



**Weekly Update**  
**January 11, 2023**

**News!**

**2023 March Institute**

Please see the memo with registration details concerning the upcoming March Institute to be held Monday, February 27 through Thursday, March 2 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina.  
**(ATTACHED)**

**New Social Studies Extended Content Standards**

New Social Studies Extended Content Standards have been developed and now part of the GRAD 010 policy for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In an effort to support the instructional aspect, a video was made with support tools included within the presentation. The video link and password are below along with the links for the presentation and the resources discussed.

Webex meeting recording: Social Studies Extended Content Standards

Password: SSecs2022!

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=851693fe167495bcecd2ac5108277a8a>

Presentation

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-Y4d9dv1H2q6tG8Gy7TJ0nsaxAFCFL01/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112430787872224469175&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Resources

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kDpRC-ulvbgUF4WnxL9pJTR6YQzIFaECpi8Y7ruSums/edit?usp=sharing>

**Spring 2023 Tuition Reimbursement**

The Spring 2023 Tuition Reimbursement Application is available for current residency or provisional exceptional children teachers who are employed in the K12 setting. Please forward the linked memo below to your staff who would be eligible for this opportunity. **(ATTACHED)**

**Adolescent Literacy Overview**

Join us for **Adolescent Literacy Overview**, a one-day professional learning session designed for district and school-based teams to review best practices in the field of literacy instruction for students in the upper elementary grades through high school and to begin the problem-solving process of reviewing current practices. The session will also help your team begin to develop a successful Adolescent Literacy framework within your school or PSU.

Successful completion and participation in this professional learning results in 0.6 CEUs.

**Regions 1-4 (Northeast, Southeast, North Central, Sandhills):**

January 31, 2023, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



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Johnston County Workforce Development Center  
135 Best Wood Drive  
Clayton, NC 27520  
[Registration Link](#)

**Regions 5-8 (Piedmont-Triad, Southwest, Northwest, Western):**

February 17, 2023, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Catawba County Schools Conference Room C  
2285 North Anderson Avenue  
Newton, NC 28658  
[Registration Link](#)

If you have any questions regarding this professional learning opportunity, please email your regional Literacy Consultants [Beth Gilchrist](#) (NC/SH), [Bridget Bilbro](#) (NE/SE), [Melanie Sharpe](#) (PT/SW), or [Teri Queen](#) (NW/W).

**Western Braille Challenge for Students with Visual Impairments**

Save the date of Thursday, March 2, 2023 for the Western NC Braille Challenge. It will be held in Winston Salem this year on the IFB Solutions Campus. More information will be forthcoming but, please email [WesternBRLchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:WesternBRLchallenge@gmail.com) if you have an interest in attending or volunteering.

**Combined Expenditure Report**

The Combined Expenditure Report is ready to launch! This report will allow you to better track your funds in PRC 029, PRC 118, and PRC 119. Beginning January 17, 2023, the reports will be released to each PSU. The due date for the Mid-Year report is March 15, 2023. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Sinclair at [nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov).

<b>Items of Interest</b>
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**Professional Learning Opportunity: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the General Education Setting**

The NCDPI Autism Team is providing the professional learning opportunity *Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the General Education Setting* in the following locations:

Greenville, NC

Elementary: February 22, 2023

Secondary: February 23, 2023

Sylva, NC

Elementary: April 12, 2023

Secondary: April 13, 2023

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These one-day workshops are intended for professionals working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the general education setting. Participants will be provided with an overview of the characteristics of ASD to support the planning and provision of Specially Designed Instruction (SDI). Particular attention will be given to the use of visual supports to increase student engagement in and completion of standards-aligned tasks and assignments.

Each workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and participants will receive .6 CEUs upon completion. Content is focused on grade-level academic instruction; therefore, participants should register for the session that corresponds to their work setting. Please follow this [link](#) to access registration. **Registration will close on February 15, 2023.** Please email questions to [asdteam@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:asdteam@dpi.nc.gov).

**PT January Virtual Meeting and Office hours**

The Office of Exceptional Children consultant for Physical Therapy will host virtual meetings and office hours. Please see the associated document for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

**Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality (EESD) Webinar Series**

Session #4 of SY 2022-2023 EESD webinar series will be held on Thursday, January 26 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. This month's presenters are Lynn Makor, NC DPI Consultant for Psychological Services and Bridgette LeCompte, NC DPI Consultant for Occupational Therapy.

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](mailto:Dreama.McCoy@dpi.nc.gov) or [Alysha.Gray@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Alysha.Gray@dpi.nc.gov). **(ATTACHED)**

**Professional Learning Opportunity for Special and General Educators**

**Title:** Fostering Self-Advocacy in Students with Autism and Other Learning Differences Who Are Accessing the General Curriculum

**When:** January 25, 2023 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.

This professional learning opportunity will explore various factors that impact and support self-advocacy by students with autism and other learning differences who are accessing the general education curriculum. Presenters from the Autism Society of North Carolina will share the importance of teaching and facilitating self-advocacy skills to improve transition and post-secondary outcomes.

**Registration Link:** [https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2uwnJbWSGV9y4hE](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2uwnJbWSGV9y4hE)

**Important:** Registration will close on **January 18, 2023**. The link to access the webinar will be emailed to registrants one week prior to the event.



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**Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit**

The Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit will take place at the Koury Convention Center on **March 2, 2023**. Please save the date. It will be a half-day event. More Information will be shared soon.

**Save the Date: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Field Day**

The [2023 Deaf Field Day](#) will be on April 20, 2023 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

**Federal Reporting**

● **Federal Reporting Preparation**

In preparation for upcoming federal reporting, the following reports are available to check data each month for accuracy and address any possible errors that must be corrected prior to the certification schedule:

- April Child Count – April 2023 | 04/02/2022 – 04/01/2023
- Indicator 7 – August 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Exit Count – September 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Indicator 11 – October 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023

These reports are accessible in ECATS from Reporting > Standard Reports > Special Education tab. As a reminder, the schedule for the upcoming indicators and counts are listed in the Important Dates Calendar at 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**

● **Developmental Day Center (DDC) Funds Reminder**

To be eligible for Developmental Day Center funds, each student must be placed in the DDC as the least restrictive environment by the IEP team. As discussed in the Special Grants training, the placement decision should be documented on the IEP or Prior Written Notice. As with all placement decisions, the placement in the DDC should be reviewed and documented at all subsequent IEP team meetings for the student. Additional criteria for receiving DDC funds for preschool students are:

- Require special education 5 days a week and one of the following
- At least three hours each day of specially designed instruction or
- At least two hours each day of specially designed instruction with at least one weekly related service
- At least one hour each day of specially designed instruction with at least two weekly related services



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For school aged students, the need for specially designed instruction should be 5 days a week for a minimum of four hours each day.

- **IDEA American Rescue Plan (PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187)**

New Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been sent out through CCIP for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187. The previous GANs that were provided incorrectly stated that the Subaward Budget Period of Performance/Subaward Period ends on 9/30/2024. The newly issued GAN has the correct period of performance of 7/01/2021-9/30/2023 with a subaward amount of 0.00 because all funds are carryover funds with no new allotment. All funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and spent by 12/31/2023.

- **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.

<b>ICYMI</b>
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**NEW in ECATS: Case Management Report**

This week's Monday Message introduced the new Case Management Report going live on January 13th. We hope this standard report will provide useful on demand data for implementing and supporting EC programs across the state. A user guide, with directions and a data dictionary for report fields, was included in Monday's announcement.

**ECATS: Removal of COVID-19 Initial Delay Reason**

The COVID-19 delay reason was added to ECATS as an internal tracking field during the pandemic and was never an approved exception for federal reporting. As of January 13, 2023, the COVID-19 delay reason will no longer be an option in ECATS. Please refer back to this week's Monday Message for additional details regarding initial referrals made on or after July 1, 2022.

**Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities**

In response to the most frequently asked questions related to Transition Services, a resource document has been created to provide direct links to a series of weekly transition tips, as well as guidance related to the Summary of Performance and Age of Majority processes. Please share as appropriate with special educators and others in the field who work to support transition age students in the development of their individualized transition plan. **(ATTACHED)**



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**American Printing House (APH) Legally Blind Registration**

The APH legally blind registration link is now open and will be open until February 14, 2023. Please refer to the [NCAPH Memo](#) if you have additional questions or contact [ncaph@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ncaph@dpi.nc.gov).

<b>PK EC Items of Interest</b>
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**Fall Meeting Follow-Up: Preschool Programs in Private Schools and in Child Care Programs**

Responses to questions raised during our fall 2022 in-person and virtual meetings are provided in this [Preschool Programs in Private Schools and in Child Care Programs FAQ](#). Reach out to Keashia Walker ([keashia.walker@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:keashia.walker@dpi.nc.gov)) or Dawn Meskil ([dawn.meskil@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:dawn.meskil@dpi.nc.gov)) with any additional questions.

**Allocation for PRC 119- Preschool Targeted Assistance:**

The Office of Early Learning and the Office of Exceptional Children are pleased to announce the release of PRC119 funds. These Targeted Assistance Funds are used to support:

1. PSU Preschool Coordinator professional learning,
2. Preschool Pyramid Model (PPM) Implementation, and
3. Preschool Regional Representative Support

Each PSU has been allotted \$2,000 to ensure their preschool leaders and/or staff participates in professional learning events designed to support preschool initiatives related to child find and serving children with disabilities. Funds can also support related travel expenses as applicable. Cumberland, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, and Forsyth Counties will be allotted \$4,000 to support additional staff participation. PSU Preschool Coordinators who serve as regional representatives will also receive additional funds.

A PRC119 budget or budget amendment must be submitted that aligns with the NCDPI Finance allotment amount. Allocation amounts for PPM implementation, and regional support must align with the approved activities, spending plans and assurances. The use of a unique identifier would assist with tracking and efficiently monitoring the use of funds per spending initiative.

Per the Federal Grant Programs Allotment Policy, current year awards for which a PSU is eligible have been reduced by the amount of funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. If you have any questions, please contact Keashia Walker at [Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov).

<b>Compliance Tip of the Week</b>
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Remember: NC MTSS is a school improvement framework that encompasses academic, behavioral, social, and emotional instruction and support. NC MTSS employs a systems approach using data-driven problem-solving to maximize growth for all. With this in mind, consider carefully how local websites are organized. Placing MTSS information exclusively on a local EC Department webpage may convey unintended messages about the structure and purpose of a MTSS.



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<b>January Calendar Items/What's Due?</b>
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- **January 1st - February 14th Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students**
- **January 12th - January 13th** Regional Meetings continue
- **January 31st**  
PRC 29: Quarterly **Behavior Support Assessment NC Behavior Support Site**
- **January 31st**  
**SiMR** Self-Assessment Data Analysis Submission

**Save the Date: March Institute**

Monday, February 27th - Wednesday, March 1st