



March 16, 2022

News!

NEW: Math Consultant for Piedmont-Triad & Southwest

The Program Improvement and Professional Development section of the EC Division is excited to announce that Christopher Miller is the new Math Consultant for the Piedmont-Triad & Southwest Region. Chris comes to NCDPI from Davidson County, where he was the Exceptional Children Program Specialist for Elementary Curriculum. While in Davidson, he supported the work on writing Standards Aligned IEPs, and he served as the NCSIP Coordinator. He is a Reading Research to Classroom Practice and Foundations of Math Instructor, and he brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and energy to his new role. His first official day with the Division was on Monday, March 14th. Chris can be reached at Chris.Miller@dpi.nc.gov.

EOG Released Forms in Braille and Ordering Supplemental Materials and Tactile Graphics for Released Forms

EOG Released forms in Braille and supplemental materials and tactile graphics are now available for order through the Division of Accountability Services starting on April 1, 2022. These materials are for students who would benefit from having access to the braille reference tables, periodic tables, and/or graph paper prior to test day. Please see the attachment for more detailed information about ordering these materials **(ATTACHED)**.

Items of Interest

Justification Required for Exceeding 1.0 percent Participation in the Alternate Assessment

A memo was sent this week to Superintendents and Charter Directors regarding the required justification for exceeding 1.0 % participation of students taking the alternate assessment (NCEXTEND1). Please ensure that all teachers and staff members are informed of the requirements for participation in the NCEXTEND1. The recording link provides the instructions for completing the form. The three attachments of the 1% justification letter, 2021-22 Fillable, and Disproportionality worksheet are necessary to complete the requirement from the Every Student Succeeds Act. **(ATTACHED)**

Webex meeting recording: **1% Justification Form 2021-22**

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=53090681eb7eb61b985ecbf3a15cba88>

Recording password: **1Percent**

School-Based Practice Spring Professional Learning Session

NCDPI Consultants for PT, OT, SLP and Psychological services will host a Professional Learning Session covering a wide variety of topics in April. It will include 2 pre-recorded sessions and an optional live virtual session on April 14, 2022, from 9:00-11:00am. Please see attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Virtual Ethics Course for School-Based OT Practitioners

The NCDPI Consultant for OT will host a virtual ethics course on April 6, 2022, from 3:00 – 4:30pm titled *An Ethical Approach to School Mental Health for Occupational Therapy Practitioners*. A recorded option will also



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be available by May 1, 2022. See the attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Behavior Focused PD Training

Your IABS Team is pleased to present Behavior focused PD this spring. These sessions will focus on the Behavior Core of an MTSS. We are offering this support cross-regionally (West, Central, East) through a 2-part virtual series beginning with a kick-off session followed by the Behavior Core session. This training is designed for those who lead district/school implementation of MTSS and school improvement, including MTSS coordinators, school-level administrators, PBIS/behavior coordinators, SEL coordinators, etc. Participants need to attend both sessions. Please see the flyer linked [HERE](#) for more information about the 2 sessions offered this spring, as well as 2 additional sessions that will be offered this summer. Dates and registration information can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your IABS regional consultant.

Related Services Information

- [OT/PT Practice Pals](#) will be on 3/23 @ 3pm... more information [here](#)

Medicaid/Charters Information

Medicaid support for Charters:

- Regions 6 & 8 on March 16 @ 3-4:30p
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m3fa9952326a8ec02cc8ffbb9c7a8c4b9>
Password - DHB22
- 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](#)
- Charter schools are encouraged to investigate the resources at:
<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districtschools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/program-and-fiscal-monitoring/medicaid-education>

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



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- 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.

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)**

MTSS Behavior-Focused Professional Development

The NCDPI IABS Team is pleased to offer Behavior focused professional development this spring. These sessions will focus on the Behavior Core of an MTSS. They are offering this support cross-regionally (West, Central, East) through a 2-part virtual series beginning with a kick-off session followed by the Behavior Core session. This training is designed for those who lead district/school implementation of MTSS and school improvement, including MTSS coordinators, school-level administrators, PBIS/behavior coordinators, SEL coordinators, etc. Participants need to attend both sessions. Please see the dates, times, and registration information below. Additionally, please see the flyer linked [HERE](#) for more information about the 2 sessions offered this spring, as well as 2 additional sessions that will be offered this summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your IABS regional consultant.

NCSIP Spring Network Conference (SNC)

The Exceptional Children Division's Program Improvement and Professional Development (PIPD) Section is pleased to offer the NCSIP Spring Network Conference (SNC). This professional learning opportunity is scheduled to take place at Embassy Suites, 204 Centrepoint Dr., Greensboro, NC. This is a three-day event with Literacy on Tuesday, April 26 from 8:30-4:00, Math on Wednesday, April 27, from 8:30-4:00, and Leadership on Thursday, April 28, from 8:30-2:00. **Registration closes on March 28, 2022.** For more information contact your regional consultant at <https://www.ncsip.org/contact>.

Save the Date: Eastern NC School for the Deaf (ENCSD) Summer Enrichment Camp

The ENCSD is hosting a [summer enrichment camp](#) for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in June 2022. The deadline for RSVPs is Friday, May 20, 2022. Please see the flyers in English and Spanish for more information **(ATTACHED)**.

Universal Design for Learning Webinars (UDL)

Physical Education/Adapted Physical Education will host an upcoming webinar on the Universal Design for Learning approach. Please see the attached flyer for additional information. **(ATTACHED)**



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NC DeafBlind Project Family Institute: Save the Date!

Save the date! The NC DeafBlind Project Family Institute will be held August 12-14, 2022, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Greensboro in Greensboro, NC. For more information and future updates, visit www.ecac-parentcenter.org.

Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Camp Sertoma for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is a coed camp for youth ages 8-16. It will be held July 31 through August 5 in Ellerbe, NC. Camp Scholarships are available. To learn more about this camp, open the [Camp Sertoma brochure](#).

Save the Date: Professional Development for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments

We are going on Data Dives! Multipart virtual PD sessions will dive deeper into data for providing quality programs for students with visual impairments. The first session will be on Thursday, March 31, 2022, from 2:30-3:30pm. Automated captions will be provided. Stay tuned for registration and meeting links.

Federal Reporting

- **April Child Count 2022 Schedule**

Correction and Certification Window	
April Child Count opens for all LEAs, Charter Schools, and SOPs	4/1/2022
Deadline for Certification Status	4/22/2022

EC Directors or Data Managers should review the April 2022 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 is assuring 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. All errors must be corrected, and all Public-School Units must certify their submissions no later than **April 22, 2022**.

Thank you for your attention to this vital transfer of information. If you have questions regarding child count procedures or technical issues while submitting the child count, please contact ZenDesk.



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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 – 03/14/2022**

[Monday Message 3.14.22.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). 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.**

- **Save the Date - IDEA Grant Training**

April 12th – Morning and Afternoon Session

April 20th – Morning and Afternoon Session

Please plan to attend one session. The registration and link will be released soon.

- **Revisions to IDEA Grants**

When a revision is made to the IDEA budgets (PRCs 049, 060, 070, 185, 186 & 187), the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the narrative Use of Funds section. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log.

- **Revisions to CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant (PRC 167)**

When a revision is made to the CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant PRC 167 budget, the grant narrative Use of Funds must align with the budget. If a Use of Funds revision is needed, it must be made in the 2021 CARES Act-ESSERF-Exceptional Children Grant application. The PSU can start a revision after the grant has been approved and make any changes necessary for the alignment of the Use of Funds and the budget. The grant revision and the budget revision will be reviewed by the fiscal consultant after submission of the revision. The revision cannot be indicated in the history log of the grant application.

- **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.



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PRC 185 and PRC 186 Budgets and Allotments Update

The full allotments for PRC 185 and PRC 186 have been released by NCDPI School Business. PSUs should check for discrepancies between the initial planning allotment and the actual allotment. Submitted budgets should be adjusted at this time based on the actual allotment.

- **PRC 049 Budgets and Allotments Update**

The PRC 049 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 PRC 049 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 – 03/11/22

[School Business Newsletter 03.11.22](#)

May Institute Reminder / Save the Date

The May Institute will be held **May 9-12** at the Koury Convention in Greensboro, NC. Registration and lodging information will be sent in an upcoming weekly message.

PK EC Items of Interest

Making Decisions for Children With COVID-19

The CDC has a new "[Quick Guide: Quarantine. What to do when a child in your early care and education program \(ECE\) might have been exposed to COVID-19](#)" to help make decisions about isolation and quarantine in early care and education programs for a child who may have COVID-19.

Scripted Stories

The ED-funded [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations \(NCPMI\)](#) developed a [resource](#) to support children's social and family engagement. "I am a Super Friend" is a scripted story that includes strategies to support children's social emotional skills. Scripted stories can be used to help children follow the expectations of activities, routines, and social situations. NCPMI has resources for developing scripted stories for use in [early childhood education and care environments](#) and in [homes](#).

My STEM Adventure app

[OSEP-funded STEMIE's My STEM Adventure app](#) is a fully accessible/born accessible app that will guide families or other adults in children's lives to engage in STEM activities with young children from birth to 5 years old. The app provides step-by-step guidance for families or teachers to lead young children, including those with disabilities, on adventures in their homes or neighborhoods to learn about STEM. The prototype is



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now available and has been tested with families and practitioners with young children with disabilities. The team is continuing to develop more adventures and additional accessibility features this year.

Local Data-Informed Strategic Planning Cohort 2 Application

[The Hunt Institute](#), in partnership with the [NC DHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education](#), is providing county-level early childhood leaders with the opportunity to learn how to use and interpret data to inform scalable and sustainable strategic plans. This work builds on the [NC Early Childhood Action](#) plan, providing local leaders with support to align state and local improvement efforts.

This Request for Applications is for cross-sector, county-level human services leadership teams to receive support in identifying sustainable and scalable strategies to support community-based data-informed strategic planning. By participating, you will:

- Learn how to leverage the power of data to strengthen and coordinate your early childhood strategic plan.
- Build cross-sector relationships with other early childhood leaders in your county.
- Receive ongoing technical assistance and coaching to develop and evaluate your data-informed local strategic plan.

Apply!

1. Build a team and apply. Teams should create a cross-sector collaborative team of 8-12 local early childhood leaders then complete the simple application process by April 8, 2022.
2. Attend virtual meetings. If selected, Teams will develop expertise on data use alongside fellow county leaders during at least four virtual meetings between April and July.
3. Receive continued support through 2022. Teams will receive personalized support to draft, evaluate, and communicate strategic plans, culminating in an in-person convening to showcase local data-informed strategic plans across North Carolina.

OFFICE HOURS

- March 21, 2022 @ 2:00pm: [Register](#)
- March 24, 2022 @ 10:00am: [Register](#)
- April 1, 2022 @ 12:00pm: [Register](#)
- April 5, 2022 @ 10:00am: [Register](#)

Local team applications are due by Friday, April 8, 2022. Apply [here](#). Teams will be notified April 15, 2022, and the first training/meeting will occur April 27, 2022 at 2:00pm. **(ATTACHED)**

Action Items/What's Due?

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)**. [North Carolina 6th Annual Inclusion Summit \(google.com\)](#)

March Calendar Items



EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
NC Department of Public Instruction

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March 23:

Program Compliance Cohort Session (Optional- will introduce updated guidance regarding Proportionate Share). Must Register to Attend.