



Weekly Update
February 15, 2023

News!

SPECIAL EDITION: EC Office Hours - SLD/AU Statewide Targeting Monitoring

The OEC has completed its statewide monitoring of the implementation of the July 2020 revisions to the SLD policy. This EC Office Hours is designed to share the results of this targeted monitoring activity and the next steps that must occur statewide. Additionally, the OEC will be launching the statewide monitoring of the AU policy revision that occurred concurrently with the SLD changes and will be sharing the AU monitoring plan. Please plan to log into this session for important information regarding these activities.

***NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Special Edition: EC Office Hours - SLD/AU Statewide Targeted Monitoring

Date and time:

Friday, Feb 24, 2023 9:30 am | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Join link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=mdd739e8dc3f8c2ad58683afbb24e9ef4>

Webinar number:

2425 867 1375

Webinar password:

XnGxvEmM392 (96498366 from phones)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0003 US Toll

+1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)

Access code: 242 586 71375

Applying an Ethical Lens to Workload Management for School-Based Occupational Therapy Practitioners (OTPs)

This webinar will be delivered on **Tuesday, April 18th, 2023** from **3:00 - 4:30 pm** (1.5 contact hours). OT practitioners (OTPs) will discuss and apply ethics to workload management in school-based occupational therapy practice. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend the live session; however, a recorded version will be available by May 1, 2023. Participants will have until June 30, 2023 to view the recorded version and obtain their certificate of attendance. Register using the following link or the QR code in the attached flyer:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8II9631GNvvkIEC

Please note OTPs are required to complete an ethics course for state licensure renewal in NC.

An ethics webinar for school-based OTPs is offered annually by the Consultant for Occupational Therapy to support continuing competency. **(ATTACHED)**

IDEA Grant Training

The Special Programs and Data section has developed a short screencast training targeted toward New EC Directors/Coordinators or for those who may need a refresher on accessing the IDEA Grant through NCCIP. This training was developed to support PSUs in preparation for IDEA grant submission in May 2023. Please click [here](#) to access the training. The PowerPoint is attached to this communication. For any questions, please



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contact your Regional Coordinator and Fiscal Monitor. Links to this training and PowerPoint can also be found under NCDPI resources in NCCCIP. **(ATTACHED)**

Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit

Registration Deadline Friday, Feb. 17 for the Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators Summit. Please use and share this registration link for the summit:

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

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.

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

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/gsosi-sheraton-greensboro-at-four-seasons/rooms/>, the Marriott 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.

Regional Meeting Save the Date

Please save the dates for upcoming Regional Director/Coordinator meetings:

- Sept 19-22
- Jan 30- February 2
- Apr 30- May 3

More information will follow concerning times, location, and agendas.

Summer Opportunities for Students with Visual Impairments

Information on summer opportunities and camps for students with Visual Impairments is currently being distributed. In an effort to streamline sharing, a list of information for students will be posted in a [shared document](#). Information will be listed in alphabetical order. Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments are encouraged to check back regularly as well as check the [VI Hub](#) for updates and additions. Please note this



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information is only being shared as a resource and should **not** be perceived as an endorsement from the NC DPI Office of Exceptional Children. The shared document will be available in the VI Listserv starting Friday, February 17, 2023.

Assistive Technology Networking Session(s)

The Office of Exceptional Children is excited to announce the next two Assistive Technology Networking Session opportunities. The spring Assistive Technology Networking Session will be offered Thursday, March 30, 2023, and the final session for this school year will be offered on Thursday June 8, 2023. These networking sessions will offer an opportunity for staff across the state to meet in a virtual capacity and share their experiences, troubleshoot challenges, and grow the practice through the shared knowledge of other staff doing similar work across the state. If you have questions, please contact [Josh Barton](#).

- To register for the **spring networking session (3/30/2023)**, please use the following link: [Assistive Technology Networking Session \(Spring 2023\)](#) **Registration will close on March 9, 2023.**
- To Register for the **summer networking session (6/8/2023)**, please use the following link: [Assistive Technology Networking Session \(Summer 2023\)](#) **Registration will close on May 18, 2023.**

Assistive Technology Webinar Series

We are pleased to announce the remaining sessions for our 2022-2023 Assistive Technology Webinar Series. The other topics that will be covered are Reading Tools, Writing Tools, and Apps and Extensions Round-up. We will offer each webinar on two different dates and times to allow for greater opportunities for participation. The sessions will be recorded for future access. If you have questions, please contact [Josh Barton](#).

- **March Sessions:** Tuesday March 21, 2023 from 3:00-4:00 or Thursday March 23, 2023 from 1:00-2:00
 - [Reading Tools Registration](#) **Registration will close on 2/28/2023**
- **April Sessions:** Monday April 17, 2023 from 12:00-1:00 or Thursday April 20, 2023 from 3:00-4:00
 - [Writing Tools Registration](#) **Registration will close on 3/27/2023**
- **May Sessions:** Monday May 15, 2023 from 12:00-1:00 or Thursday May 18, 2023 from 3:00-4:00
 - [App and Extension Round-up Registration](#) **Registration will close on 4/24/2023**

NCATP Adaptive Recreation and Gaming Resource Fair:

Assistive Technology helps people with disabilities actively participate in community life, including sports and recreational activities and programs. Register now to attend a Spring 2023 AT Pop-Up event near you:

- Try out accessible recreational equipment and adaptive gaming
- Learn about resources to participate in local sports programs
- Meet new people with similar interests
- Get active, try something new and have fun.

To learn more about this event and to register view the flier from NCATP. **(ATTACHED)**



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Items of Interest

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: Training Resources now available!**

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. Here is the link to access the survey: https://ncdpi.azureus1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5ooVIRpkycSzRWe. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey. The federal personnel survey opened on February 8, 2023, and the due date has been extended to March 31, 2023. For more information about completing the federal personnel survey, please review the recorded training sessions and PowerPoint presentation located on the ECATS Federal Reporting website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>.

● **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.

● **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>.



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- **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 – 02/13/2023**

[Monday Message 2.13.23.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **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



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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.

Free Opportunity: Parent Professional Collaborative

The NC Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program and The CARE Project are offering FREE registration for the upcoming Parent Professional Collaborative to any employed or contracted pre-K to 12th grade staff in a NC public school who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, such as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Speech Language Pathologist or Educational Audiologist. Please see [the flier](#) for additional information, agenda, and to register. You must register by Friday, February 17th.

Interpreter Workshops and Mentoring Opportunities

[ASL OWL](#) invites you to several upcoming workshops.

February 25 noon-3p EST - [The ABC's of the IEP](#) - Aimeè Anderson (English)

March 11th noon-3p EST - [Making Feedback Fruitful: Turning Your EIPA Results Into a Plan](#) - Aimeè Anderson (English)

March 23rd 11-2 EST - [Explicit and Implicit Language Learning](#) - Mike Lupo (ASL)

May 20th 2p-5p EST - [Don't Be Mad if I Don't Look: Interpreting for HoH Students](#) - Corey Axelrod (ASL)

For questions, email workshops@aslowl.org

ASL OWL also offers mentorship programs for interpreters/interpreter students, [Terp Polish 1:1](#) and two Interpreting Tracks in 8 week cycles. Hands up and voice on practice included! Please see the flier for [Educational Interpreting](#) Spring Cycle. Interested in a consultation? email gap.ed@aslowl.org

BASL Workshop Feb 24, 2023 5:30-7:30 EST

This free workshop is conducted in ASL by Vyron Kinson and participants do not need topic knowledge to attend. Vyron teaches participants about Black ASL all while fostering positive and open dialogue. We'll discuss who uses BASL, when people use BASL, where you may see BASL during your work, and the importance of historically black universities and colleges.

Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Testing in NC

The Office of Exceptional Children is aware that EIPA testing for interpreters within the state is not currently available through our DHHS partner. A solution is currently being pursued and more information will be shared as soon as possible. In the meantime, the EIPA may be taken anywhere and testing opportunities are still available in our surrounding states. Questions about the EIPA may be directed to [Antwan Campbell](#).



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UNC Offers Carolina Summer Institute for Professionals Working with Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The Carolina Summer Institute consists of online coursework and practicum applications of Listening and Spoken Language Therapy with LSLC Certified coaches. This training is for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and teachers of the deaf who wish to develop skills in listening and spoken language therapy for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information, view the [course details](#). If interested, please email Lillian.Henderson@unchealth.unc.edu.

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.

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

Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives

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



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

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 intraprofessional 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.

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 or Nancy Woytowich at nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov

PK EC Items of Interest

Contact List

The Preschool Exceptional Children Coordinator [contact list](#) is now up-to-date. This new resource includes a regional map, a current list of Preschool EC Coordinators and a list of Regional Representatives. The list can be sorted and filtered by region, locale and LEA size so you can customize your outreach as needed. Please use this [form](#) to request contact information updates. Our weekly listserv email (sent on Fridays) will include ongoing access to this list as well.

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*



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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.

Compliance Tip of the Week

Prior Written Notice (PWN) - Sources of Relevant Information

While ECATS will not prevent IEP Team members from finalizing the Prior Written Notice (PWN) without sources of relevant information being pulled in from the Assessment Summary, team members should be reminded that proposed and/or refused actions must be *student-centered and data-driven*. There should be clear alignment between the data and information that has been gathered and those actions proposed or refused. Documenting those sources may be completed in two ways: 1) data and information may be added as entries within the Assessment Summary and pulled into the PWN as appropriate, and/or 2) data and information used to justify the actions may be clearly stated within the explanation of each proposed/refused action. For the PWN to be compliant, the sources of relevant information must be thoroughly documented. PSUs are urged to review their internal practices and procedures to ensure they support this compliance element.

February Calendar Items/What's Due?
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- February 24th Special Edition: EC Office Hours