



**Weekly Update**  
**March 29, 2023**

*As I close out this last week at DPI, I have reflected on all the incredible opportunities I've had to engage with special educators and administrators across NC the last 15+ years. I cannot imagine working with a more outstanding and dedicated group of teachers, related service providers, and special education leaders! Your passion for this work is commendable. Keep working to make an important difference each and every day in the lives and education of our most struggling students.*

*Thank you for your trust in and support of me during my time at DPI. It has been an honor to serve the state as I worked for students, families, teachers and administrators throughout this journey. Keep doing good things for children! With much appreciation, Sherry*

<b>News !</b>
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**Summer Camps for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

The NC School for the Deaf is hosting a summer camp for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Please see the attached fliers for additional information. Camp opportunities for students who are deaf or hard of hearing are continually added to the Camps resource page on the [NC DHH Canvas Hub](#). Please share this resource with families and professionals. **(ATTACHED)**

<b>Items of Interest</b>
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**USDOE - Dear Colleague Letter**

On March 24, 2023, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona wrote to Governors, Chief State School Officers, School District and School Leaders and urged them to end corporal punishment in schools - the practice of paddling, spanking, or otherwise imposing physical punishment on students. Read the full letter [here](#).

**FREE Virtual Intro to American Sign Language Course for Spanish Speaking Families**

BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing is providing a FREE virtual introduction to American Sign Language course for Spanish speaking families who live in NC. Instruction in this course will be presented in ASL and Spanish only. Please share with families! If interested, view the [English flier](#) or the [Spanish flier](#) to register!

**Upcoming Interpreter Workshops, Meetings, and Conferences:**

All educational interpreters are required to complete 20 hours of professional development annually. For those who have not yet completed those hours, please view the [Workshop Flier](#) for a list of upcoming workshops, conferences, and trainings for the rest of this cycle year.

**Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) 2023 Conference**

[SERID](#) is calling for proposals for the 2023 Conference October 26-29 in Charlotte, NC. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please view the [flier](#) or the [SERID website](#). For questions relating to the proposal submission process, please contact the Program Committee Co-Chairs, Laura Robison or Gay Joyner at [workshop@serid.org](mailto:workshop@serid.org). Questions about the conference may be directed to [Kevin Earp](#).



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**DeafBlind Haptics Training**

DeafBlind Haptics Training [Registration](#) is now open! This FREE two-day training will be held on Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30, 2023, at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, NC. ACVREP and RID continuing education credits are provided.

Haptics is a standardized system for providing visual information and social feedback via touch signals on the body. Haptic signals are specifically designed to be received on the body. Haptics do not replace sign language or spoken language. Haptic signs are conventional signals produced on a DeafBlind person's body providing contextualizing information about the environment where an interaction is taking place. It also works to convey other participants' nonverbal expressions, such as turn-taking, minimal-response signals, and emotional expressions.

If you have any questions, please contact [Dr. Alan Chase](#).

<b>ICYMI</b>
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**Western North Carolina Transition Event for Students who are DHH**

As a reminder, the western North Carolina transition event for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, Step Forward to the Future, will be held April 26, 2023 from 8:00 am - 3:15 pm in Marion, NC. If you have students who would like to attend, please submit one registration form per event attendee by using the [registration forms](#) or by completing the [online registration](#). A [video](#) has been created about the event to share with students and parents.

**Federal Reporting**

- **Federal Reporting Office Hours – April 5, 2023**

As a reminder, the Federal Reporting Office Hours sessions begin 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](mailto:khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov) if you have any questions. To join the webinar and ask any questions about upcoming federal reporting, please use the following link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>.

- **Federal Personnel Survey: Due by March 31st!**

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.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5ooVIRpkycSzRWe](https://ncdpi.az1.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>.



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- **April 2023 Child Count schedule**

<b>Child Count Correction and Certification Schedule</b>	
April Child Count opens for all LEAs, Charters, and SOPs	4/3/2023
Deadline for Certification Status	4/24/2023

EC Directors or Data Managers should review the April 2023 Child Count Report for errors such as duplicate records, incorrect age, grade, setting, and disability. Please remember that when certifying the child count, the EC Director assures that all data submitted is accurate. According to the State Auditors, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs and Lead Administrators of Charter schools must certify the child count data. For this to occur, Directors of Exceptional Children Programs must use their “username” and “password” to log into ECATS to verify and certify the child count data. If the EC Director does not certify the count, a signed and scanned verification form must be submitted to Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at [khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov). All errors must be corrected, and all Public School Units must certify their submissions no later than April 24, 2023.

- **Child Count Report – Exceptions Tab**

An update to the Child Count Report Exceptions tab has been released to ECATS. This update includes an exception if the student is missing a Provision of Services Parental Consent event. By creating this exception, the Child Count Report now displays students who are eligible but missing the Provision of Services Parental Consent event. To correct this exception, submit the Parent/Guardian/Student Consent for Services Response and Parent/Guardian/Student Consent for Services Date Signed on the EC Process > Consent page in ECATS. Navigate to the Student History screen to ensure that the Provision of Services Parental Consent event is created. Then, navigate to the Student Level Record Review screen for the current child count report and click Update Report. This will resolve the Provision of Services Parental Consent Date is blank error in the child count. Please do not exclude these records from the count if the student is currently receiving services with a valid Provision of Parental Consent as excluding them will lower the total child count. If you have any questions about this update, please contact Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at [khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov) or Kelley Blas at [kelly.blas@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:kelly.blas@dpi.nc.gov).

- **Significant Disproportionality, Indicators 4, 9/10**

Please see attached memo regarding notification of the 2023 Reporting Year notifications for Significant Disproportionality and Indicators 4, 9 and 10. These notifications have been consolidated for PSUs to easily access the status of educational equity data in their districts and understand the requirements around each notification. **(ATTACHED)**



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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 – 03/27/2023**

[Monday Message 3.27.23 \(1\).pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

**Grant Information**

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

ARP funds allocated through PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187 have a period of availability from 7/01/2021-9/30/2023. All ARP funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and liquidated by 12/31/2023.

There is currently \$50,405,046.90 in PRC 185, \$3,328,605.34 in PRC 186, and \$952,294.88 in PRC 187. These funds, if not liquidated, will be reverted to the federal government. The Office of Exceptional Children is currently reviewing each PSU's current carryover to determine next steps which may include a reversion of funds and re-allocating to districts who have utilized their funds. Please work with your finance officer to create a plan for spending these funds. If you need assistance, please reach out to your fiscal consultant and/or your regional consultant.

- **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.

<b>PK EC Items of Interest</b>
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**LICC MINI GRANT Application Period is Open!**

The LICC Mini Grants are \$800 grants that are made available from the North Carolina Infant Toddler Program (NC ITP) that can be used towards costs for implementing Child Find activities, family engagement activities and/or providing information to families on the transition from Early Intervention services to Special



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Education Preschool services. These funds can be used toward a variety of activities including, but not limited to, costs related to holding Child Find events, printing materials, paying stipends to families for participating in LICC meetings, or hosting training events for families or community partners who work with young children and families on topics such as Child Find, developmental milestones, the Early Intervention referral process, transition to preschool, and utilizing resources such as “Learn the Signs. Act Early” materials from the CDC. The application period is open now and closes on April 20, 2023. All LICCs are encouraged to apply. LICCs that receive this grant will be required to fill out an activity report on how the funds were utilized.

*Grant Timeline:*

Application period: March 20, 2023 - April 20, 2023

Notification of grant award: On or by April 24, 2023

Checks will be mailed to LICCs within 2 weeks of notification date

Activity Report emailed to LICC contact on application: September 1, 2023

Activity Report due date: September 29, 2023

Please contact Terri Leyton at [tleyton@ecacmail.org](mailto:tleyton@ecacmail.org) with questions. [Apply Here!](#)

**Coming Soon! New Grant Program to Support New or Expanding Child Care Facilities**

DCDEE is pleased to announce a new \$20 million investment in quality child care and NC Pre-K is coming in April. These Expansion and Access (E&A) grants will be available for new classroom or program startup, quality improvement for existing NC Pre-K and childcare programs, and expanding access in existing programs. Details of the program are still being finalized. More to come!

**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.



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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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Don't Forget!

When State Complaints are filed, there is still an opportunity to resolve the dispute. PSUs can request a Facilitated IEP Team Meeting, Mediation, or a meeting with the parent to learn the true nature of the concern and whether it can be resolved locally outside of the state complaint process. If the parties agree that the dispute has been resolved locally, the party filing the complaint can contact the investigator to withdraw it which closes the investigation.

<b>March Calendar Items/What's Due?</b>
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- **March 31st**  
Federal Personnel Survey - Training Material
- **April 1st**  
Request to order Braille EOG/EOC
- **April 1**  
Child Count opens  
Certify by: 4/24