

EC Division Weekly Update
September 16, 2020

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

- Parent-friendly document on Contingency Plans was added on 9.11.2020.
- SLD Worksheet technical assistance video is on the EC Division Memos padlet and included as an attachment to this weekly update.
- Directors'/Coordinators' Webinar from 9/8/2020
- Special Grants FAQ document
- *Supporting SWD When A Face Covering is Required* document

Items of Interest

2019-20 Students with Disabilities Exit Count - Due 10/7/2020

The Exit Count report is now available to all LEAs, Charter Schools and State Operated Programs on ECATS production under **Reports>Standard Reports> Special Education**. Due to the timing of the release of the reports and the training materials, the EC Division has extended the due date for all districts to be certified no later than October 7, 2020. The Exit data are based on the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 fiscal year.

The attached [training video](#) will explain the process for running the report, correcting errors and certification. The tip sheets referenced in the video are posted in each district's ECATS instance on the main page under Resources – labeled “ECATS Training Webinar Videos – Last Updated 9/14/20”. Also posted, are the "ECATS EC Exit Count Reporting Checklist" and the "ECATS Exit Count - Same Day Reporting Updates" documents to the same location.

Please submit any questions or issues directly to ZenDesk, not to EC Division staff. This will ensure that problems with data are corrected efficiently.

Link to training video: <https://youtu.be/GbDMMK7ACVl>



ECATS Exit Count Report Training Video

Welcome to the North Carolina ECATS training video suite. This video will demonstrate the process for Exit Count Reporting. We will review: • Student scenari...

youtu.be

Tuition Reimbursement-Fall 2020

Please distribute the memo and instructions to staff in your district who may qualify for tuition reimbursement for initial EC licensure. Please read carefully, as the directions have changed from previous years. **(ATTACHED)**

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Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

MOE Expenditures for the 2019-2020 school year

- MOE Expenditure Section will open on September 30, 2020 for all PSUs with an approved IDEA grant. All others will be open for submission after the IDEA grant has been approved.
- The MOE Calculation Form and Justification Form have been uploaded to the NCCIP Grant System in the NCDPI Resources Section under EC Resources tab. See the MOE Expenditure Guide (**ATTACHED**).
- Due date for MOE: October 31, 2020
- We have not been made aware of any exceptions to MOE due to COVID. As information becomes available, we will provide updates.
- The Fiscal Monitors will be offering MOE Technical Assistance Sessions on the following dates:
 - Monday, October 5th 1:30 – 2:30 pm
 - Wednesday, October 7th 9:30 – 10:30 am
 - Monday, October 12th 1:30 – 2:30 pm
 - Wednesday, October 14th 9:30 – 10:30 am
 - Wednesday, October 28th 9:30 – 10:30 am

MOE Corrections for 2018-2019 data currently in the NC CCIP IDEA Grant:

PSUs can send the corrected MOE calculation form and the expenditure reports justifying the corrections to the Fiscal Monitor. The Fiscal Monitor will verify the corrections and submit the change to the grant system.

Medicaid and Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and IDEA Proportionate Share

Please see this memo for information and guidance. (**ATTACHED**)

Comprehensive Plan for Reading Achievement & RTA Open Data Correction Window

Please see the memo linked below, Comprehensive Plan for Reading Achievement & RTA Open Data Correction Window, from Dr. David Stegall, deputy superintendent of innovation, and Dr. Tara Galloway, director of K-3 literacy. [Comprehensive Plan for Reading Achievement & RTA Open Data Correction Window.pdf](#)

Tip Sheet: Eligibility Worksheet - Specific Learning Disabilities (new policy)

The SLD worksheet currently in ECATS will remain the same. However, a tip sheet (**ATTACHED**) has been developed to assist with crosswalking the new requirements for collecting data to the required screenings/evaluations. A technical assistance video, approximately seven minutes long, has been developed to describe the crosswalk and how to document in ECATS. The Tip Sheet and TA video will be posted in two locations.

- [ECATS: Special Education Module - Tip Sheets](#)
- [EC Division Memos padlet](#)

Tip Sheet: Related Service Support Descriptions (RSSD)

The EC Division has received questions regarding how to document supplemental aids and supports that were previously included on a separate stand-alone form, RSSD, prior to the implementation of ECATS and the new EC forms. While this information was previously provided at the May 2017 Regional Director's Meeting, it is appropriate to update the information and re-release in a Tip Sheet. This information is being finalized and will be ready for release on or before Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

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If released prior to next week's EC Division Weekly Update, it will be posted to the [ECATS website](#) and/or included in the next Monday Message with a reminder of its delivery in the following in the weekly update.

Monitoring: Non-Public Schools and Community Residential Centers

The Policy, Monitoring and Audit section is developing a memo to identify non-public schools with EC Program Approvals. This list is maintained by the EC Division to assist LEAs in the placement of children who require FAPE through services in private schools or facilities. Over time, the number of options on this list has decreased. Therefore, within this memo, technical assistance resources will be highlighted in order to support LEAs when considering options that may not be included on the list maintained by the Division.

Additionally, there will be some changes in how the EC Division will be monitoring Community Residential Centers. Those details will be included in this memo and is expected to be issued in next week's EC Division Weekly Updates.

Understanding Communication Development for Learners Who Are Deaf-Blind

Please join us as NC DPI and the NC Deaf-Blind Project present a webinar on *Understanding Communication Development for Learners Who Are Deaf-Blind*.

This webinar will be held October 14, 2020, from 3:00pm until 4:00pm. Content will include an overview of the impact of Deaf-Blindness on the development of communication and strategies to aid a learner in establishing communication partners. CEUs offered will be .1 for one hour of attendance.

The registration link is:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ngb7yPxxZdAEex

For additional information please contact Dottie Snyder at: Dorothy.Snyder@dpi.nc.gov

National Concussion Awareness Day

National Concussion Awareness Day is this **Friday, (September 18)**. Did you know that concussion (aka mild Traumatic Brain Injury) accounts for 70-90% of TBI-related pediatric emergency department visits?

Information and resources recognizing this national day of awareness can be found here:

<https://nationalconcussionawarenessday.com/index.html>

Public schools across the state are invited to request free concussion materials (posters and parent information brochures) to promote awareness and prevention and communicate effectively on public schools' responsibility for monitoring and management of students who sustain concussions. The request form submission process is straightforward, and linked to the right of the pictures on the following concussion resource page: <https://ncschoolpsychology.med.unc.edu/index.php/nctbi/concussion-information-and-resources/concussion-resources/>

REMINDER: EC Division Webinars

The EC Division has scheduled EC Director/EC Charter Coordinator Webinars each month for the remainder of 2020, to help address our unusual situation with COVID-19. Please **register** for each of these at the individual

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links below. You will find the registration link on the left-hand side when the page opens. **Reminder:** *The registration is restricted to EC Directors/EC Charter Coordinators only.*

October 13: <http://bit.ly/ECDW101320>
November 10: <http://bit.ly/ECDW111020>
December 1: <http://bit.ly/ECDW120120>

REMINDER – PRC082

The PRC 082 expenditure report is due by or before 9/30 to your NC SIP regional literacy and/or math consultant via email.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

EC Office Hours--EXTENDED

The Exceptional Children Division's final "Office Hours" is scheduled for **September 23rd**. We will hold office hours for all LEAs from **10:00 am to 11:00 am** and again from **3:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. Click [on this link](#) to join the call.

PRC 132 COVID Funding Reporting

Superintendents and CFO's should have received a spreadsheet which lists all COVID-19 funding to date, with the request for each PSU to report on all funds received monthly, as required by Office of State Budget Management (OSBM). Specifically, for EC reporting is needed for all PRC 132 funds. The initial reporting is due September 20 and should reflect the *number of students* served and the *types of services* (ESY, Additional Services, Comp Ed) provided through August 30, 2020. Please complete this report with the following convention (#, ESY; #, Additional; #, Compensatory Ed). An example is included below.

J		L	
Metric		Totals as of August 31	
EC students served; types of services provided		7: ESY; 14: Additional; 35; Comp Ed	

Subsequent reports will be due on the 20th of each month, reflecting data from the previous month. Questions regarding this should be directed to Sherry Thomas or Matt Hoskins.

ECATS Paperclip: Contingency Plans

There have been questions regarding paperclipping Contingency Plans to students' ECATS electronic file and requests for additional data storage. As a reminder, this is not a requirement established by the EC Division and is optional at the local level. If LEAs are receiving notifications that its data limits have been reached,

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please review the information below to determine if internal data management procedures should be reviewed.

ECATS Paperclip Storage

With the ECATS contract, there is enough data storage for LEAs to be able to upload approximately 5-6 pages per total ADM (general education students + EC students). In addition, there are some minimums and maximums in place. The minimum allotment an LEA received is 100 MB; the most an LEA can receive is 23,000 MB (or 23GB).

- 100 MB is a little over 3000 pages per school year.
- 23,000 MB is a little under 700,000 pages per school year

This data allocation is renewed annually. While only a rough estimate, LEAs could develop a usage guide by estimating how the document allocation for general education students can be repurposed to increase the number of documents available per EC student.

As a reminder:

- Data is allocated by LEA; not by user or by student.
(Therefore, a few users could potentially use the entire LEA's annual allotment.)

The following items should be attached to the electronic student record via PaperClip:

- The initial consent for Evaluation (Parent Consent to Evaluate)
- The initial consent for Placement (Parent Consent for Services)
- Parent consent to access Public Insurance. *

*Users should begin this process with any initial referral or initial request to access private insurance that occurred beginning July 1, 2019, and forward. For documents prior to this time, the student's EC file is the authoritative source.

Currently, there isn't a document requirement in place for general education students.

Supporting SWD When A Face Covering is Required

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Exceptional Children Division Consultants have been repeatedly contacted by parents and school staff with concerns regarding communication access for students with disabilities when face coverings are required and worn by communication partners. This document provides information about the potential impact face coverings may have on communication for students with disabilities as well as examples of reasonable accommodations to consider if students experience communication challenges due to face coverings. **(ATTACHED and on the Padlet)**