

EC Division Weekly Update
June 9, 2021

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

Items of Interest

Federal Reporting Office Hours

As a reminder, the Federal Reporting Office Hours has changed locations. Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware is now holding these meetings in her WebEx account. The 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 if you have any questions. You may join the Office Hours by clicking on the link below. No registration is required.

<https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>

Indicator Reminders

Indicator 7 – opens: **August 2nd**; due date: COB **August 20th**

Indicator 12 – opens: **October 1st**; due date: COB **October 29th**

REMINDER: Statewide Corrective Action

The signed LEA Written Assurance must be submitted to the shared folder on or before COB, June 15, 2021.

This is the only item required from LEAs and must include a real signature or a digital signature through a platform such as DocuSign. Names that are typed in are not sufficient for this requirement. Any local artifacts verifying the completion of corrective action should be maintained locally until June 15, 2022, in the event there are further questions or disputes that require evidence related to this statewide activity.

Note: The LEA Written Assurance document is formatted best for editing when downloaded as a word document from the shared GoogleDrive.

The completed, signed LEA Written Assurance document should be uploaded to this location:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i_Lo33RPHiWFsFv-otbi3ZfxdriT9Dph?usp=sharing

Please do not email assurances directly to Carol Ann Hudgens as other staff are actively monitoring the shared folder daily in the event follow-up is needed and to ensure submissions are received by close of business on June 15, 2021.

TA Package - Per Reporting Period

As highlighted on the 6/8/21 Director's Webinar, the release of the Technical Assistance package for "Per Reporting Period" has been adjusted in order to accommodate additional feedback loops through EC Office Hours. The following schedule is planned.

***EC Office Hours #1 - Thursday, June 10, 2021 - 9:00am-10:00am**

- Format: Content Delivery of TA Package with a link provided to collect questions
- Target Audience: EC Director/Coordinator or Designee
 - Others at the discretion of the EC Director/Coordinator
- Optional

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- No registration required
- Capacity = 1000 participants; reduces by half when participants are using cameras
 - Please note there are approximately 325 public school units
- Session will be recorded and shared with materials
- Join here: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>

***EC Office Hours #2 - Friday, June 11, 2021 - 9:00am-10:00am [REPEAT]**

- Join here: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>

***Release of TA Package**

- Director's Weekly Message - Wednesday, June 16, 2021
- All other EC Division ListSrvs/Website - Monday, June 21, 2021
- Includes: TA Documents and EC Office Hours recording

***EC Office Hours #3 - Thursday, June 17, 2021 - 9:00a-10:30a**

- Format: Presentation-style, responses to previously submitted questions
- Target Audience: EC Director/Coordinator or Designee
 - Others at the discretion of the EC Director/Coordinator
- Optional
- No registration required
- Capacity = 1000 participants; reduces by half when participants are using cameras
 - Please note there are approximately 455 public school units
- Join here: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>

***Written FAQs**

- Director's Weekly Message - Wednesday, June 23, 2021 (*tentative*)
- All other EC Division ListSrvs/Website - Monday, June 28, 2021 (*tentative*)

Update: State Complaint Procedures

Each year, the NCDPI EC Division reviews the Dispute Resolution processes as part of our continuous improvement effort to ensure our processes are clear, accessible to parents, LEAs, and other interested parties, and are aligned with the requirements outlined in IDEA.

This year, revisions were made to the NC State Complaint Procedures; however, none of the revisions changed the obligations of the LEA when involved in a state complaint.

A new model state complaint form was developed with input from the ECAC. The new form contains the required components in a different format, with additional sections for the complainant to describe each issue, and the supporting facts.

All revisions should be accessible on the EC Division website beginning the week of July 1, 2021.

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UPDATE: The North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program (ELSSP)

The North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program (ELSSP) within the Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section has updated the Request for Services and Assurance documents for the 2021-2022 school year. **(ATTACHED)**

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)

Please be thinking about and ordering items from APH for students who are on the legally blind census for 2021-22 school year. The last day to order items for this fiscal period is September 15, 2021. Ordering items now will ensure they are available to a student in a timely manner when school resumes in the fall. Orders placed in August through September 15 could result in a student not receiving materials in a timely manner and not receiving FAPE.

Educational Interpreters/Transliterators New Requirements

The Exceptional Children Division is excited to announce that the State Board of Education passed proposed updates to minimum score requirements and class specifications for educational interpreters/transliterators effective July 1, 2021. Questions related to these new requirements may be directed to Antwan Campbell, Antwan.campbell@dpi.nc.gov, or Section Chief Sherri Vernelson, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov. Please see the memo for more information **(ATTACHED)**

Shift: Consultants for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

In light of these new Educational Interpreter requirements, Antwan Campbell will focus primarily on supporting PSUs and educational interpreters/transliterators. Therefore, regional support from consultants has been adjusted to the following:

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Nancy Woytowich – Northeast, Southeast, North Central, Sandhills
Virginia Madorin – Piedmont-Triad, Southwest, Northwest, Western

Educational Interpreters/Transliterators:

Antwan Campbell – Statewide

Medicaid Managed Care

With the transition to Medicaid managed care, beginning July 1, 2021, claims for services provided to students at school, as documented in an IEP, 504 plan, IFSP, IHP, and/or a BIP, will need to be submitted under the LEA's NPI number to continue to be paid on a fee-for-service basis. School services provided by contracted providers who submit Medicaid claims under their own NPI number will be subject to managed care enrollment/policies/procedures. LEAs are encouraged to develop contracts with providers that stipulate claiming under the LEA NPI number. DPI will be asking for/tracking impact data related to this change between July and October, 2021, as we continue to work with NC Medicaid on ensuring all students have access to needed services.

Any questions or concerns about this change can be directed to Lauren.Holahan@dpi.nc.gov or Laurie.Ray@dpi.nc.gov.

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COMING SOON: Additional IDEA 611 Grant Funding

NCDPI is working to provide additional funding through PRC 60 from carryover funds at the agency. Details on budget development will be provided soon. Stay tuned!

Special Grants Update

2020-2021 End of Year Reports for Risk Pool, Special State Reserve, Developmental Day and Community Residential Grants, will not be requested at this time. The Special Programs and Data Section will pull the data required for the End of Year Updates from the data currently available to DPI. If additional information is needed, it will be requested at a later date.

Out of District reimbursement documentation and paid invoices should be uploaded into the grant application.

For questions, please contact Amanda Byrd at Amanda.Byrd@dpi.nc.gov

COVID Funds Updates

PRC 132 and 167 End of Year Reports will be requested at a later date.

PK EC Items of Interest

Why Inclusion Video Series

The OSEP-funded [STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education](#) (STEMIE) promotes STEM learning for young children with disabilities. The STEMIE team recently released a series of three videos on why inclusion is important. Closed captioning is currently available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#). (Vietnamese captions and sign language translation were produced in collaboration with UNICEF Vietnam.)

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
