to support schools and PSUs in North Carolina in the accurate reporting of discipline data. **There are important updates to the Preschool Discipline Reporting requirements including new action and location codes to assist with accurate reporting.**

The following pages can be found on the site:

- 2022-2023 Discipline Data Webinar Series - *#6 is the preschool-specific webinar*
- Additional Resources and Documentation
- Publicly Available Data and Reports
- Frequently Asked Questions (available soon)

Use this link to enroll in and access the Discipline Data Reporting Course in Canvas:

<https://ncdpi.instructure.com/enroll/N99K9E>. Feel free to share this link with others in your PSU and schools.

Please note, this course only covers discipline reporting requirements. Resources to support strong teaching practices for social emotional development and challenging behavior are available separately.

Early Childhood Personnel Center Survey

The **Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)** at the University of Connecticut (UConn) has contracted with the **National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)** to conduct a national survey of the early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education and related services (ECSE) workforce. **Each person in the workforce is critical to the delivery of effective services that result in improved outcomes for infants and young children with disabilities and their families.**

Please share this survey with members of the EI/ECSE workforce in your district and/or school.

https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqtf0DMplWPr5WK

We estimate the survey will take less than **10 minutes of your time**. We encourage you to complete the survey all at once, but the link will allow you to come back as many times as you want to complete the survey. It will save your data. **The results of the survey will be collated across respondents, and no identifiable information will be collected from you.**

We will be sharing the results of the survey with state and national policy makers so they will have data to plan future funding decisions, training opportunities, recruitment strategies and retention supports for the workforce in EI/ECSE. **After you complete the survey, you can enter a lottery for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!**

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Tracy Jost at tjost@nieer.org. Or call 848-932-4350.

Thank you in advance for your time and your commitment to EI/ECSE.

Mary Beth Bruder, PhD. | Director, ECPC



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Action Items/What's Due?

- Indicator 11 opens October 3rd and closes October 31st.

October Calendar Items

- Maintenance of Effort (MOE) due by October 31, 2022