General Information

Educator of Excellence Nominations

The Office of Exceptional Children's 72nd Conference on Exceptional Children will be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on October 23-25, 2023. We would like to pay special tribute to each of the educators of excellence and to present the 2023 Educator of Excellence Award to each nominee at the conference. All nominations must be submitted by Friday, September 15, 2023. **[ATTACHED]**

Administrative/Supervisory

2021-2022 FY PSU Annual Determinations

During the COVID pandemic, the OEC posted PSU annual determinations (i.e., Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, etc.) along with the PSUs public report regarding performance on each indicator and whether the PSU met its local targets using the EC Annual Report Indicators Dashboard. While the data regarding the PSU's performance on each indicator target is still publicly reported at this site, the determination will return to an individual notification to each PSU.

The 2021-2022 FY PSU Annual Determination will be emailed to local leadership (Superintendent/Director of Schools/EC) within the next 5-10 business days. Included in this email will be a separate notification regarding compliance with Indicator 11 and Indicator 12 requirements for the same reporting period.

Please review this communication carefully as the OEC is transitioning to combining these notification requirements into a timeline and bundle that is conducive to local improvement planning.

Private School Proportionate Share

The federal funds set aside for Proportionate Share is a federal requirement to make equitable services available for parentally placed private school students and must be expended from the PRC 060 funds. The use of these funds must be tracked through an established method. If the PSU expends all of the federal set aside funds for equitable services, then state or local funds _can_ be used to supplement; however it is not required and is at the discretion of the PSU.

Federal Policy Section 300.133: (d) Supplement, not supplant. State and local funds may supplement and in no case supplant the proportionate amount of Federal funds required to be expended for parentally-placed private school children with disabilities under this part.

PRC 118 Grant Award Notification

PRC 118 Grant Award Notifications (GAN) are being auto-generated through the CCIP system. PRC 118 funds cover related services recruitment and retention funding, autism funding, de-escalation funds, and some

contract personnel. The GANS currently being released show a $0.00 amount for funding. This is CORRECT because allotments for the 2023-2024 fiscal year have not been made.

2022-2023 FY FEDERAL REPORTING: Child Exit Count

During September, the federal Child Exit Count is collected for students exiting special education between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. The correction and certification schedule is documented in the OEC Activities Guide and listed below:

September 15, 2023: Exit Count Opens for all PSUs
September 29, 2023: Exit Count Closes - Final Certification Due

Please submit any questions or issues directly to ZenDesk to ensure that problems with data are corrected efficiently.

2022-2023 FY FEDERAL REPORTING: Indicator 11 - Child Find

All PSUs are responsible for certifying Indicator 11: Child Find in ECATS. Indicator 11 count collects the percent of students for whom a referral was received, evaluation conducted, and placement determined within 90 days. The data collection period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The correction and certification schedule is documented in the OEC Activities Guide and listed below:

October 2, 2023:   Exit Count Opens for all PSUs
October 31, 2023:   Exit Count Closes - Final Certification Due

2022-2023 FY FEDERAL REPORTING: Indicator 12 - Early Childhood Transition

Indicator 12 collects data for the percentage of children found Part B eligible with an IEP implemented by the 3rd birthday. The data collection period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Indicator 12 data will be submitted by traditional public school units using this spreadsheet. The spreadsheet has a tab with helpful clarifications to assist PSUs with entering their data and can be submitted at any time prior to the due date of October 31, 2023.

October 31, 2023:   Indicator 12 Spreadsheets Due
                                    Submit electronically to ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Expenditure Training:
MOE Training will be offered on September 12th with two opportunities to attend using the link below.
September 12, 2023 9:00am-11:00am
or
September 12, 2023 1:00pm-3:00pm
You only have to attend one session. The Fiscal Consultants will review the
requirements for MOE and discuss the allowable exceptions. If you have any questions about this training, please contact your region's IDEA Fiscal Monitoring Consultant.

Link to training: https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/adam.parent

Special Grants Opening:

Special Grants (Risk Pool, Special State Reserve, Developmental Day, Community Residential, Group/Foster Home and Out of District) will open on September 1, 2023 for PSU with at least a Regional Consultant approved status 2024 IDEA grant. As a reminder, the PSU must apply for IDEA funds to be eligible to apply for Special Grants. If you have any questions about this training, please contact your region's IDEA Fiscal Monitoring Consultant.

EDDIE

This morning, the OEC ran a report of the Exceptional Children contacts listed in EDDIE for 2024. The report is attached for your review. Please make sure the appropriate contact for your PSU is listed. **[ATTACHED]**

If the appropriate EC contact was not listed on the attached EDDIE report, please make sure that EDDIE is up to date per the NCDPI website directions and April 2023 Memorandum from the Division of School Business. **The OEC will migrate fully to using EDDIE as its authoritative source for points of contact to populate OEC listservs beginning with the distribution of the September 6, 2023, Weekly Update and all other OEC communication thereafter.**

Instructional/Related Services/Disability Specific

Behavior Support

The Behavior Support team will offer the below Virtual Professional Learning Sessions
- August 30, 2023, 9:00-12:00 New Behavior Liaison Training. Link to join the meeting
  - This session is for new behavior support staff or staff who would like a refresher on managing the 029 grant and supporting the work these funds provide.
- Behavior Support Meetings
  - September 7, 2023, 9:00-12:00 Meeting Link
  - September 18, 2023, 12:30-3:30 Meeting Link
    - To view all meetings to all 23-24 behavior support meetings please visit the Behavior Support home page.
- October 10, 2023, 9:00-12:00, FBA/BIP Training Meeting Link

Early Childhood (EC|EC)

Effective Teacher Practices Supporting the NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development

This series of 11 self-paced modules has been updated and redesigned. If you were not able to attend our brief webinar on Tuesday we have shared all of the details regarding access to the course, requirements, course format, etc. in this handout. Access is available through NCEES for LEA staff. The handout includes a link to guidance for course access for staff who do not traditionally use the NCEES system. We hope to have a public access link for partner programs available soon.

North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Children from Birth to Five with Disabilities

The ICC assists the state of North Carolina in carrying out the requirements for participating in the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Amendments of 1991. The council provides early intervention services to children from birth through age five with, or who are at risk of, developing disabilities. The council has 30 members, each serving a two-year term. The governor appoints all members. If you are interested in serving on the NC ICC or know of someone who would be interested in applying please visit or share this link and select the icon stating "Apply to this Board."

ECATS

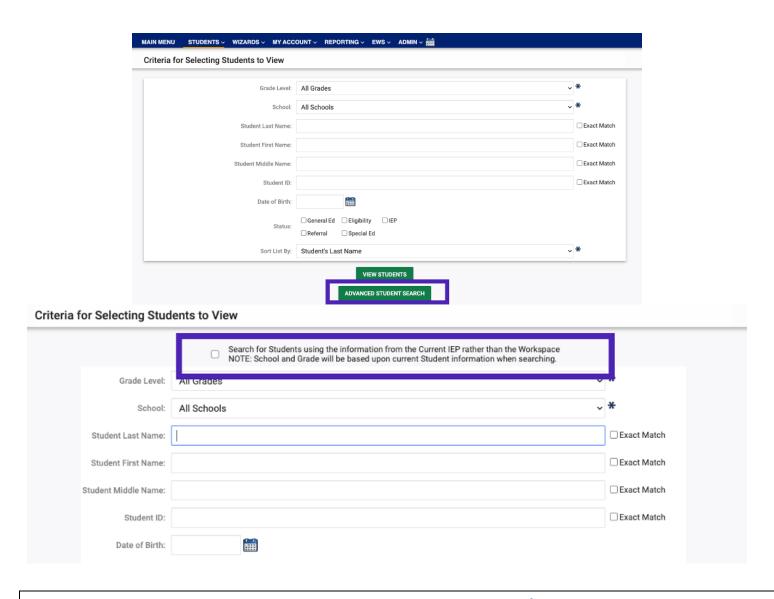## Alternate Assessment Worksheet

In a response to several questions from the field, the OEC has modified the Alternate Assessment Tip Sheet to include more clarification of the process. Please see the updated tip sheet [**ATTACHED**].

Correction: 8/9/2023 Weekly Update - Hearing Screening Documentation - ECATS

Messaging on 8/9/23 included an announcement related to an update to the Hearing Screening documentation in ECATS. This update has not occurred, and the field will be updated as soon as this functionality is updated. A tip sheet will be provided when this occurs.

Advanced Student Search in ECATS

Users will need to click the radio button at the top of the screen to ensure the information is being pulled from the *Current IEP* rather than the *Workspace*. As a reminder, the workspace represents documents that are being drafted in preparation for IEP Team meetings. Current IEP ensures that the student search pulls students for whom a finalized IEP is in place.

Revisions to OEC Activities Guide

OEC 2023-2024 Activities Guide

- ADDED: Registration and Meeting Locations for Regional Directors Meetings
- ADDED: Federal Reporting Child Exit Count data collection open and close dates

Note: The OEC 2023-2024 Activities Guide now replaces the *2023 Important Dates Calendar* formerly located on the ECATS Resource Site. The OEC 2023-2024 Activities Guide is now the authoritative source for reporting dates.

ICYMI

Application for Autism Model Programming Sites

The Autism Model Program Site (AMPS) initiative is intended to increase capacity in the implementation of evidence-based autism programming to improve outcomes for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Using an Implementation Science framework, NCDPI autism consultants work collaboratively with selected

Public School Units (PSUs) to leverage existing infrastructure and resources, including the PSU's Autism Support Team, to address critical components of capacity building.

We are pleased to announce that a new cohort will be added for the 2023-2024 year. To begin the process of becoming an Autism Model Program Site, your PSU will need to complete the application as a team. Selected applicants will receive an additional $3,000.00 in PRC 118 Autism funding to support the requirements of being a part of this initiative. Applications need to be submitted to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov no later than **September 22, 2023**.

The NCDPI Autism Team will hold two optional informational sessions regarding this initiative and submission of the application. Join us on **September 7, 2023, from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (click here for the link) or from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm (click here for the link)**.

Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov with any inquiries. **(ATTACHED)**

*Save the Date
For those PSUs who are selected to be an Autism Model Programming Site, save the date of **November 1, 2023, from 8:30 - 10:30** to participate in a webinar that will support your engagement in exploration activities for this initiative. Required participants for this webinar include the EC Director, at least one other member of the EC Leadership Team, and the PSU's Autism Support Team. You are welcome to include any other Public School Unit (PSU) leadership who can directly support implementation of evidence-based programming for students with ASD. Further details to come, including registration information.

Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference

The Office of Exceptional Children has limited spots remaining for the recorded sessions from the Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference. The content is available to view on-demand, at your convenience, until December 31, 2023. These remaining seats are not limited to dyslexia delegates. If you are interested, please complete the Commitment Form. Seats will be filled in the order registration is received until the limit is reached. If you have questions, please contact Kim Hash.

SLD In Math Regional State Level Professional Learning Sessions
Please refer to the flyer for dates, locations, and registration. **ATTACHED**

Workload Calculator for OT, PT, & SLP Orientation/Q&A

Please find the updated Workload Calculator, video tutorial and Q and A guidance on the professional development page of the Office of Exceptional Children's website. The Consultants for OT, PT and SLP hope you will use this calculator to assist you in creating equitable workloads across your district. It is required to be submitted when requesting waivers for caseloads that exceed 50. A webinar will be offered on August 25th from 12-1:30p to orient to the updated calculator and guidance. It is recommended you watch the video prior to attending the webinar. Registration is required (open until 8.23.23). 1.0 CEU will be provided. Questions can be submitted with registration (8.23.23 deadline). **ATTACHED**

Integrated IEP Development

Who should attend? EC Teachers, General Education Teachers, Administrators, Related Service Providers.
West: September 11, 2023 | 1:00pm – 4:00pm | Hickory, NC
East: September 15, 2023 | 1:00pm – 4:00pm | Kinston, NC
This will also be a session offered during the EC Conference.
See flyer **ATTACHED**

Statewide Meeting for Related Service Provider Representatives

One lead/representative from *each discipline per PSU*: Audiology, Interpreters, Occupational Therapy, Orientation & Mobility, Physical Therapy, Psychological Services and Speech-Language Pathology.
Eastern location: September 27, 2023, | 10:00am – 3:00pm | Tarboro, NC
Western location: September 29, 2023, | 10:00am – 3:00pm | Lenoir, NC
- Registration information
- See attached flyer for additional information **ATTACHED**

Calendar Items/What's Due?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPERVISORY

OEC 2023-2024 Activities Guide

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

NCDPI OEC Calendar of Events in List View

NCDPI Calendar of Events in Calendar View

The calendars of events currently have OEC PD offerings up to October 1, 2023, and meetings from the OEC Activities Guide for the entire year posted at the links listed above.

By October 1, 2023, our goal is to have all PD offerings for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year posted.