



**Weekly Update**  
**November 30, 2022**

**News !**

**47 Years of the IDEA**



Yesterday marked the 47th anniversary of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, or [IDEA](#), which was signed into law, Nov. 29, 1975.

Valerie C. Williams, director of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), shared her perspective of the IDEA in a blog post, "[47 Years Later, Are we Delivering on the Promise of IDEA?](#)" She also highlights both positive and troubling trends related to the IDEA, while citing the need for all involved in the education of children with disabilities to commit to designing high-quality instruction, supporting behavior, educating the whole child, and setting high expectations.

**Braille Letters From Santa**

BrailleWorks provides children with a letter in braille (with a large print copy) from Santa for free. Please share this opportunity with teachers, staff, and parents. But hurry! The deadline to submit requests is Monday, December 5, 2022. Please go to the [Braille Works: Santa Reads Braille website](#) for more information.

**Autism Support Team Virtual Meeting**

Autism Support Team (AST) meetings are for those Public School Units (PSUs) who receive PRC 118 Autism funding at the Team Support level. The meeting is **optional** and will be held on **January 20, 2023**. Teams can either attend from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The content provided is to support capacity building in effective implementation of services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and will focus on team goal development and strategic planning within the critical components that are needed to pursue that effort. Due to the focus on strategic planning, teams should register **at least three team members**, with all members attending the same time slot.

Registration can be accessed at this [link](#) and will close on **January 13, 2022**. Registrants will receive details and login information 2-3 days prior to the virtual meeting. Attendance for the full meeting is required in order to earn 0.2 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Please email [asdteam@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:asdteam@dpi.nc.gov) or contact your NCDPI Consultant for Autism with any inquiries.

**Items of Interest**

**Catalyst Opportunities!**

One of our speakers at the 71st Conference on Exceptional Children, Joann Blumenfeld, shared information on a STEM opportunity for students with disabilities, **Catalyst**. Please see the flyer and share with your high school educators and parents. **(ATTACHED)**



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**PRC 29 Behavior Support**

PRC 29 Behavior Support funds have been allocated and distributed. Questions regarding PRC 29 Behavior funds can be directed to Felicia Goodgion, [Felicia.Goodgion@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Felicia.Goodgion@dpi.nc.gov) or Lisa Taylor, [Lisa.Taylor@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Lisa.Taylor@dpi.nc.gov).

**Community of Practice (COP) for Behavior Support Staff**

The NCDPI Behavior Support Team is providing a professional learning COP in classroom management and Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP). Please see the attached document for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

**Adapted Physical Education Fall and Spring Webinars**

Dr. Kaky McPeak, CAPE will present two webinars discussing the APE referral process, APE screenings and APE assessments. Please see the attached document for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

**Targeted Monitoring Reports - Exceeding 1.0 Participation 2020-2021 SY**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, some PSUs did not receive their monitoring report when the bulk of reports were recently issued. Those affected PSUs will receive their reports later this week with an amended corrective action timeline with an overall year timeline for correction recalculated. We apologize for this delayed communication.

**Functional Behavior Assessments/Behavior Intervention Plans (FBA/BIPs)**

The Office of Exceptional Children and Integrated Academics and Behavior Systems Team (IABS) often receive questions regarding how to effectively address behavior for students and the appropriate use cases for FBA/BIPs. As a result, we invite you to submit your questions using this link <https://forms.office.com/r/pru91Yndkq> between now and 5:00p on December 16, 2022, in order to coordinate a cohesive discussion during an EC Office Hours cohosted with IABS. Responses to your questions will be provided during EC Office Hours planned for January 6, 2023, between 9:30am and 11:00am.

There is no registration for the EC Office Hours. Participants may join at the scheduled time by clicking on this link <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>.

*\*Please note: Should interest in this topic suggest the need for a larger virtual platform, updates will be communicated through the Weekly Update and MTSS Implementers' newsletter.*

**Survey Teacher Recruitment PSU Structures**

NCDPI has partnered with CEDAR (Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform) Center to support teacher recruitment and retention efforts across our state. The stakeholder group is seeking feedback from all PSUs related to teacher recruitment structures. Please take a moment to [complete this brief survey](#). The purpose of this study is to help us learn more about the needs of districts in NC. This survey should take around 15 minutes to complete. You do not have to participate in the survey and there are no foreseeable risks by taking this survey. Any information you will share will be delivered to the team anonymously unless you choose to identify yourself. The survey will close on **Friday, December 23rd**.

**If teacher recruitment efforts are the responsibility of another department within your PSU, please forward this brief questionnaire.**



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**ICYMI**

**SiMR Data Analysis Workshop—REPEAT SESSION**

For those of you who were unable to attend—or want to repeat 😊—the SiMR Data Analysis Workshop at the Administrators Institute, we will be holding a virtual repeat session on **Thur., Dec. 8, from 12-3:30p.** Here's the [AGENDA](#) with lots of linked resources. You and any team members can join the meeting at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan>.

In addition, we will hold open office hours to support your completion of this data analysis from **11a-12p** at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan> on the following dates: **Dec. 14, 16, 20, and 22.** We will also provide ample work time for the data analysis in the January 2023 Regional EC meetings.

**DUE TODAY! House Bill 1030 Consent for Release of Information to the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind**

Districts should have completed 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 was to be distributed to parents by October 1, 2022. Parents who provided a yes consent to receive more information about the schools must be reported using the [electronic reporting tool](#) by today, November 30, 2022. For questions, please contact Sherri Vernelson, [sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov).

**Announcing: Assistive Technology Stakeholders**

The NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children Assistive Technology team is happy to announce the creation of an Assistive Technology Stakeholders group. The intended outcome of this group is: To determine the current state of Assistive Technology (AT) Assessment and Utilization by the PSUs across the state as well as the barriers preventing PSUs from completing AT assessments and implementation. The first meeting for the AT Stakeholders will be on January 31, 2023 in Winston-Salem, NC. If you or a member of your team would be interested in being considered for participation in these meetings, please complete this registration form for that consideration: [AT Stakeholders Application](#). Our goal is to have a diverse representation of staff and PSUs from across the state to participate in these meetings. We hope to have staff serving in a variety of roles in their districts (i.e. EC Director/Coordinator, program specialists, AT specialists, Related Service Providers, Teachers, etc.) as well as representation from Traditional and Charter PSUs of all sizes. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Barton at [joshua.barton@dpi.nc.org](mailto:joshua.barton@dpi.nc.org)

**Science Extended Content Standards Stakeholder Input**

The Offices of Academic Standards and Exceptional Children is pleased to share the first draft of science standards. The comment period for the draft science standards will close on December 18. We encourage all PSUs to share this information regarding the draft surveys (K-12 and Extended Content Standards) with their stakeholders.

State Board of Education policy specifies that the NC Department of Public Instruction will formally collect feedback from educators, administrators, parents, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry representatives, national organizations, and other education agencies on each draft of the revised K-12 Science Standards and the Science Extended Content Standards.

Every Student Succeeds Act allows states to adopt alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities if they are aligned with the challenging state academic standards noted above and reflect professional judgment as to the highest possible standards achievable by such students. These alternate academic achievement standards in North Carolina are called the Extended Content Standards.



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This survey aims to obtain input from each PSU on the K-12 Science Extended Content Standards to inform revision decisions, which may include changes, clarifications, additions, deletions, or replacements to the current standards. This survey is meant for stakeholder input. The survey link can be found here:

[https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cNG5U6QPtlInzhXg](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNG5U6QPtlInzhXg)

**Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality Webpage**

The Office of Exceptional Children invite you to view the Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality (EESD) [webpage](#) where you will find the EESD webinar series, which include the most recent recording of [sessions](#) 5-7.

**Demystifying Dyslexia**

The Office of Exceptional Children provides the opportunity to engage in the professional learning course, Demystifying Dyslexia, virtually. This course is an introduction to dyslexia and provides educators information regarding evaluation, identification, and education of students with dyslexia. **(ATTACHED)**

**SLD Quick Access Resource Reference**

To assist in easily locating frequently requested resources and information regarding SLD, a one-page document has been created which provides direct links to those resources. Please share it widely with general and special educators, school leaders, practitioners, related services, problem-solving team members, and others in the field as needed in the work encompassing students with SLD.

**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.

**Determining Service Delivery - Sunset of "Per Reporting Period"**

A package of Technical Assistance materials was provided via shared google folder in the 6.29.22 and 9.14.22 Weekly Updates. These items remain available at <https://bit.ly/DetServiceTAPack> and include a FAQ, two Tip Sheets, a TA Guide and a TA Video. It has recently come to our attention that local staff may not have received these resources. Please be certain to share these materials with related service providers and other EC staff that may have previously documented services using "per reporting period".

**Coming Soon - Combined Expenditure Report**

We are excited to announce that we are working on a Combined Expenditure Report to help you track all funds in PRC 118, PRC029, and PRC119! Be on the lookout for the Wednesday Communication announcing its release.

**Federal Reporting**

- **Federal Reporting Office Hours – December 7, 2022**



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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](mailto: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>.

- **December Child Count**

The December Child Count captures reporting data on students receiving special education as of December 1, 2022. The certification window for the December Child Count begins December 1st and ends by close of business on December 20th. See the memorandum for more information.

- **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 – 11/28/2022**

[Monday Message 11.28.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

**Grant Information**

- **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.

**Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 11/18/22**

[School Business Newsletter 11.18.22](#)

<p><b>PK EC Items of Interest</b></p>
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**Virtual Preschool Exceptional Children Fall Meeting Follow-Up**

We will host an abbreviated follow-up session for those who were unable to attend the in-person meeting on November 14th. The follow-up session will be held on **December 8th from 3-5pm**. Please use this [link](#) to register. Registration closes December 4th.



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<b>Compliance Tip of the Week</b>
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**Prior Written Notice**

Please remember that the Prior Written Notice (PWN) is the LEA's written notification to the parent/guardian/student of its final IEP Team decision. Because all IEP Team decisions must be made upon data, the *Sources of Information* section of the PWN should not be left blank. If left blank this creates a procedural error in notifying the parent/guardian/student of the basis upon which the LEA's proposed actions or refusals are based.

<b>November-December Calendar Items/What's Due?</b>
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**November 30th -**

- B-1030: Report consent for release to Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind using the electronic reporting tool

**November 30th**

- Improvement Plans due for Postsecondary Transition Monitoring [applies only to PSUs that participated in Targeted Monitoring for Postsecondary Transition and have required corrective action]

**November 30th**

- Improvement Plans due for 1.0 Percent Participation in NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment Monitoring [applies only to PSUs that participated in Targeted Monitoring for 1.0 Percent and have required corrective action]

**December 1st - December 20th**

- Child Count opens on December 1st and closes on December 20th. All PSUs are required to submit.

**December 5th - 16th**

- Regional Meeting registration window opens on December 5th and closes on December 16th. Registration link will be forthcoming.

**December 8th**

- State-identified Measurable Results (SiMR) virtual make-up session. If you were unable to attend the Administrative Institute on November 2nd, a link to join the session is [HERE](#). (12 - 3:30pm)

**December 9th**

- EC Director Webinar (9-10) Registration is [HERE](#).

**January 6th**

- EC Office Hours: Topic - Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plans  
9:30a - 11:00a  
No registration required. Join using this link. <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>