

**EC Division Weekly Update**  
**October 27, 2021**

**REMINDERS: 70<sup>th</sup> Conference on Exceptional Children**

The **70<sup>th</sup> Conference on Exceptional Children** will be held at the Koury Convention Center, 3121 West Gate City Blvd., in Greensboro. The Pre-conference Institutes will be held on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The General Conference will run Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:15 am - 4:30 pm and Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am - 12:15 pm. Please share this important information below with all staff who will be attending the conference:

- If we have received your registration, you should receive confirmation by email from Kelly Breest.
- When payment is received, you should receive a confirmation by email from Kelly Breest.
- In some cases, we have received payment but do not have a registration. If you believe you have registered and have not received either of these confirmations from Kelly Breest, please contact her at [Kelly.Breest@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Kelly.Breest@dpi.nc.gov).
- REMINDER: Due to COVID-19 protocol, we will not be able to accept any registrations after 5:00 pm on November 1, 2021. There will be no on-site registrations or substitutions for this conference.

**Conference Information**

This year we will use colored wristbands rather than name tags to identify conference participants. These will be required to enter all sessions and receive meals.

- Participants who uploaded proof of full vaccination will receive their bands in the mail at the address entered on the registration.
- If you have not received your wristband by November 12<sup>th</sup> contact [Kelly.Breest@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Kelly.Breest@dpi.nc.gov). We will arrange for you to pick up your band at the Conference.
- Participants who are not fully vaccinated will need to bring a negative COVID-19 test (taken within 72-hours) to pick up their wristband at the Conference, Desk 4. This must be picked up before you will be allowed to enter any sessions.
- Following guidance from NCDHHS, either a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or a rapid Antigen test will be accepted to meet the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to the first event attended. No other data, including Antibody tests, will be accepted.
- The wristbands will be required to be worn for the full length of the conference and will not be replaced daily.
- While inside the Koury Center/Sheraton Hotel, masks will be required of all attendees no matter the vaccination status. This is a hotel requirement.

**Conference Materials**

All session materials will be stored on the Conference App.

- Once the App goes live, all registered participants will receive instructions on how to download the App to a mobile device.
- There will also be a web App that is accessible to all registered participants as long as you have internet or data access.

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- During the conference, internet access will be provided to all registered participants for one device.
- The App will allow participants to create their own schedule of preferred session. This is not a registration for a particular session and does not guarantee you a seat. Session seating is on a first-come first-serve basis until seat capacity is reached.

<b><u>Items of Interest</u></b>
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### **Federal Reporting**

- **2020-2021 End of Year Data Submission for Indicator 11**

All Public-School Units are responsible for certifying Indicator 11 - Child Find in ECATS. The Indicator 11 count captures the percent of students for whom a referral was received, and placement determined within 90 days and is based on data from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The Indicator 11 Count opened October 1, 2021 and is due by close of business October 29, 2021. The training video, ECATS Webinar – Indicator 11 Reporting, along with additional reference handouts are posted in each district's ECATS instance on the main page under Resources > Federal Reporting. Please submit any questions or student level data corrections directly to ZenDesk to ensure that problems with data are corrected efficiently.

- **2020-2021 End of Year Data Submission for Indicator 12**

Indicator 12 captures data on students who received Part C services and were referred to Part B during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. All students must have an IEP developed within 90 days of the referral and receive services by their 3rd birthday. Indicator 12 will be submitted on spreadsheets by all PSUs and can be accessed by clicking this link: [Indicator 12 Spreadsheet](#) or by going to the ECATS site under Resources (<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/resources>). The spreadsheet has a tab with helpful clarifications to assist PSUs on entering their data and can be submitted at any time prior to the due date of October 29, 2021. Charter Schools do not need to submit an Indicator 12 spreadsheet this year. Please email all Indicator 12 spreadsheets to [ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov).

- **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 – 10/25/2021**

[Monday Message 10.25.21.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

### **Grant Information**

- **IMPORTANT: IDEA Grant Deadline**

All IDEA Initial Grant applications still pending must have the corrections submitted and the initial grant approved by November 30, 2021. Fiscal Monitors will communicate with the EC Directors the specific areas needing attention to complete the IDEA grant submissions. Upon receiving approval of the initial grant application, PSUs will have fourteen days to submit the 2020-2021 MOE. Newly opened charter schools will receive training for IDEA grant application in December and notification of IDEA grant deadline during the training.

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- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training & Technical Assistance**

If you were unable to attend the MOE training or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint, are available on the Exceptional Children website [here](#) and on the NC CCIP Home Page. The MOE Expenditure Table opened for PSUs with approved IDEA grant on October 1, 2021 and is due on October 31, 2021.

- **Special Grants**

Grant applications opened on September 7, 2021. Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. Notification of review is made through NC CCIP. For your review, the Special Grants Training recording, along with the PowerPoint are available on the EC Website [here](#) under the Special Grants section.

- **PRC 167 ESSERF**

Please ensure that budget and grant use of funds align to ensure timely approvals.

- **IDEA/ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)**

The American Rescue Plan funds have been allotted under the following Program Report Codes. The budgets will be submitted the same way as the IDEA budgets. A new application is not required.

**PRC 185 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Basic – 611**

The funds will align with the IDEA Section 611 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 611 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

**PRC 186 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Preschool – 619**

The funds will align with the IDEA Section 619 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 619 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

**PRC 187 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) CEIS**

For PSUs with mandatory CEIS, the funds will align with the CEIS Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the CEIS Use of Funds, the Use of Funds must be revised.

For PSUs with an approved IDEA grant and needing a grant revision, it should be submitted at the same time as your MOE Expenditures. Contact your fiscal monitor for additional information regarding the IDEA grant status and the submission of the budgets.

- Allotments can be seen on the allotment page of the IDEA Grant in CCIP
- Budgets are submitted through each PSU's budgeting system and will be pulled into CCIP
  - o Directors/Coordinators can view the budgets once submitted by clicking on the budget link on the IDEA Grant Sections page
  - o The funds can be utilized on any IDEA allowable expense. The Chart of Accounts now contains the allowable budget codes for PRC 185, 186 & 187. It can be found here:  
§ <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-district-finance-operations/chart-accounts>
- If the budget aligns with the current Section 611/619 and or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant does not need to be revised.

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- If the budget includes line items not currently in the Section 611/619 or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant must be revised to include the new line items. Designate in the Use of Funds that the revision items are for PRC 185/186/187.
  - Example: Current Use of Funds does not include funds for professional development. Add to the Use of Funds:  
§ Revision for PRC 185: Professional Development Workshop Expenses
- After the IDEA Grant and all related budgets are approved, SPD notifies NCDPI School Business. SPD does not allot the funds or know when the funds will be allotted.

### **NC SIP Updated Instructor Process for Foundations of Math (FoM) and Reading Research to Classroom Practice (RRtCP)**

Blended versions of FoM and RRtCP have been developed to increase accessibility of the courses. This has prompted the new instructor process to be updated to include this additional format of the courses. See the attached documents outlining the updated processes. **(ATTACHED)**

### **Blindness Awareness Month – Information and Fun Facts**

You may have heard audible tones or seen tactile push buttons at intersections around your town or city. These are called Accessible Pedestrian Signals. Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) are integrated devices that communicate information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections in non-visual formats (i.e., audible tones) to pedestrians who are blind or have low vision. You can see an APS in action [here](#).

### **HB 317 Individual District Data Reports**

Thank you again for submitting your HB 317 data collection information for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Dr. Tom Page has been working hard to compile the information into a data report for each district. Districts should receive their individual reports the week of November 1, 2021. If you do not receive your summary report by Friday, November 5, please contact Dr. Page, [Thomas.page@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Thomas.page@dpi.nc.gov). In addition to the summary report, each district will receive an Excel spreadsheet with all the students reported and who reported the information.

### **Applications now being accepted for the 2022 Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Scholarship Award!**

The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) is proud to offer the Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Scholarship Award to a North Carolina high school senior with a disability. This award includes a **\$1,500** scholarship, to be used for **any** post high school learning experience/training or for equipment/technology needed for employment.

For more information, visit the Scholarship Award Page on the ECAC.

### **Unlocking Literacy Conference for Professionals Serving Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

December 9-12, 2021, the NRSC STEM Center at Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind will be hosting the Connecting the Dots conference. This literacy focused conference has in-person and virtual options and is offered at no cost to all participants. Please see the attached flyer for more details. **(ATTACHED)**

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### **Bookshare Basics Video**

Last week the Basics of Bookshare video was shared. The password to open the video was inadvertently left out of the communication. We share it now and apologize for the inconvenience. [Basics of Bookshare](#) password: NC-Bookshare-21

For additional information, please contact Crystal Patrick, [crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov).

### **Overview of School-Based Practice**

NCDPI Consultants for PT, OT, SLP and School Psychology will host a Professional Learning Session covering a wide variety of topics on November 12, 2021. This session will include 2 recorded sessions and an optional live virtual session on November 12, 2021 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please see attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

### **Learning Disabilities Awareness Month**

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. Did you know that 2.3 million students are diagnosed with specific learning disability per the National Center for Education Statistics? Or that 75% -80% of all students who are identified as special education students are identified as learning disabled with a deficit in language and reading (National Institutes of Health)?

There are NC branches for several national agencies with resources that are available to students, families, and educators. Support close to home can be found at [Learning Disabilities Association of North Carolina](#) or the [North Carolina Branch of the International Dyslexia Association](#). The [North Carolina Exceptional Children's Assistance Center](#) is a state organization that also provides support and services to students and families.

### **Physical Therapy Month**

October is Physical Therapy Month! Please take the time to Thank the PT practitioners working in your PSU for investing their talent, time, and passion in NC public schools. For more information about PT Month, see [this post on the School-based PT Webpage](#) .

### **OT/PT Practice Pals**

OT/PT Practice Pals are meeting on October 27, 2021 at 3:00pm-3:45pm (link will be distributed out to the PT & OT listservs or you may contact Bridgette LeCompte, [Bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov) or Laurie Ray, [Laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov) for details).

<b>PK EC Items of Interest</b>
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### **East Carolina University Deaf-Blind Project Teacher Support Program (ECU DB TSP)**

The East Carolina University Deaf-Blind Project Teacher Support Program (ECU DB TSP) provides support to teachers (and related service personnel) who have students with combined vision and hearing loss. Having a combined vision and hearing loss is so much more complex than having one of these losses alone and special techniques may be needed to help these students reach their potential. All of the ECU DB TSP technical assistance, coaching, and professional development is available to you free – thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Education!

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We've attached a flyer about the ECU DB TSP and the services they provide. You can begin receiving support by enrolling your student on the NC Deaf-Blind Census (<http://bit.ly/NCDBcensus20-21SY>) and filling out the ECU/Teacher Support Program Request Form ([https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7TY9q3ielRjdLxj](https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7TY9q3ielRjdLxj)).

Here is a link to the ECU Teacher Support Program website if you would like to check it out: <https://education.ecu.edu/tsp/>. Please feel free to contact Patty Dischinger, Technical Assistance Consultant ([dischingerp19@ecu.edu](mailto:dischingerp19@ecu.edu)) or Sandra Warren, ECU DB TSP Director ([warrens@ecu.edu](mailto:warrens@ecu.edu)) directly with any questions. **(ATTACHED)**

<b>COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION</b>
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