



August 24, 2022

News !

71st Exceptional Children Conference Call For Proposals - November 3-4, 2022

The 71st Exceptional Children Conference [call for proposals](#) has been extended to **Monday, August 29, 2022.** We look forward to receiving and reviewing all proposals. Please share this with your staff, district and school personnel.

IDEA Funds and Overtime Pay

Overtime pay for classified employees is an allowable expense in federal grants, under certain conditions. For a classified employee to receive overtime pay out of federal funds the employee is required to be serving students with disabilities 100% of the time. If the employee is serving non-disabled students in any capacity, then the overtime cannot be paid out of federal funds. Further questions regarding this should be directed to Nicole.Sinclair@dpi.nc.gov.

Exit Count

September captures end-of-year reporting data on students exiting special education during the July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 fiscal year. The Exit Count opens **September 15, 2022** and is due by close of business September 30, 2022. **(ATTACHED)**

Class Size/Caseload Waivers

As a reminder, the policy, NC 1508-1 Class Size: School Age and Preschool, requires that a request for waiver be submitted to the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) whenever the “pupil-teacher ratio for a class period/caseload exceeds requirements.”

During school closures and the subsequent re-opening of schools, the OEC did not publish waiver submission windows and responded to requests for waivers on a case-by-case basis. Given the current shortage of EC Teachers and Related Service Providers, the OEC plans to continue this practice. Therefore, PSUs may submit a request for waiver to the assigned Program Monitoring Consultant or the Consultant(s) for Related Service, as appropriate. Updated waiver request forms will be posted to the OEC website on or before **September 14, 2022**, with a follow-up communication noting the location of the forms and further technical assistance regarding this process.

Consistent with the OEC’s General Supervision Authority, compliance with this policy shall be monitored through the continuous improvement focused monitoring system, the PSU’s Self-Assessment, and the dispute resolution processes [NC 1508-1(b)].

OCS Work Hours Requirement for 2022-2023

Work experience is a research-based strategy for building job readiness skills and improving post-school employment outcomes for students. The SBE approved a virtual option for students on the OCS pathway while COVID19 precautions were in place. **This is a reminder the virtual option is no longer available, and all students are expected to participate in Face-to-Face work experiences during the 2022-2023 School Year.** When planning and implementing the work experiences activities, both within the school building and within the community, please follow the safety requirements established in the NC Governor’s Orders, CDC guidance, and local policy and practice to maintain safety of students and staff.



August 24, 2022

Students appropriate for the Occupational Course of Study learn best from hands-on learning and explicit instruction with opportunities for additional practice and generalization. The following resources will provide additional considerations and guidance for planning and implementing appropriate work hours activities and providing instruction:

- [OCS LiveBinder](#) (see *Work Hours Requirements* tab)
- [Teachers Resources for Instructional Strategies](#)

PRC 118 Request for Autism Funding

The Office of Exceptional Children allocates PRC 118 funding for Autism (AU) to assist Public School Units (PSUs) with increased capacity in the implementation of an effective autism program to improve outcomes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

There are two levels of support and funding available, General Support or Team Support. PSUs can choose which level based on their priorities regarding autism programming and in alignment with their LEA Self-Assessment.

The **General Support** level will allow PSUs to access ASD specific professional learning (PL) for the purpose of increasing educators' knowledge and use of evidence-based programming in the provision of services to students with ASD.

The **Team Support** level is available for PSUs to:

- Access PL for the purpose of increasing educators' implementation of effective services to students with ASD.
- Develop or maintain an Autism Support Team (AST) with the skills needed to provide support within the PSU.
- Provide PL and ongoing support (including but not limited to consultation, coaching, PLCs, etc.) within the PSU.

The **Autism Model Programming Site** is another level of support and funding. Information on this model can be found below in the next article of this Update.

Funding amounts allocated will be dispersed in a lump sum based on PSU Average Daily Membership (ADM). A memo outlining acceptable use of funding will be disseminated when allocations are disbursed.

- Review these linked documents that provide details regarding [General Support](#) and [Team Support](#).
- Prepare for your Request for Funding by reviewing and planning responses for these Questions:
 - [General Support Questions](#)
 - [Team Support Questions](#)
- Complete your [Request for Funding Form](#) by **September 19, 2022**.

The NCDPI Autism Team will be holding informational webinars for PSUs to attend if they have questions regarding submission of their Request for Funding. These webinars will be in the format of a question-and-answer session and are scheduled for:

- August 30, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.



August 24, 2022

- August 31, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

You can access either session at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/nancy.childress>

Questions regarding PRC 118 Autism Funding may be directed to asdteam@dpi.nc.gov.

Applications for Model Programming Sites for Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Autism Model Program Site (AMPS) initiative is intended to increase capacity in the implementation of an effective autism program 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, such as the Autism Support Team, to address critical components of capacity building.

We are pleased to announce that a new cohort will be added for the 2022-2023 year and we have included the application with this update. 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 Davina Elliott, davina.elliott@dpi.nc.gov no later than **September 27, 2022**.

The NCDPI Autism Team will hold two optional informational sessions regarding this initiative and submission of the application. Join us either on **September 20, 2022, from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm** or on **September 21, 2022, from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm**. Both sessions can be accessed at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/amanda.passmore>. Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov with any inquiries. **(ATTACHED)**

Fall 2022 Tuition Reimbursement

The Fall 2022 Tuition Reimbursement application is now available. Please review the memo and instructions and forward to any residency/provisionally licensed exceptional children teachers in your district who could benefit from this opportunity. **(ATTACHED)**

Items of Interest

EC Conference: Educator of Excellence Nominations

During the annual EC Conference, the OEC will recognize Educators of Excellence from across the state. Please review the attached memorandum regarding the criteria and process for submitting a local PSU nominee for this year's celebration. All nominations should be submitted electronically by **Friday, September 23, 2022**, using this link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0AHjv9u4rtcQOkS. **(ATTACHED)**

EC Program Compliance Cohort (PCC) 2.0

Thank you for providing feedback regarding the format, content, and schedule for this next PCC opportunity. The survey yielded some suggestions for new content (e.g., Progress Monitoring, Advanced ECATS, Data Disaggregation, Coaching, Effective Strategies for Working with Adults, Adult Learners) while also prioritizing the previous year's topics as still relevant. As communicated in the July 13, 2022, Weekly Update, the OEC will create a calendar of topics and provide a link for the local EC Directors/Coordinators to recommend participants from their PSU. These details are being finalized and will be communicated in next week's Weekly Update. The projected start date for this year's PCC activities is October 2022. Participants will be notified of acceptance with further details after the recommendation window closes.



August 24, 2022

New Resource for OT and PT

We are pleased to share a new resource: [Leveraging Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy within MTSS for Student and Staff Success](#), located in the [NC MTSS Implementation Guide 2.0 LiveBinder](#). We hope these resources will encourage occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) practitioners to expand their involvement in MTSS and demonstrate their unique value to support school improvement. Practitioners, administrators, and school teams can employ these resources to advocate and promote the success of all students and staff. Our thanks to the individuals who shared their expertise and provided thoughtful input to improve these resources (see acknowledgements). Contact Bridgette LeCompte, bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov, and/or Laurie Ray, laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov with any questions/comments.

Cohorts & Professional Development for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments

The Consultants for Visual Impairment from the SSAT section are pleased to invite all [Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments to register for cohort\(s\)](#). This invitation is to both TVIs, COMS, and Special Education Teachers who serve students with Visual Impairments. Cohorts are for all levels from 0 years of experience, including special topics like Neurological Visual Impairments, Braille basics in UEB, Bookshare for all eligible students, Orientation & Mobility and MORE. Educators are encouraged to register for all cohorts that best meet their needs for professional learning.

Hear N' Now Fall 2022 Conference

The Children's Cochlear Implant Center at UNC is hosting the Hear N' Now fall conference. The primary objective of this [conference](#) is to provide information to professionals and parents about facilitating the development of spoken language for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The LSL JUNction for Professionals Working with Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The LSL JUNction is an 8-week, online course designed to provide the basic knowledge, tools and resources in Listening and Spoken Language therapy. View the [website](#) to learn more about this training opportunity.

Registration for September EC Director/Coordinator Regional Meetings

The first face-to-face regional meetings for EC Directors and Coordinators are scheduled for 9/13 through 9/16. The registration for these meetings is now live at this [link](#). EC Directors of traditional PSUs and EC Coordinators of charter PSUs must register to attend and may also register one guest. To ensure that Regional Coordinators can plan for space, lunch, etc., attendees must register to attend the meeting in their assigned region. The meeting dates and locations are included within the registration information. All meetings are scheduled from 10am to 4pm. To provide time for consultants to make final plans for catering, materials, and requested meeting accommodations, **the registration link will close at the end of the workday (5pm) on September 2, 2022.** If you have specific questions, please reach out to your Regional Coordinator.

ICYMI

Federal Reporting

- **Indicator 11**

All Public-School Units are responsible for certifying Indicator 11: Child Find in ECATS. The certification schedule for Indicator 11 begins October 3, 2022 and is due by close of business October 31, 2022.



August 24, 2022

- **Indicator 12**

Indicator 12 must be submitted via spreadsheet by all Traditional Public-School Units prior to the due date of October 31, 2022. Charter Schools and State Operated Programs do not need to submit an Indicator 12 spreadsheet this year. The Indicator 12 spreadsheet can be accessed from the ECATS Reporting website at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>. Please email all completed Indicator 12 spreadsheets to ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov.

- **Indicator 14**

Selected Public-School Units are responsible for documenting post school outcomes survey data in ECATS for each student that graduated, dropped out, received a certificate, or aged out during the 2020-21 school year as reported in the 2020-21 Exit Report. All Post-School Outcome survey data are to be entered in ECATS by September 16, 2022. Your cooperation in meeting the deadline for data submission is greatly appreciated. The ECATS Reporting site has access to multiple resources on Indicator 14, including the recorded Indicator 14 training session. You can access these resources from the following link: <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

Grant Information

- **Special Grants Training**

If you were unable to attend the Special Grants Training or just need a refresher, please click [here](#) for the recorded session and PowerPoint. Special Grant applications will open on September 2, 2022.

- **2023 IDEA Grant for New Charter Schools**

Charter schools opening for the first year in 2022-2023, will be trained on the IDEA Grant application in early December 2022. The application will open for submission after the mandatory training. A due date for the submission will be determined when the planning allotments for the new charter schools are released by DPI School Business.

- **IDEA Grant and Budget Update**

The Object Code 122 EC-Salary-Interim Teacher-Non-Certified has been removed from the Chart of Accounts for all federal EC Funds. EC Teachers paid from federal funds are required to hold licensure in Exceptional Children.

Targeted Monitoring: 1% Participation in Alternate Assessments and Indicator 13 Postsecondary Transition

During the August Director's webinar, it was shared that PSUs that participated in both of these targeted monitoring activities would receive a combined monitoring report rather than two individual reports. The rationale for this is to streamline any corrective action/action planning required. The OEC anticipates providing all PSUs its monitoring report for these targeted activities during the month of September. This is an adjustment to previously communicated timelines for the delivery of these reports; however, please be



August 24, 2022

reminded that a PSU's corrective action timeline begins with the date the report is issued.

Art Needed for Deaf Awareness Month

The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Asheville office is having an open house for Deaf Awareness Month on September 8 from 3:00-7:00pm. More information can be found by reviewing the [flier](#) for this event. The office is seeking to collect artwork (of any sort) from students who are deaf and hard of hearing to post during the open house event. If you are interested in submitting artwork, please contact Laura Herman at laura.herman@dhhs.nc.gov.

Assistive Technology Expo

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Office of Exceptional Children is pleased to announce that it will partner with the NC Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) to host a virtual Assistive Technology Expo to be held on September 29, 2022. Both organizations are excited to work in collaboration on planning and hosting the joint NC Assistive Technology Expo providing a valuable, streamlined experience for practitioners, families, and individuals with disabilities. We look forward to seeing where this partnership can take us in the years to come. [Register today!](#)

Parent Notifications: Parent/Guardian Notification of Reading Difficulty & Participation in Intervention

As highlighted during the EC Director's May Institute, the Office of Early Learning, Integrated Academic and Behavior Support, and the Office of Exceptional Children, collaborated to combine the parent notification requirements for SB 387 (Individual Reading Plans) and IDEA requirements for response to intervention. There are three options for these notifications. This information was communicated to MTSS implementers, which included coordinators (PBIS/MTSS/SEL), during the Regional Networking Meetings in early May. The sample letters for these three options are linked on the attached summary. Please be reminded that Option #2 is the required letter for participation in intervention as required by the IDEA and shared as part of the statewide corrective action for specific learning disabilities. Options #1 communicates SB 387 requirements only, while Option #3 communicates SB 387 and IDEA requirements concurrently. **(ATTACHED)**

Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality (EESD) Webinar Series

The NC State Board of Education and the Office of Exceptional Children are pleased to announce the 2022-23 webinar series on Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality starting August 25, 2022. The sessions are 90 minutes in length with questions and answers during the last 10 minutes of the webinar.

If you wish to attend this series, please complete the [registration form](#) and additional information will follow.

Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Office of Exceptional Children is pleased to offer Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities series. This course aligns the Foundations of Math with the Extended Content Standards. It is a four-day offering in which three days are devoted to participants learning Evidence-Based Practices in Mathematics specific to the Components of Number Sense, assessing students with significant disabilities on these skills, and how to deliver instruction based on those assessment results. The fourth day integrates understanding the extended content standards and connecting the standards to the newly learned mathematical concepts. Participants will attend days one and two, then break for a period in order to apply the content with students in which they work, before returning for days three and four. At the end of this



August 24, 2022

series participants will be awarded 3.0 CEUs. Participants must be able to attend all sessions and partial credit will not be awarded. Attendance is limited to the first 30 registrants for each location. Please register through this link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02ulZRPgkVBpmPc. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Martinez at matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov.

Sessions:

Each session will be from 8:30-3:30.

Location: Asheville, NC

Dates: September 20-21 and October 5-6, 2022

Registration Closes: September 6, 2022

Location: Greensboro, NC

Dates: September 28-29 and October 26-27, 2022

Registration Closes: September 14, 2022

Location: Lillington, NC

Dates: March 21-22 and April 18-19, 2023

Registration Closes: March 7, 2023

Location: Wilmington, NC

Dates: March 29-30 and April 26-27, 2023

Registration Closes: March 15, 2023

PK EC Items of Interest

No Items This Week

Action Items/What's Due?

House Bill 1030 Consent for Release of Contact Information to NCDPI and the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind

It is time to begin disseminating release of contact information forms to parents of students with a primary eligibility of DeafBlind, Deaf, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, and Multiply Disabled with hearing and/or vision loss. New consent forms must be distributed to parents by October 1 of each school year and the contact information of parents who provide their consent must be reported by November 30 of each school year. The annual memo and updated consent forms in English and Spanish are attached. The information may also be found on the [Federal Regulations and State Policies web page](#) by going to the Forms tab and then scrolling to the Supplemental forms section. For additional information, please contact [Sherri Vernelson](#), Section Chief **(ATTACHED)**.

☐ **September 23, 2022:** Nominations for Educators of Excellence due

August Calendar Items