



February 23, 2022

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| News! |
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EC Director/Coordinator Regional Administrative Support Survey

In an effort to engage in data-based planning and provide professional learning opportunities that address the needs and interests of EC Directors and Coordinators, we would like to gather feedback about several suggested topics that align to regional needs.

These proposed topics are aligned with components of General Supervision and were generated by EC Division Regional Data Teams (comprised of EC Division consultants) after review of the state and regional data sets and current trends of questions received from the field. The prioritized topics may be addressed by the Regional Administrative Support (RAS) section through various regional and state-wide events, including regional directors/coordinators meetings, Institutes, and conferences.

Please complete the survey using this [link](#) by **March 4th**.

May Regional Director Meetings

Regional Director meetings in May will be canceled in lieu of the Spring Administrators Institute at the Koury Convention Center from **May 9 -12, 2022**. More information concerning registration for the Spring Institute will be forthcoming.

NC SIP Spring Networking Conference

Save the date: April 26-28, NC SIP Spring Networking Conference 2022 will be held at the Embassy Suites, Greensboro. Keynote speakers and breakout sessions will be provided for Literacy on Day 1, Math on Day 2, and Leadership on Day 3. Additional registration information to come.

Rescinding Telehealth Reimbursement 4/1/22

As a part of the NC Medicaid's response to the pandemic/Public Health Emergency (PHE), telehealth services were temporarily approved for reimbursement. While the PHE has not been rescinded federally or in NC (as of this message), NC Medicaid has decided to rescind some temporary approved flexibility due to the PHE.

PT evaluation and service codes provided via telehealth will no longer be reimbursed, effective **April 1, 2022**. The same holds true for OT evaluation and service codes provided via telehealth. Some Speech, Respiratory and Psychology/Counseling codes will not be rescinded from reimbursement for telehealth.

For details, please refer to [COVID special bulletin #226](#). All stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback.

NC Medicaid is choosing not to add certain temporary flexibilities into permanent policy based on several factors including:

- The flexibility was not used by the field broadly (or NC Medicaid did not have evidence that a given flexibility was used by the field).



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- NC Medicaid does not have the authority to keep the flexibility outside of the COVID-19 PHE.
- The flexibility was evaluated through feedback from a multidisciplinary stakeholder group, and it was determined that certain flexibilities did not strengthen and/or add to the NC Medicaid program from a quality, cost and/or safety perspective.

The contact provided in the bulletin is: Medicaid.COVID19@dhhs.nc.gov

Dr. Laurie Ray will convey any feedback you have on this decision. Please email her at laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov. If you have questions, please call (919) 636-1827.

Items of Interest

Federal Reporting

- **Federal Personnel Survey**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2021-22 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. The link to access the survey is listed below: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmBbNr5ycvtPrq6. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey. The due date for the Federal Personnel Survey is by close of business on **March 14, 2022**. See the memorandum for more information. **(ATTACHED)**

The Federal Personnel Training Resources are now available on the [ECATS Reporting website](#). The training resources include a copy of the PowerPoint presented during the training sessions, as well as the recorded videos and transcripts of the morning and afternoon training sessions. The link to access these training resources is: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the training resources.

- **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 – 02/21/2022**

[Monday Message 2.21.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **Special Grants**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. (If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, the review will start of the next business day after the 15th).



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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. **Final submission for special grants will be May 16, 2022.**

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

American Rescue Plan budgets should be submitted as soon as possible.

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 and PRC 186 Budgets and Allotments

At the current time, those with approved budgets for PRC 185 and PRC 186 have been allotted 75% of their total funds. The additional 25% will be included in a futures allotment. PSUs do not need to make a change in the approved budget. When the additional 25% is allotted, the budget will be reviewed for alignment with the final allotment funds.

PRC 049 Budgets and Allotments Update

The PRC049 allotment has been uploaded by NCDPI Financial and Business Services into NCCCIP. The NCDPI official allotment may have resulted in an increase or decrease from the initial planning allotment amount and therefore requires a budget revision. Planning Allotments are tentative allocation of federal funds to PSUs to provide information for budgeting purposes. Any questions regarding this fluctuation should be directed to Financial and Business Services. The LEA EC Director and Finance Officer should collaborate and complete a PRC049 budget amendment to appropriately bring the NC DPI Finance and LEA Budget into alignment. Please ensure the PRC049 Budget and IDEA Section 619 "Use of Funds" remain aligned as well. If you have any questions, please contact Keashia Walker at Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 02/11/22

[School Business Newsletter 02.11.22](#)

Free Webinar on Supported Decision Making for Learners with DeafBlindness

The Southeast DeafBlind Project Webinar Series presents the *Path to Supported Decision Making: Triumphs, Challenges, and Strategies* on **February 24, 2022**, from 2:30-4:30 PM. Please see the flyer for more details or visit the [registration website](#). (ATTACHED)

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

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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.

PSU Web Pages

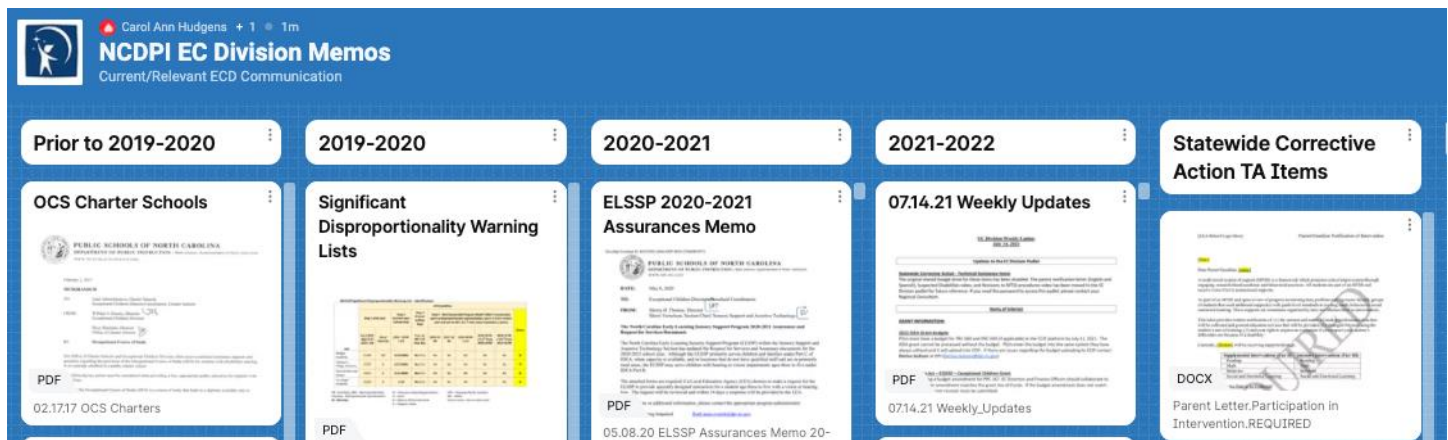
As a follow-up to the EC Director's Webinar and last week's update, a tip sheet of examples and links to highly recommended or required resources for posting is attached. **[ATTACHED]**

REMINDER: EC Director's Padlet

All editions of the Director's Weekly Message, Memos, and essential statewide corrective action resources are posted to the EC Director's padlet. This is a password protected secure site restricted to EC Directors and is not publicly facing or linked to the EC Division website. If you need the password, please contact your regional consultant. *Given the secure nature of this site, it is requested that directors forward the original communication to appropriate other local leaders rather than provide the password to access the padlet.* Access is monitored and any non-director/charter coordinator will be removed. All padlet items can be downloaded and forwarded if the original communication cannot be located.

Please bookmark the following link to the padlet: <https://bit.ly/ECDMemos>

The screenshot below is the landing page for the padlet.



Educational Interpreter Class at WPCC

Western Piedmont Community College is offering, *Issues in Educational Interpreting*, in a continuing education format for educational interpreters during the spring B term, March 16-May 9. The class will focus on EIPA essentials, self-analysis, and self-reflection skills. Classes will be taught via Zoom one evening per week and

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will have online assignments to be completed in a digital learning platform. For more information, please visit the [WPCC webpage](#).

See the Sound Visual Phonics Spring Class Offerings

See the Sound Visual Phonics (STS-VP) is a system of 52 unique hand cues and symbols that represent the sounds of English. This visual, kinesthetic tool supports language and literacy development for students in the areas of phonemic awareness, decoding, encoding, and speech/oral language. The following professional development opportunities will be available this spring:

- For those who have taken STS-VP previously, there will be a 2-part class in March and April
 - March Refresher Course: 3/21 & 3/22 from 3:00-4:30 pm
 - April Refresher Course: 4/4 & 4/5 from 3:00-4:30 pm
- For those NEW to STS-VP a six-class series is offered:
 - Class 1: 4/27 from 3:30-4:30 pm
 - Classes 2-6: 5/2, 5/4, 5/16, 5/18, 5/25 from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Please watch for the upcoming registration links, as space is limited. To learn more about STS-VP, please visit the website, <http://seethesound.org/>. For questions about the refresher courses or course series for those new to STS-VP, contact Nancy Woytowich, Nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov.

ECATS Update: Specific Learning Disabilities Worksheet

Recently, the new SLD Worksheet went live in ECATS. There have been a few ZenDesk tickets regarding one piece of functionality with the form. In particular, the rules of completion require that the user select the areas in which the student demonstrates inadequate achievement (see screenshot below). The question prompting the ZenDesk tickets is: *"What are the appropriate steps to take when no areas demonstrate inadequate academic achievement and the rules of completion will not allow for no areas to remain unselected?"*.

| | |
|---|---|
| Documentation/Summary: | SLDAreas3Summary |
| B) Inadequate academic achievement: Inadequate academic achievement is based on evidence from multiple sources of data indicating the child does not achieve adequately for the age or grade-level standards in which the child is enrolled in one or more of the following areas when provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the child's age or State-approved grade-level standards: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic reading skills • Reading fluency skills • Reading comprehension • Written expression • Mathematics calculation • Mathematics problem solving • Listening comprehension • Oral expression EDSLDAreas1 |
| Documentation/Summary: | SLDAreas1Summary |

Solution

If the student does not demonstrate inadequate academic achievement in any of the areas,

1. Check the box for the area(s) of concern identified when the referral was completed.



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2. Use the Documentation/Summary box to indicate that while of concern at the referral, there is no evidence to support that the student is making inadequate academic achievement in the ____ area(s). Include evidence that supports this statement in the summary.

DeafBlind / Support Service Provider (SSP) Training

The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a DeafBlind Support Service Provider (SSP) Training on March 25, 2022. For more information about this training, view the attached flyer. For information about the roles and benefits of an SSP, [click here](#). **(ATTACHED)**

Summer Transition Program for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

This is a program for 10th-12th graders who are deaf or hard of hearing and want to experience life on college campus and enhance their college readiness skills. Please see the attached flyer for registration information, as space is limited. **(ATTACHED)**

Course Codes for Students on the Extended Content Standards

The following video explains course codes for students following the Extended Content Standards. This ensures students following the Extended Content Standards are enrolled in the proper courses throughout the school year.

Video Link

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=21ea3b58874ff3cdb513f23885499413>
Password: ECSCourseCodes2022!

Resource Document

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uLWOQz1EfsuHn64QIJtveWNNtq68DHol7aQ9KU4fAtw/edit?usp=sharing>

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| <p>PK EC Items of Interest</p> |
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2022 International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute

Registration is open! The theme this year is '*We're In This Together: Caring for One Another in Difficult Times.*' [Dr. Jackie Joseph](#), Executive Director of The Rise School of Denver, is the keynote speaker. Additional speakers will be announced on the [website](#).

There are two options for attending the Inclusion Institute this year:

- Inclusion Institute in-person attendee- attending live and virtual sessions in-person in Chapel Hill, NC at the Friday Center (beginning on April 26th at 1 p.m. eastern time)
- Inclusion Institute virtual attendee- attending live and virtual sessions via Zoom from anywhere in the world (beginning on April 26th at 1 p.m. eastern time)

If you plan to travel to Chapel Hill, NC for the conference, please visit the [Logistics page](#) on the website for information on hotels and accessing the Friday Center.

You can register for the Inclusion Institute [here](#).



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The FuelEd Fellowship

A select cohort of Early Childhood Educators nationwide will learn, connect and create change for the 2022-2023 academic year. Application Closes **March 7th, 2022!**

The FuelEd Fellowship is a year-long program designed to support underrepresented, under-resourced and underserved educators in early-childhood education (ECE) by providing free access to flagship curriculum, community support sessions and professional development. The Fellowship will offer critical access to ECE educators, empowering those on-the-ground in classrooms, schools, and districts to reimagine and redesign their systems into workplaces where whole educators are developing whole children.

One cohort of up to 20 educators will be selected for this opportunity to develop the interpersonal skills, self-awareness, and emotional well-being necessary to transform their classrooms, schools and the education system at large.

Learn more and apply here: https://www.fueledschools.org/fueled-fellowship?fbclid=IwAR0FpmtWlCdDYDv876EcQMnc1g_4zAUYpps3gvlZIPCJhJzZgWg47fp_c8

*****NO COST TRAINING OPPORTUNITY *** Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP) Facilitator Training**

Child First's Center for Prevention and Early Trauma Treatment (CPETT), an NCTSN Category II center is excited to announce a free learning opportunity for practitioners working with infants, young children, and their families in Connecticut, Colorado, North Carolina, and Florida, [Circle of Security Parenting™ \(COSP\) Facilitator Training](#).

The Circle of Security Parenting™ (COSP) training is designed for providers from many different backgrounds and combines experiential learning with practical knowledge about how to conduct the attachment based, manualized COSP program. Training objectives include:

- Identify the fundamentals of attachment theory and key concepts of the Circle of Security approach.
- Identify the features of a safe learning environment for caregivers.
- Identify the ways in which a Facilitator can teach caregivers to use quality of relationship enhancement rather than behavior management.
- Identify steps the Facilitator can take to build self-reflection in caregivers.
- Explain how to facilitate the COSP model using video examples of parent-child relationships, the COSP Facilitator Manual, and Handouts

To learn more about Circle of Security, visit their website: <https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/>

COSP Facilitator training is available in various formats, In-Person, 1-Week Online, and 2-Week Online and to best meet individual need you can choose the training that best suits you. To see what is available go to the [COSP Facilitator Training Options](#) website. Click on the "View Schedule" button for a training. For online trainings, this will tell you or allow you to figure out the time-of-day live discussions take place. The times are usually listed as Pacific Time Zone times, so plan accordingly for your time zone. **You can choose from any training that concludes prior to May 31, 2022, at no cost to you. Please note that seats for this free opportunity are limited.**



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If you are interested in having Child First cover the expense for this training, do not register immediately on the website. Rather, please complete the [COSP Preregistration Form](#). Once you have completed this form you will be contacted by Shannon Queiroga (squeiroga@childfirst.org) with information on how to register via the Circle of Security website. Please note, filling out the preregistration form does not guarantee you a seat at a training. Seats are limited. Training must be concluded prior to **May 31, 2022**, to benefit from this free training offer.

Action Items/What's Due?

DB Census

The [Annual NC DeafBlind Census](#) is now open through **March 15, 2022**. Any PSU with or without eligible students needs to complete the census. Students DO NOT need to be eligible in the category of DeafBlind to be reported. A student with combined vision and hearing loss in any one of the fourteen disability categories may be eligible for the census. Remember, in order for students, teachers, and families to access the resources and partnerships the NC DeafBlind Project offers, a student must be on the census. The survey to complete the census can be found at <https://bit.ly/DBCensus>. Questions about the DeafBlind Census may be directed to Dr. Alan Chase, alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov, or found in the two attachments (**ATTACHED**).

HB 317 Data Collection Annual Contacts

The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section needs to confirm the primary and secondary contacts that will receive the HB 317 Data Collection spreadsheet with the list of students an LEA needs to report for the 2021-2022 school year. Please enter the information in the [Contact Information for the 2021-2022 HB 317 Data Collection](#) by **Friday, March 4, 2022**.

Charter Schools enrolling as Medicaid Providers, pursuant to *SL-2021-180.105 9D.21*:

On Feb. 3, 2022, [DHB posted a bulletin outlining enrollment requirements](#) to begin participation in the LEA reimbursement program. This bulletin should be read carefully to understand DHB requirements and ensure efficient procedures for Charters who participate in Medicaid reimbursement programs. To support charter school representatives as they begin, NCDPI will host:

- Four Medicaid overview webinars. Building administrators, EC coordinators, and school business/finance officers for charters should attend:
 - Region 3 on March 9 @ 3:30-5p
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m495534e35c7f1a28b37ff07c617b74e3>,
Password - DHB22
 - Regions 5 & 7 on March 14 @ 3-4:30p
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=md1645312ffb4ea8d62e2b1d133bd0b76>,
Password - DHB22
 - Regions 6 & 8 on March 16 @ 3-4:30p
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m3fa9952326a8ec02cc8ffbb9c7a8c4b9>,
Password - DHB22



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- Regions 1, 2 & 4 on March 17 @ 3-4:30p
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m4b6c7afe64b642874442a5a409be9077> ,
Password - DHB22
- Medicaid office hours (open time for anyone to come and ask questions) will held on April 7, 11, 18, 25 from 3-4p at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan>
Please submit your questions for that time [here](#)
- A Medicaid in Education CANVAS course will be available in early March

Meanwhile, charter schools are encouraged to investigate the resources at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/program-and-fiscal-monitoring/medicaid-education>. On-going technical assistance is available from Bill Hussey at william.hussey@dpi.nc.gov and Laurie Ray laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov

Learning Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP) for High School Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The [LEAP program](#) is currently registering high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing for their next learning experience on **March 6, 2022**. Please share this experience with students, parents, and professionals.
[Registration Link](#)

North Carolina 6th Annual Inclusion Summit

The North Carolina 6th Annual Inclusion Summit has released its Call For Proposals. The Summit, which will be held **June 17-18, 2022**, welcomes proposals about inclusive practices across the lifespan from IHEs, LEAs, and Community Members. The deadline to submit a proposal is **March 18, 2022**. Please see the flyer for all pertinent details and links (**ATTACHED**).

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| February Calendar Items |
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February 16 - February 28, 2022

- ☐ Submit any clarifying questions or concerns regarding the new Home/Hospital Attendance Code using this link <https://bit.ly/HBAttCode2022>
- ☐ Submit request to participate in the Special Invitation: Program Compliance Cohort - Private School Services Plans (PSSP) on March 23rd using this link: <https://bit.ly/PCCpssp>