Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

News!

IMPORTANT!
There will not be a Weekly Update next week, due to the March Institute.

UPDATE: Medicaid Tailored Care Management
In follow-up to the February 16th memo sent regarding *NC Medicaid Tailored Care Management* **(ATTACHED)**, several PSUs have received requests from LME/MCOs (or their agents) to create a contract to enroll as a participating provider in the Tailored Plan. These requests were sent in error.

NC Medicaid is communicating with these entities to revoke the requests. If your PSU receives such notice, you may refer them to the fact sheet that explicitly states that services provided by LEAs are carved out of managed care. The bulletin is here https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/media/10179/download?attachment.

Educational Equity Webinar Series
Session nine of the Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality monthly webinar series will be held on **Thursday, February 23** from 3:00pm-4:30pm. This month's presenter will be OEC's very own Dr. Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware, consultant for IDEA & Systems Support. Dr. O'Farrow-Boulware will present *Essential Principles for Teaching and Learning in Culturally Diverse Classroom.* Please see the webinar information below.

Join link:
https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=mfff7b6fc05d79579d8c6ddff2d9326eb

Webinar number:
2420 021 0089
Webinar password:
EESDWeb9 (33739329 from phones)

Join by phone
+1-415-655-0003 US Toll
+1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)
Access code: 242 002 10089

Questions and concerns may be directed to Dreama McCoy, Dr. Alysha Gray or Angel Goodwine Batts.

National Reading Month
In celebration of National Reading Month, *The Right to Read* will be available to all audiences **for free online for one week.** Beginning March 2, 12:00 AM PT—National Read Across America Day— audiences can access the film on a virtual screening platform through March 9, 11:59 PM PT. Please see the flyer for more information **(ATTACHED)**

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
NC Department of Public Instruction

Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

Items of Interest

New Resource from the National Association of School Psychologists
Please visit the link to view a resource from the National Association of School Psychologists regarding considerations for contractual School-Based Psychological Services.

Applying an Ethical Lens to Workload Management for School-Based Occupational Therapy Practitioners (OTPs)
This webinar will be delivered on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm (1.5 contact hours). OT practitioners (OTPs) will discuss and apply ethics to workload management in school-based occupational therapy practice. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend the live session; however, a recorded version will be available by May 1, 2023. Participants will have until June 30, 2023 to view the recorded version and obtain their certificate of attendance. Register using the following link or the QR code in the attached flyer: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8II9631GNvvkIEC

Please note OTPs are required to complete an ethics course for state licensure renewal in NC.
An ethics webinar for school-based OTPs is offered annually by the Consultant for Occupational Therapy to support continuing competency. **(ATTACHED)**

Annual DeafBlind Census
The annual DeafBlind Census registration link is now open and will be open until March 15, 2023. Please refer to the DeafBlind Census Memo and DeafBlind Census Qualtrics Survey attachment. 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. **(ATTACHED)**

DeafBlind Intervener - Technical Assistance
DeafBlind Interveners were added to the Class Specifications for Noncertified Public School Employees in 2022 as individuals who may support learners with DeafBlindness. To learn more about this important role, please view the linked guidance. More information will be provided in an upcoming ECATS Monday message.

ICYMI

SPECIAL EDITION: EC Office Hours - SLD/AU Statewide Targeting Monitoring
The OEC has completed its statewide monitoring of the implementation of the July 2020 revisions to the SLD policy. This EC Office Hours is designed to share the results of this targeted monitoring activity and the next steps that must occur statewide. Additionally, the OEC will be launching the statewide monitoring of the AU policy revision that occurred concurrently with the SLD changes and will be sharing the AU monitoring plan. Please plan to log into this session for important information regarding these activities.
*NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

Special Edition: EC Office Hours - SLD/AU Statewide Targeted Monitoring
Date and time:
Friday, Feb 24, 2023 9:30 am | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
Join link:
https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=mdd739e8dc3f8c2ad58683afbb24e9ef4
Webinar number:
2425 867 1375
Webinar password:
XnGxvEmM392 (96498366 from phones)
Join by phone
+1-415-655-0003 US Toll
+1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)
Access code: 242 586 71375

Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives

Registration is open for the Statewide Meeting of Related Service Provider Representatives.
The spring 2023 meeting will be held in two locations (east and west), allowing for a greater chance to attend our in-person sessions! Content presented will be the same at both sessions. These sessions will not be recorded. Please see the attached flyer for additional details and registration link. **(ATTACHED)**

Using your HB 317 Data to Improve Student Outcomes

This professional development will be held on April 17, 2023, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the NC Department of Public Instruction Building located at 301 N. Wilmington Street in Raleigh.
Description: To improve the educational outcomes of NC students who are deaf or hard of hearing, HB317 requires that language and literacy data are collected on an annual basis. This professional development session will focus on how to connect the data to programming needs to improve student outcomes. With guidance from DPI presenters, participants will use their 2021-2022 submitted data to develop actionable goals to address their needs and incorporate strategies that promote intraprofessional collaboration. (Individual district data reports will be provided at the training.) Further, this training provides an overview of statewide and regional outcomes from previous data collections to guide participants in identifying their strengths and needs.

Target Audience: This PD is for DHH Leads and team members, Program Administrators, and EC Directors.
Objectives: Participants will: 1. be able to describe the rationale, components, and results from the state-wide HB 317 data collection, 2. learn how to connect student data to their LEAs programming needs to improve student outcomes, 3. develop goals for their DHH program that support student and programming needs, and 4. learn strategies to promote collaboration with all members of their DHH team. Participation in this professional learning results in 0.6 CEUs.

To Register: Please use the following Registration Link.

Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

Questions about this professional learning can be directed to Thomas Page at thomas.page@dpi.nc.gov or Nancy Woytowich at nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov.

Assistive Technology Networking Session(s)
The Office of Exceptional Children is excited to announce the next two Assistive Technology Networking Session opportunities. The spring Assistive Technology Networking Session will be offered Thursday, March 30,2023, and the final session for this school year will be offered on Thursday June 8, 2023. These networking sessions will offer an opportunity for staff across the state to meet in a virtual capacity and share their experiences, troubleshoot challenges, and grow the practice through the shared knowledge of other staff doing similar work across the state. If you have questions, please contact Josh Barton.

- To register for the **spring networking session (3/30/2023)**, please use the following link: Assistive Technology Networking Session (Spring 2023) **Registration will close on March 9, 2023.**
- To Register for the **summer networking session (6/8/2023)**, please use the following link: Assistive Technology Networking Session (Summer 2023) **Registration will close on May 18,2023.**

Assistive Technology Webinar Series
We are pleased to announce the remaining sessions for our 2022-2023 Assistive Technology Webinar Series. The other topics that will be covered are Reading Tools, Writing Tools, and Apps and Extensions Round-up. We will offer each webinar on two different dates and times to allow for greater opportunities for participation. The sessions will be recorded for future access. If you have questions, please contact Josh Barton.

- **March Sessions :** Tuesday March 21, 2023 from 3:00-4:00 or Thursday March 23, 2023 from 1:00-2:00
  - Reading Tools Registration **Registration will close on 2/28/2023**
- **April Sessions:** Monday April 17, 2023 from 12:00-1:00 or Thursday April 20, 2023 from 3:00-4:00
  - Writing Tools Registration **Registration will close on 3/27/2023**
- **May Sessions:** Monday May 15, 2023 from 12:00-1:00 or Thursday May 18, 2023 from 3:00-4:00
  - App and Extension Round-up Registration **Registration will close on 4/24/2023**

Combined Expenditure Report Reminder
The Combined Expenditure Reports for Mid-Year are due on or before March 15, 2023. If you did not receive one or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Sinclair at nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov.

Federal Reporting
- **Federal Reporting Office Hours: March**
The Federal Reporting Office Hours sessions, which occur on the first Wednesday of each month, will be canceled for the month of March, as the Office of Exceptional Children will be hosting the March Institute

during the 1ˢᵗ week in March. The Federal Reporting Office Hours sessions will resume the first Wednesday in April. Please contact Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions.

- **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_5ooVIRpkycSzRWe. 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.

- **December 2022 Child Count Change Report**

The 2022 Year-to-Year Change Report showing the student count changes for each PSU from the December 2021 Child Count to the December 2022 Child Count has been posted to the Exceptional Children Federal Reporting website at https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/program-and-fiscal-monitoring/federal-reporting#child-count. From the Federal Reporting website, navigate to Reports > click to expand Child Count > navigate to December 2022 > click to access Dec2022 by LEA 3-21 with LEA Change Year. Please review the report, and if your PSU has been listed in red text, your PSU has shown a significant increase or decrease of more or less than 10% and more than 10 students between the two school years. The EC Director should email an explanation for the significant change to khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov by 3/10/2023. PSUs only need to send an explanation if their information on the report is in red text. We appreciate your timely response to this request.

- **Federal Reporting Preparation**

In preparation for upcoming federal reporting, the following reports are available to check data each month for accuracy and address any possible errors that must be corrected prior to the certification schedule:
- April Child Count – April 2023 | 04/02/2022 – 04/01/2023
- Indicator 7 – August 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Exit Count – September 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Indicator 11 – October 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023

These reports are accessible in ECATS from Reporting > Standard Reports > Special Education tab. As a reminder, the schedule for the upcoming indicators and counts are listed in the Important Dates Calendar at the following link: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting.

Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

● **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 – 02/20/2023**

Monday Message 2.20.23.pdf (govdelivery.com)

Grant Information

● **IDEA Grant Training**

The Special Programs and Data section has developed a short screencast training targeted toward New EC Directors/Coordinators or for those who may need a refresher on accessing the IDEA Grant through NCCCIP. This training was developed to support PSUs in preparation for IDEA grant submission in May 2023. Please click here to access the training. The PowerPoint is attached to this communication. For any questions, please contact your Regional Coordinator and Fiscal Monitor. Links to this training and PowerPoint can also be found under NCDPI resources in NCCCIP. **(ATTACHED)**

● **CEIS/CCEIS Plans**

The Office of Special Education (OSEP) has made a change in the data collection for PSUs with CEIS/CCEIS plans and these changes are now required for the 2022-2023 school year. The attached spreadsheet has been updated with the changes. PSUs currently implementing a CEIS/CCEIS plan will receive a follow-up email from the fiscal consultants for support. **(ATTACHED)**

● **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.

● **IDEA American Rescue Plan (PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187)**

Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

New Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been sent out through CCIP for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187. The previous GANs that were provided incorrectly stated that the Subaward Budget Period of Performance/Subaward Period ends on 9/30/2024. The newly issued GAN has the correct period of performance of 7/01/2021-9/30/2023 with a subaward amount of 0.00 because all funds are carryover funds with no new allotment. All funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and spent by 12/31/2023.

- **IDEA Funds and Overtime Pay**

Overtime pay for classified employees is an allowable expense in federal grants. For the 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.

- **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.

PK EC Items of Interest

Preschool PowerSchool TA FAQ
Linked above please find the TA FAQ resource shared as follow-up to the TA webinars held on February 15 and 16, 2023.

ECTA & DEC: Recruiting NEW aRPy Ambassadors!
Getting the best outcomes for the children and families we serve is the goal for those of us committed to early intervention and early childhood special education. The aRPy Ambassadors is a voluntary initiative that will guide your practice toward just that. The "RP" in aRPy stands for recommended practices as in the DEC's 66 recommended practices that range from assessment to transition. The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) in partnership with the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the Region B Parent Technical Assistance Center at Parent to Parent of Georgia (on behalf of the Parent Center Network) is recruiting a new cohort of twelve Ambassadors from across the country and territories to promote the awareness and use of the DEC Recommended Practices.

Benefits of being selected as a 2023 Ambassador, include:
- Attending a sponsored trip to the International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute in Chapel Hill, NC (May 16-19, 2023) where you will also receive an in-depth orientation to the Ambassador program.
- Having exclusive access to an Ambassador Toolkit, online portal, and Recommended Practices social media toolkit.
- Providing input on the latest ECTA RP-related products.
- Sharing strategies and resources with fellow Ambassadors.

Weekly Update
February 22, 2023

As a 2023 aRPy Ambassador, you must be willing to:
- Participate in an online orientation (includes five recorded sessions from April - May 2023) or attend the in-person orientation in Chapel Hill, May 16-19, 2023.
- Dedicate a minimum of 4 hours per month over a 24-month period to further the use of the DEC Recommended Practices. This includes a monthly Zoom call.
- Participate in the annual DEC conferences (Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2023, in Minneapolis and Sept. 17-20, 2024, in New Orleans) and certify that your employer will cover the associated costs.
- Obtain a letter of support from your state Part C, Part B, Section 619 agency, or parent center, and work supervisor.

The application link is https://ectacenter.org/decrp/arpy-application-request.asp. Applications are due March 13th, 2023. Selected applicants will be notified the week of March 27th. For any other questions, email allison.jones@unc.edu.

Compliance Tip of the Week

Graduation and the Summary of Performance (SOP)
Graduation with a regular high school diploma constitutes a change in placement and therefore requires *prior written notice*. This can be done before the student graduates, at an IEP meeting, by informing the parent and the student and noting in the PWN. (See **NC 1501-1.2 (3)(iii) Limitation**)
Additionally, a SOP is required for each student with an IEP whose eligibility for services under IDEA terminates due to graduation from secondary school with a regular high school diploma or due to exceeding the age of eligibility for FAPE under State law. The school district must provide the student with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance that includes recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting the student's postsecondary goals. **(NC 1503-2.6 Additional Requirements for Evaluations and Reevaluations)**

ECATS TIP: The SOP is the last item located under the IEP Process tab in ECATS. The "Informal and Formal Assessments" sections may be completed with data entered into the Assessment Summary, pulling the data into the SOP in the same manner as utilized to complete other sections requiring assessment data.

February Calendar Items/What's Due?

- February 24th   Special Edition: EC Office Hours
- February 27th - March 1st   March Institute