



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

News!

March Institute is Near Capacity!

The March Institute registration is almost at capacity for our space. Registration will remain open until 5:00 pm on February 17th or until we reach capacity. If registration is closed, you may email Nina Adams (Nina.Adams@dpi.nc.gov) to be put on a wait list.

SiMR Data Analysis

EC Directors and Coordinators are encouraged to participate in a follow-up conversation to discuss their SiMR Data Analysis with reviewers. If you **have not** already responded, please complete [this form](#) to indicate your interest. The opportunity to opt-in to a conversation will close **COB Friday, Feb. 10**.

December 2022 Child Count Change Report

The [2022 Year-to-Year Change Report](#) showing the student count changes for each PSU from the December 2021 Child Count to the December 2022 Child Count has been posted to the Exceptional Children Federal Reporting website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/program-and-fiscal-monitoring/federal-reporting#child-count>. From the Federal Reporting website, navigate to Reports > click to expand Child Count > navigate to December 2022 > click to access Dec2022 by LEA 3-21 with LEA Change Year. Please review the report, and if your PSU has been listed in red text, your PSU has shown a significant increase or decrease of more or less than 10% and more than 10 students between the two school years. The EC Director should email an explanation for the significant change to khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov by 3/10/2023. PSUs only need to send an explanation if their information on the report is in red text. We appreciate your timely response to this request.

Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit

New Details for Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit. The summit will take place on Thursday, March 2 after the March Institute at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. This is a half-day event with breakfast at 7:30, opening address at 8:30, and three breakout sessions ending at 12:15. To view breakout session titles and descriptions, use this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YFvWd4XyPY0bw0V_xJ587Lz-3vFjk3Wm/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116601363503956801744&rtpof=true&sd=true.

The link will be updated as other sessions are added. The summit's focus is "**Moving from Information to Implementation**" with sessions on effective practices and not just admiring the recruitment and retention problem! There is no payment for the summit attendance, only for hotel stay if needed. We encourage EC Directors/Coordinators to invite one or two people from your HR department and collaboratively decide if a school administrator from your district would benefit from content about recruiting and retaining special education teachers and invite them.

Registration closes Friday, Feb. 17. Please use and share this registration link for the summit:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IDjTufsirbUoZ0

Hotel room availability can be determined at the Koury using this link:



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/gsosi-sheraton-greensboro-at-four-seasons/rooms/>, the Marriot app or calling. Additionally, there are many other hotels in the area.

Questions about the summit can be directed to Carol.Moffitt@dpi.nc.gov.

Items of Interest

New Forms - Dispute Resolution

The forms for Facilitated IEP Team Meetings, Mediation, and Due Process have been updated on the OEC website. Forms can be submitted electronically using the associated email addresses (Facilitation@dpi.nc.gov, Mediation@dpi.nc.gov, and Due_Process@dpi.nc.gov). The OEC fax line is no longer being used.

Self-Paced Canvas Course: *Comprehensive Literacy for All* Book Study

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children is offering a self-paced book study using the Canvas LMS platform. The book under study in this course is entitled “Comprehensive Literacy for All: Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities to Read and Write” by Karen Erickson and David Koppenhaver. This book is one resource available to educators who want to learn more about literacy instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. However, this book and the resources contained in this course do not reflect an endorsement from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. If you choose to participate, you must acquire a copy of the book on your own. There are many retail outlets that offer this book for sale at a reasonable price. Use the [Book Study registration link](#) to access this course. **(ATTACHED)**

Understanding the Mathematics Extended Content Standards

This one-day professional learning provides an opportunity to understand and apply the Mathematics Extended Content Standards through collaboration with peer educators. This professional learning is directed towards teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities. During the day, professionals will collaborate to analyze, decode, plan, and create mathematical activities. The professional learning will be held March 9th in Burke County from 8:30 until 3:30 with an hour lunch.

https://ncdpi.azurewebsites.net/jfe/form/SV_ezYM3tTCuyuid1Q

Using your HB 317 Data to Improve Student Outcomes

This professional development will be held on April 17, 2023, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the NC Department of Public Instruction Building located at 301 N. Wilmington Street in Raleigh. Description: To improve the educational outcomes of NC students who are deaf or hard of hearing, HB317 requires that language and literacy data are collected on an annual basis. This professional development session will focus on how to connect the data to programming needs to improve student outcomes. With guidance from DPI presenters, participants will use their 2021-2022 submitted data to develop actionable goals to address their needs and incorporate strategies that promote intra-professional collaboration. (Individual district data reports will be provided at the training.) Further, this training provides an overview of statewide and regional outcomes from previous data collections to guide participants in identifying their strengths and needs.



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

Target Audience: This PD is for DHH Leads and team members, Program Administrators, and EC Directors.

Objectives: Participants will: 1. be able to describe the rationale, components, and results from the state-wide HB 317 data collection, 2. learn how to connect student data to their LEAs programming needs to improve student outcomes, 3. develop goals for their DHH program that support student and programming needs, and 4. learn strategies to promote collaboration with all members of their DHH team. Participation in this professional learning results in 0.6 CEUs.

To Register, please use the following [Registration Link](#).

Questions about this professional learning can be directed to Thomas Page at thomas.page@dpi.nc.gov.

American Sign Language Classes

The NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering Basic Sign Language Classes on multiple dates during Spring 2023 via Zoom. For more information, view the [course flier](#).

ICYMI

Implementing an Instructional Model in the Evaluation & Identification of Specific Learning Disabilities

Available research indicates a high level of error and lack of evidence associated with historical cognitive discrepancy methods of SLD identification. From the perspective of prevention and timely intervention, the NC adopted instructional model is best supported by existing research and establishes consistency in defining, evaluating, and identifying students with learning disabilities. In response to requests from school leaders and practitioners for improved access to state level training on this model, this self-paced course is designed for, and made accessible to, all educators. The course content and application exercises are intended to improve educator (both general ed/special ed) understanding of how learning disabilities are defined, as well as allow for practice in applying equitable and effective approaches to evaluation and identification. This [publication resource](#) provides additional details and registration for the course. The [Facilitation Guide](#) is a resource to provide structure, pacing, and collaborative opportunities when framing the course as a group study session for school teams.

Professional Learning Opportunity- Foundations of Communication

Foundation of Communication is a course developed in an interdisciplinary approach between consultants at DPI in the areas of Speech and Language Pathology, Autism and Significant Cognitive Disabilities. This two-day course is an in-depth dive into language development and strategies for providers to encourage and teach communication to students who are learning to communicate. In addition, participants will become familiar with augmentative and alternate communication teaching methodologies and explore the Extended Content Standards, which are aligned to the *Standard Course of Study* in North Carolina. Sessions run from 8:30-3:30 each day, with attendance on both days mandatory in order to earn 1.2 CEUs.

Register with this link for the following dates and locations:

March 16-17, 2023 in Williamson, NC

April 20-21, 2023 in Hickory, NC-Session full. Waitlist only

Please register at: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9QwGOgFIOF3A1jE



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Office of Exceptional Children is pleased to offer Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities series. This course aligns the Foundations of Math with the Extended Content Standards. It is a four-day offering in which three days are devoted to participants learning Evidence-Based Practices in Mathematics and the fourth day focused on the Math ECS. Participants must be able to attend all sessions and partial credit will not be awarded. Attendance is limited to the first 30 registrants for each location.

Registration for Lillington dates of March 21-22 and April 18-19

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3BIsIvgJoxHgSbA

Registration for Wilmington dates of March 29-30 and April 26-27

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dclUiUyK5rcXh4O

Foundations of Autism: Instructional Practices

The NCDPI Autism Team is providing the professional learning opportunity *Foundations of Autism: Instructional Practices*. Participants can choose from either of the following locations:

Hickory, NC: March 16, 2023 - March 17, 2023 - session full, waitlist only

Williamston, NC: March 21, 2023 - March 22, 2023

In addition to attending the two-day in person sessions, there will be a 3-hour webinar on May 1, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

These workshops are intended for professionals working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This workshop will provide participants with an overview of the learning styles of individuals with ASD and effective instructional practices that promote student engagement and independence in the educational environment, with particular attention to the use of visual supports (schedules, activity systems, material design, and environmental design).

The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day and participants will receive 1.6 CEUs upon completion. Participants are required to attend both the in-person session and the webinar in order to receive the CEUs. No partial credit will be given.

Please follow this [link](#) to access registration. **Registration will close on March 9, 2023.** Please email questions to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov

Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives

[Registration](#) is open for the Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives.

The spring 2023 meeting will be held in two locations (east and west), allowing for a greater chance to attend our in-person sessions! Content presented will be the same at both sessions. These sessions will not be



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

recorded. Please see the attached flyer for additional details and [registration link](#). (ATTACHED)

Combined Expenditure Report Reminder

The Combined Expenditure Reports for Mid-Year are due on or before March 15, 2023. If you did not receive one or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Sinclair at nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov.

Federal Reporting

- **Federal Personnel Survey: Update**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2022-23 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. The link to access the survey is https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_50oVIRpkycSzRWe. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey. The federal personnel survey opens on February 8, 2023, **and the due date to submit the completed survey has been extended to March 31, 2023 (please disregard the original due date of March 13th)**. In preparation for the federal personnel survey, two 1-hr training sessions will be provided via webinar on February 8, 2023, at 10:00 am and the repeat session at 2:00 pm. Registration is not required to attend either session and both sessions will be recorded and posted on the ECATS Reporting website. To join the morning and/or afternoon training session, please use the following link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>.

- **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.

- **Information from Monday Message – 02/06/2023**

[Monday Message 2.6.23.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

- **CEIS/CCEIS Plans**

The Office of Special Education (OSEP) has made a change in the data collection for PSUs with CEIS/CCEIS plans and these changes are now required for the 2022-2023 school year. The attached spreadsheet has been updated with the changes. PSUs currently implementing a CEIS/CCEIS plan will receive a follow-up email from the fiscal consultants for support. **(ATTACHED)**

- **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

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.



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

ZERO TO THREE's Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-5™) Training

The DC:0-5™ (compatible with the DSM-5 and the ICD-10 and ICD-11) is the only developmentally sensitive, multi-axial classification system for diagnosing mental health and developmental disorders in infants and young children. This is a complex process that requires dyadic assessment of caregivers and children, recognition of the different developmental expressions of mental health symptoms, and awareness of cultural considerations. Please see the attached flier for this upcoming clinical training and share with any licensed practitioners who may be interested. **(ATTACHED)**

REMINDER Save-the-Date: Preschool PowerSchool Technical Assistance Opportunities

Please join us for reminders, updates and technical assistance regarding Preschool PowerSchool data entry and reporting. There are two opportunities to join:

February 15 - 10:00-11:00 - registration link

<https://ncgov.webex.com/weblink/register/r05603f64bf86ed7f7c27bcedbb6fad84>

OR

February 16 - 2:00-3:00 - registration link

<https://ncgov.webex.com/weblink/register/r4c28bf3863f6cfec2f7afa1649898c29>

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.



Weekly Update
February 8, 2023

Compliance Tip of the Week

Parent Participation

Remember that the IDEA strongly supports parent participation in the IEP team meeting. An IEP meeting must be scheduled at a time and place that parents and the other IEP team members agree upon in support of all members participation. Meetings may be held without parents if the school or PSU is *“unable to convince the parent(s) that they should attend.”* In this situation, staff members must document all attempts to arrange a mutually agree upon time and place such as:

- detailed records of telephone calls or attempted and the results;
- copies of any correspondence sent...and responses received; and
- detailed records of visits made to the parents’ home or place of employment, if appropriate, and the results of those visits.

In ECATS under the STUDENT INFORMATION tab, the “CONTACTS” feature may be used for documenting phone calls, conversations, and dates/methods of correspondence with parents.

January Calendar Items/What’s Due?

- **January 31st**

PRC 29: Quarterly **Behavior Support Assessment NC Behavior Support Site**

- **January 31st**

SiMR Self-Assessment Data Analysis Submission