



**Weekly Update**  
**March 15, 2023**

**News !**

**72nd Conference on Exceptional Children Call for Proposals**

The [Call for Proposals](#) is now open for the 72nd Conference on Exceptional Children and will be open through May 26, 2023. Proposals are being accepted and considered for 90-minute instructional sessions and poster presentations. This year's theme is *Opportunities to Learn, Opportunities to Succeed*. Please see the attached memo for all the details and share broadly. Questions may be directed to [ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ECConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov).  
**(ATTACHED)**

**Autism Support Team Meeting**

Autism Support Team (AST) meetings are for those Public School Units (PSUs) who maintain an AST for the purpose of building capacity in effective implementation of services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This meeting will focus on the critical components that are needed to pursue that goal. Participants will receive updates from the NCDPI Autism Team as well as time to network with other PSUs.

The meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

Date	Regions	Locations
May 2, 2023	Northwest and Western	Morganton
May 3, 2023	Piedmont-Triad and Southwest	Asheboro
May 4, 2023	North Central and Sandhills	Lillington
May 9, 2023	Northeast and Southeast	Williamston

It is recommended that teams attend in their assigned region. If this is not feasible, it is required that all team members sign up and attend the same session as there will be opportunities during this meeting for ASTs to work collaboratively on PSU specific application of content.

Registration can be accessed at this [link](#) and will close on **April 21, 2023**. Attendance for the full day is required in order to earn 0.5 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Please email [asdteam@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:asdteam@dpi.nc.gov) or contact your NCDPI Consultant for Autism with any inquiries.

**Significant Disproportionality, Indicators 4, 9/10**

Please see attached memo regarding notification of the 2023 Reporting Year notifications for Significant Disproportionality and Indicators 4, 9 and 10. These notifications have been consolidated for PSUs to easily



**Weekly Update**  
**March 15, 2023**

access the status of educational equity data in their districts and understand the requirements around each notification. **(ATTACHED)**

**April Child Count**

The April Child Count captures reporting data on students receiving special education as of April 1, 2023. The certification window for the April Child Count begins April 3<sup>rd</sup> and ends by close of business on April 24<sup>th</sup>. See the memorandum for more information. **(ATTACHED)**

**1% Justification Memo**

Please see the attached memo detailing the justification document required for those public school units that exceed the 1% threshold for students on an alternate assessment. The document must be completed electronically, scanned, and emailed to [alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov) by July 6, 2023. **(ATTACHED)**

<p><b>Items of Interest</b></p>
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**Save the Date - EC Office Hours: Responding to Formal Written State Complaints**

The Dispute Resolution Consultants will host a micro-PD session regarding how to respond when formal written state complaints are filed. The use of Informal/formal dispute resolution and how to develop the PSU's response to the actual complaint within the required timelines will be addressed. Given the heightened activity with state complaints this year and the anticipated increase at the end of the school year, it is highly recommended that the EC Director and/or compliance staff plan to attend. The session will be recorded and distributed afterward via the Weekly Update.

Date: Friday, April 21, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Virtual: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/polly.lilly>

**No Registration Required**

**Office of Exceptional Children Webinar**

Please register for the EC Director/Coordinator April Webinar. More information concerning agenda items will be forthcoming.

**Date and time:**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:00 AM

**Registration link:**

<https://ncgov.webex.com/weblink/register/rf74c12bf7774ded96d41b838942b4603>

**Clarification regarding Orientation & Mobility in ECATS Monday Message 3-6-23**

The Monday Message from March 6<sup>th</sup> informed users that Orientation and Mobility will be listed as Orientation & Mobility (O&M) under EC Services. This was only a technical correction because it was listed twice under EC services. It will also remain as a related service listed as Orientation and Mobility. To further



**Weekly Update**  
**March 15, 2023**

clarify, O&M may be an EC service when a Teacher of the Visually Impaired is providing specially designed instruction as a part of the Expanded Core Curriculum.

<b>ICYMI</b>
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**Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality Session**

Session ten of the *Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality* monthly webinar series will be held on **Thursday, March 23** from 3:00pm-4:30pm. This month's presenter will be Dr. Silvia Romero-Johnson, a K-12 educational leader, administrator, and advocate for multilingual learners. Dr. Romero-Johnson currently serves as the Director of Bilingual Programs and Instructional Equity for the Verona Area School District in Verona, Wisconsin. Dr. Romero-Johnson will present ***Advancing Educational Equity in Dual Language Programs***. Please see the webinar information below.

Join link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m8ef216fd9f8e0a30a90a60967f504e37>

**Webinar number:**

2421 195 0016

**Webinar password:**

EESDWeb10 (33739321 from phones)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0003 US Toll

+1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)

Access code: 2421 195 0016

Questions and concerns may be directed to [Dreama McCoy](#), [Dr. Alysha Gray](#) or [Angel Goodwine Batts](#).

**2023 Draft 2 Proposed K-12 Science ECS**

NCDPI will formally collect feedback from all stakeholders regarding the 2nd draft of the proposed 2023 K-12 Science Extended Content Standards. Please see the attached document for additional information.

**(ATTACHED)**

**LAST DAY: Annual DeafBlind Census**

The annual [DeafBlind Census](#) registration link is now open and will close today, March 15, 2023. Please refer to previous weekly updates to access the DeafBlind Census Memo and DeafBlind Census Qualtrics Survey attachments. As a reminder, ANY student with ANY level of vision loss and ANY level of hearing loss should be reported. The student may be found eligible under ANY of the 14 disability categories. Inclusion on the DeafBlind Census offers FREE resources and support to families and school staff. If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Alan Chase [alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov).



**Weekly Update**  
**March 15, 2023**

**Western North Carolina Transition Event for Students who are DHH**

As a reminder, the western North Carolina transition event for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, Step Forward to the Future, will be held April 26, 2023 from 8:00 am - 3:15 pm in Marion, NC. If you have students who would like to attend, please submit one registration form per event attendee by using the [registration forms](#) or by completing the [online registration](#).

**HB 317 Data Collection for 2022-2023**

The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section needs to confirm the primary and secondary contacts for HB 317 that will receive the data collection spreadsheet along with the list of students your LEA needs to report for the 2022-2023 school year. Please [update your contacts](#) by March 31, 2023.

**Combined Expenditure Reports**

The Combined Expenditure Reports for Mid-Year are due today, **March 15, 2023**. Please email the completed form to [cer@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:cer@dpi.nc.gov). If you have not expended any of the funds, please send in the form along with a note that states that no funds have been spent from July 1 through December 31, 2022. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Sinclair at [nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov).

**Federal Reporting**

- **Federal Personnel Survey: Training Resources now available!**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2022-23 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. Here is the link to access the survey: [https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_50oVIRpkycSzRWe](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50oVIRpkycSzRWe). You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey. The federal personnel survey opened on February 8, 2023, and **the due date has been extended to March 31, 2023**. For more information about completing the federal personnel survey, please review the recorded training sessions and PowerPoint presentation located on the ECATS Federal Reporting website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>.

- **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 – 03/13/2023**

[Monday Message 3.13.23.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

**Grant Information**

- **IDEA American Rescue Plan (ARP) for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187**

ARP funds allocated through PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187 have a period of availability from 7/01/2021-9/30/2023. All ARP funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and liquidated by 12/31/2023.



**Weekly Update**  
**March 15, 2023**

There is currently \$50,405,046.90 in PRC 185, \$3,328,605.34 in PRC 186, and \$952,294.88 in PRC 187. These funds, if not liquidated, will be reverted to the federal government. The Office of Exceptional Children is currently reviewing each PSU's current carryover to determine next steps which may include a reversion of funds and re-allocating to districts who have utilized their funds. Please work with your finance officer to create a plan for spending these funds. If you need assistance, please reach out to your fiscal consultant and/or your regional consultant.

● **Developmental Day Center (DDC) Funds Reminder**

To be eligible for Developmental Day Center funds, each student must be placed in the DDC as the least restrictive environment by the IEP team. As discussed in the Special Grants training, the placement decision should be documented on the IEP or Prior Written Notice. As with all placement decisions, the placement in the DDC should be reviewed and documented at all subsequent IEP team meetings for the student. Additional criteria for receiving DDC funds for preschool students are:

- Require special education 5 days a week and one of the following
- At least three hours each day of specially designed instruction or
- At least two hours each day of specially designed instruction with at least one weekly related service
- At least one hour each day of specially designed instruction with at least two weekly related services

For school aged students, the need for specially designed instruction should be 5 days a week for a minimum of four hours each day.

**Inclusion Summit**

Please see the attached flier for the 7th annual North Carolina Inclusion Summit the week of June 26-27 sponsored by Western Carolina. **(ATTACHED)**

**Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! Information:**

Please see the information below for the Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair for Middle and High School Students with disabilities and their friends and families! **(ATTACHED)**

<https://ncsciencefestival.org/events/reach-stars-be-star>

This event is on Saturday, April 22nd from 9 AM-12 PM at McKimmon Center, NC State University. **If you would like to organize a bus or van to come from your community, funds are available to pay for transportation. In addition, please see the attached flier.**

<b>PK EC Items of Interest</b>
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**Allocation for PRC 119- Preschool Targeted Assistance:**

The Office of Early Learning and the Office of Exceptional Children are pleased to announce the release of PRC119 funds. These Targeted Assistance Funds are used to support:



**Weekly Update**  
**March 15, 2023**

1. *PSU Preschool Coordinator professional learning,*
2. *Preschool Pyramid Model (PPM) Implementation, and*
3. *Preschool Regional Representative Support*

Each PSU has been allotted \$2,000 to ensure their preschool leaders and/or staff participate in professional learning events designed to support preschool initiatives related to child find and serving children with disabilities. Funds can also support related travel expenses as applicable. Cumberland, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, and Forsyth Counties will be allotted \$4,000 to support additional staff participation. PSU Preschool Coordinators who serve as regional representatives will also receive additional funds.

A PRC119 budget or budget amendment must be submitted that aligns with the NCDPI Finance allotment amount. Allocation amounts for PPM implementation, and regional support must align with the approved activities, spending plans and assurances. The use of a unique identifier would assist with tracking and efficiently monitoring the use of funds per spending initiative.

Per the Federal Grant Programs [Allotment Policy](#), current year awards for which a PSU is eligible have been reduced by the amount of funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. If you have any questions, please contact Keashia Walker at [Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov).

<p><b>Compliance Tip of the Week</b></p>
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**OSEP: RTI/MTSS May Not Be Used to Delay or Deny IDEA Evaluation**

In an email to all Part B Directors and 619 Coordinators on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Dr. Greg Corr, Division Director for OSEP's Monitoring and State Improvement Planning, reminding States and local educational agencies that initial evaluations cannot be delayed or denied until a child goes through the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) process, sometimes referred to as Response to Intervention (RtI).

As requested, the OEC is re-distributing previous OSEP memorandum reflecting the IDEA statutory and regulatory requirements still in effect. (**ATTACHED**)

<p><b>Calendar Items/What's Due?</b></p>
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