

EC Division Weekly Update
August 25, 2021

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

Items of Interest

UPDATE: 70th Conference on Exceptional Children Call for Proposals

The 70th Conference on Exceptional Children, *Going Platinum: Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future*, call for proposals for general conference sessions has been extended until September 15, 2021. The Proposal document is attached again for your convenience. Please share this opportunity with your staff and other stakeholders that may be interested in submitting a proposal. **(ATTACHED)**

LEA Self-Assessment

The Qualtrics submission portal for the LEA Self-Assessment Improvement Plan is now open at this link:

[LEA Self Assessment 2021](#)

We highly recommend you use [this template](#) to revise/rewrite your 2021-22 improvement plan before going into the Qualtrics workspace. You will be cued to make your own copy of the template; once complete, you can then copy and paste content as needed into the Qualtrics form.

If you are not revising your plan, you will need to enter a data-based rationale for why no changes are needed in the Qualtrics form.

Please direct any questions or need for assistance to Lauren Holahan at lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov

Reminder: Past Conference Photos

Do you have any pictures of yourself, your colleagues, or highlights from your past attendance at the Conference on Exceptional Children? If so, we would like to celebrate the past while we share them in a slideshow loop at our 70th Conference on Exceptional Children. You may upload them to this [Google Folder](#) or email them to Ginger.Starling@dpi.nc.gov.

*Link to Google Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IDNqKNFWeslWMNTV1YEHEobyVGER-52t?usp=sharing>

*Please feel free to share this with staff who may also have photos to share!

Adherence to the 10/20 Day Rule

The Accountability Division has released a memo addressing the 10/20-day rule to all LEA Superintendents and Charter School Administrators. We have included it here today for your information. **(ATTACHED)**.

Program Compliance Cohort

As highlighted in last week's ECD Weekly Update, the EC Division will be coordinating a Program Compliance Cohort for members of local EC Leadership Teams tasked with supporting the EC Director/Coordinator with the supervision of local EC programs. Each PSU/LEA may recommend up to three participants for this cohort.

EC Directors/Coordinators may recommend participants by using this link:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b331o2CY0QZDbsa

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Recommendations will be accepted through 5:00 pm Friday, September 3rd.

During the week of September 7th, participants will be provided additional information (virtual links, etc.) via the email provided when the individual was recommended.

REMINDER: Learning Ally Overview Sessions

NC DPI provides funding for a limited number of K-12 public and charter school students with print disabilities to access the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution. Learning Ally will be providing two overview sessions on September 2nd as an introduction to how students can benefit from, and teachers can access, these audiobooks. *Please be sure to attend through a Wi-Fi connected device to experience the Audiobook App during the session.*

The Learning Ally NC flyer and NC Learning Ally Guidance Document provide additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Please click on the link below for the session you would like to attend and register.

September 2nd 12:00-1:00

Open to the first two hundred registrants

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VZcsPYRVx8tw1w

September 2nd 3:00-4:00

Open to the first two hundred registrants

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7TXg7QRjwb4crno

OCS Work Hours 2021-2022

Work experience is a research-based strategy for building job readiness skills and improving post-school employment outcomes for students. Please see the information for suggestions to support students in the OCS. **(ATTACHED)**

Online Transition Assessment-The Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment

The Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment at the University of Oklahoma is looking for participants to complete a new online transition assessment that is under development specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities who follow the alternate academic achievement standards. More information can be found on this [link](#). Please share with educators, students, and families of high school students with significant cognitive disabilities and/or extensive support needs.

Class Size/Caseload Waivers

The EC Division has not posted the 2021-2022 submission due dates for waiver requests. If you have an immediate need for technical assistance to problem-solve specific class sizes/caseloads, please reach out to your assigned monitoring consultant. However, do not plan to submit requests for waivers until further information is communicated through the Weekly Update. We anticipate sharing these details by the end of September.

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MTSS Access to Statewide Corrective Action Essential Resources

Since essential resources from statewide corrective action have been moved to the EC Director's Padlet and the shared google folder for statewide corrective is no longer accessible, MTSS staff will receive communication and be asked to partner with their EC Director to download these items.

Federal Reporting

- **Exit Count**

September captures end-of-year reporting data on students exiting special education during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. The Exit Count opens September 15, 2021 and is due by close of business September 30, 2021. **(ATTACHED)**

- **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.

- **Federal Reporting Office Hours**

As a reminder, the Federal Reporting Office Hours are open from 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. To join in and ask any questions about upcoming federal reporting, please use the following link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>.

Grant Information

- **Special Grants Training:**

(Risk Pool, Special State Reserve, Developmental Day, Community Residential, Group/Foster Home and Out of District) will be held on the following dates:

August 31, 2021 9:00 – 11:30

August 31, 2021 1:00 – 3:30

September 2, 2021 9:00 – 11:30

Participants only need to attend one of the sessions.

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCTI29GHDx8QDA

Please register for the training by August 27th. When registration closes, you will receive a meeting link to utilize to attend the registered session. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Davis at:

Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov.

Grant applications will open on September 7, 2021.

- **PRC 167 ESSERF - Exceptional Children Funds**

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

Virtual Career Panel for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

High School students who are deaf or hard of hearing are invited to attend a virtual panel of Deaf business owners where they will learn about their experiences of starting and running their own business. Please share the attached flyer with the appropriate staff and students. **(ATTACHED)**

Basic American Sign Language Classes

The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering virtual, introductory American Sign Language classes on Thursdays in September. Please share with interested staff or students. **(ATTACHED)**

Related Service Provider Representative Meetings

Planning is underway for statewide Related Service Provider Representative meetings. We anticipate scheduling these statewide meetings in December 2021.

Online Deaf-blind Intervener Training Modules

East Carolina University Teacher Support Program (ECU TSP) has updated the deadline to RSVP for participating in the online Deaf-blind Intervenor Training modules to September 10, 2021. These modules are geared toward those directly working with learners with deaf-blindness in intervener or instructional assistant positions and are interested in obtaining national intervener certification. For questions or more information please see the attached flyer or contact Julie Brickhouse, ECU TSP Technical Consultant at brickhousej17@ecu.edu. **(ATTACHED)**

PK EC Items of Interest

Save the date for the New EC Preschool Coordinator Orientation Part I (virtual)

October 7 and 8, 2021, 9:00-12:00

During this event, new EC Preschool Coordinators will be able to network with other new coordinators, Early Learning Network (ELN) Consultants and DPI staff, as well as regional representatives who are available to assist them in understanding their new role. If your LEA has a new coordinator who has not connected with ELN yet please send the new coordinator name and email to the elntraining@unc.edu. *Registration memo coming soon!*

NCPMI Pyramid Model Updates August Newsletter: Positive Solutions for Families

A new program year means a new opportunity to engage with families. We are excited to announce the updated and expanded Positive Solutions for Families workshop. The beginning of the year is a wonderful time to incorporate support and guidance for families! Positive Solutions for Families provides an evidence-based, user-friendly workshop series of seven sessions to guide families in their use of effective parenting practices for promoting their children's social-emotional skills and addressing challenging behavior. The training modules are available on our [website](#).

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

REMINDER: EC Office Hours: Contingency Plans, Long COVID, Homebound Requests, Remote Learning & Virtual Academies

This EC Office Hours is intended to support EC Directors in the management of unique circumstances related to returning to school this fall and potential reviews and revisions to individualized education programs.

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- Today is the last day to submit questions for this week's webinar. Please submit them using the link below by 5:00p.
 - <https://forms.office.com/r/ng5JcknUmB>
- EC Office Hours will be held this Friday, August 27, 2021, from 10:00a-11:30a.
 - No registration required.
 - Participants may join at 10:00am using this link:
<https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>
 - The format will include sharing the responses to previously submitted questions at the beginning and an open forum for additional questions as time permits.

New Guidance Reaffirms Importance of Full Implementation of IDEA Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

Today, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) sent a [letter to its state and local partners](#) reiterating its commitment to ensuring children with disabilities and their families have successful early intervention and educational experiences in the 2021–2022 school year. This letter outlines a series of question and answers (Q&As) as children and students return to in-person learning. The Q&As focus on topics to help ensure that — regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic or the mode of instruction — children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and that infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families receive early intervention services. **(ATTACHED)**

The [Q&As document on Child Find Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) is the first Q&A in the series and reaffirms the importance of appropriate implementation of IDEA's child find obligations, which requires the identification, location and evaluation, of all children with disabilities in the states. An effective child find system is an ongoing part of each state's responsibility to ensure that FAPE is made available to all eligible children with disabilities. **(ATTACHED)**