



September 7, 2022

News!

REMINDER: Regional Directors' Meetings

Please remember to register for your Regional Directors' Meeting, scheduled for September 13-17. Look for an email from your Regional Coordinator with registration information and the agenda.

Exceptional Children Vacancy Guidance Document

The Office of Exceptional Children has developed a [guidance document](#) related to problem solving special education teaching vacancies. This document is one component of a comprehensive effort for recruiting and retaining teachers in North Carolina. This document contains generalizable information concerning the primary issues currently facing Public School Units (PSUs).

In addition to the guidance document, the Office of Exceptional Children will be holding office hours as needed to address specific scenarios occurring in Public School Units. The first office hours will be Friday, September 9 from 9:30 - 10:30.

Attend EC Office Hours

September 9, 2022 9:30-10:30

[Webex Meeting Room](#)

Improving Programs Through MTSS- Leveraging Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Practitioners Sessions & Communities of Practice

Several options for PSUs are offered to increase OT and PT practitioner involvement in local MTSS frameworks- 3 professional learning sessions (in-person) and quarterly OT/PT MTSS Communities of Practice (CoP, virtual). Occupational therapy and physical therapy practitioners, administrators, special educators, general educators, instructional staff, related service providers, and all interested parties are all welcome to participate. Working within MTSS provides ways to begin initiatives (like increasing physical activity, promoting mental health efforts, influencing wellness and access) that OT and PT practitioners have long hoped to impact our students, families, instructional staff, administration, and school communities. We hope these sessions and CoP will support this important work.

In-person:

Please see the dates below (and in attached flyer) for Improving Programs Through MTSS- Leveraging Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Practitioners sessions. This content was offered as a Summer Institute (2022). Registration is open (see link below).

- **West:** McDowell Technical Community College
October 4, 2022 | 9:00am - 4:00pm
- **Central:** McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center (Lee County)
October 11, 2022 | 9:00am - 4:00pm
- **East:** Wilson Community College
October 19, 2022 | 9:00am - 4:00pm
- **Registration: Improving Programs Through MTSS-Leveraging Occupational and Physical Therapy Practitioners -**
https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pOec7lvSyy7yNE



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If all requirements are successfully completed, participation in this professional learning results in .6 CEUs (6 Contact Hours). Questions about this professional learning can be directed to Amy McLemore, amy.mclemore@dpi.nc.gov.

Virtual CoP:

To support PSUs as OT and PT programs invest in MTSS efforts, we are offering Communities of Practice quarterly (all on Thursdays at 3pm)

- 9/15
- 10/13
- 1/19
- 3/16
- 5/4

We will follow wherever these communities lead us but intend to focus on these areas:

- UDL
- Instruction through Movement
- Written Expression
- SEL/Mental Health

One group will be devoted to PSUs/practitioners in the exploration stage of this effort.

Registration - OT/PT MTSS Community of Practice: https://ncdpi.azureus1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abe7iLy8AfEUynY

Please continue to share ways that OT and PT programs/practitioners are participating in MTSS or ways that you have worked to impact your whole district/PSU or school-wide initiatives. Contact Bridgette LeCompte, bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov and/or Laurie Ray, laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov with any ideas, questions or comments.

(ATTACHED)

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| Items of Interest |
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Professional Learning Opportunity: Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Office of Exceptional Children has completed annual maintenance of the professional learning course, Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and it has been republished in the NC Educator Effectiveness System (NCEES). In this self-paced course participants will analyze prevalence and achievement data to set the context of the importance for building educator knowledge and skills specific to understanding and serving students with ASD. They will also increase their knowledge of this complex disability, as well as its features and characteristics. Participants will receive 0.2 Continuing Education Credits at the end of the course. Click on this [link](#) to gain access to the course.

Occupational Course of Study (OCS)

The Occupational Course of study is a diploma pathway available to students with disabilities who are identified as appropriate for this program of study.

The requirements are listed in sections II, IV, VI, and VII of the GRAD-004 policy and can be found at the link below:

[View Policy GRAD-004: State Graduation Requirements \(eboardsolutions.com\)](#)

OCS Resources

Please feel free to use the OCS resources found at the link below to gain a better understanding of the OCS and to provide district level professional development.

[MjM0ODkxOTc= \(livebinders.com\)](#)



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SY22-23 Regional Behavior Support Meetings

Registration for the 22-23 school year regional behavior support meetings is now open. These meetings are intended to support staff working with students with significant behavior, emotional and mental health issues and the PRC29 grant. The remaining fall meeting is September 29th 12:30-3:30. Please [use this link](#) to register for a meeting. To see all 22-23 dates, visit the [Behavior Support Page](#).

Autism Support Team Meeting

Autism Support Team (AST) meetings are for those Public School Units (PSUs) who receive PRC 118 Autism funding at the Team Support level. The content provided is to support capacity building in effective implementation of services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and will focus on the critical components that are needed to pursue that goal. Updates from the NCDPI Autism Team will be provided 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 |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| October 5, 2022 | Piedmont-Triad and Southwest | Summerfield |
| October 6, 2022 | North Central and Sandhills | Lillington |
| October 12, 2022 | Northeast and Southeast | Washington |
| October 19, 2022 | Northwest and Western | Morganton |

It is recommended that teams attend in their assigned region. If this is not feasible, it is required that 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 **September 30, 2022**. Attendance for the full day is required in order to earn 0.5 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov or contact your NCDPI Consultant for Autism with any inquiries.

Note: Autism Support Teams who choose to apply for general support funding or not apply for funding at all, are more than welcome to register and attend. Please inform your regional consultant for autism to ensure that you continue to receive AST specific communications.



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Requests for ECATS LEA Admin 4 User Role

With ongoing changes in staff across PSUs, there may be situations in which no current staff is assigned the ECATS user role, LEA Admin 4. While the request to update the user role to LEA Admin 4 is being approved, the staff member may be assigned a user role other than LEA Admin 4 to handle day to day tasks in ECATS. Please review the resource document, *ECATS - User Type Assignment Guide (2020)*, located on the Main Menu > Resources section > ECATS documents tab to determine another appropriate user role. For further assistance, please contact Khalilah O’Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov.

Duke HEARS Literacy Event for Families of Children with Hearing Loss

October 8, 2022, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Duke HEARS is sponsoring a FREE literacy development workshop for families of children with hearing loss at the Museum of Life & Science in Durham. Families can attend in-person or virtually. For those attending in-person, they can stay at the museum and explore for FREE after the workshop has been completed. For more information about the event, choose one of the options below.

[In person registration](#) for those planning to attend at the Museum of Life & Science

[Virtual registration](#) (attending online only)

The MAGIC of Math for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students

This two-day presentation held on Wednesday November 9th and Thursday November 10th will help decipher and navigate the Magic of mathematics to support the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. These two days will not only teach the theory behind the language of math but will provide hands-on experience and teaching strategies to take back to the classroom and use when interpreting math. Register by clicking the following link:

<https://bit.ly/MathDHH> Questions about this professional learning can be directed to M. Antwan Campbell at antwan.campbell@dpi.nc.gov.

Demystifying Dyslexia

The Office of Exceptional Children provides the opportunity to engage in the professional learning course, Demystifying Dyslexia, virtually. This course is an introduction to dyslexia and provides educators information regarding evaluation, identification, and education of students with dyslexia. **(ATTACHED)**

SLD Quick Access Resource Reference

To assist in easily locating frequently requested resources and information regarding SLD, a one-page document has been created which provides direct links to those resources. Please share it widely with general and special educators, school leaders, practitioners, related services, problem-solving team members, and others in the field as needed in the work encompassing students with SLD.

Implementing an Instructional Model in the Evaluation & Identification of Specific Learning Disabilities

Available research indicates a high level of error and lack of evidence associated with historical cognitive discrepancy methods of SLD identification. From the perspective of prevention and timely intervention, the *NC adopted instructional model* is best supported by existing research and establishes consistency in defining, evaluating, and identifying students with learning disabilities.

In response to requests from school leaders and practitioners for improved access to state level training on this model, this self-paced course is designed for, and made accessible to, all educators. The course content and application exercises are intended to improve educator (both general ed/special ed) understanding of how learning disabilities are defined, as well as allow for practice in applying equitable and effective approaches to evaluation and identification.



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This publication resource provides additional details and registration for the course. The Facilitation Guide is a resource to provide structure, pacing, and collaborative opportunities when framing the course as a group study session for school teams.

Fall Statewide/Lead Meeting of Related Service Providers

Please save the date for our Fall Statewide/Lead Meeting of Related Service Providers:

When- **Monday, October 3rd from 9am-4pm**

Where- Durham Technical Community College (Durham campus) 1637 E. Lawson St. Durham, NC.

We have received requests for topics and are finalizing the agenda/confirming speakers.

Once approved, the agenda and registration link will be provided in a Wednesday message and through respective listservs.

Mark your calendars and watch this space for further details, we hope to see each PSU represented! **(ATTACHED)**

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EC Program Compliance Cohort 2.0 - The details and planning Document were issued with the August 31st Weekly Update.

Educator of Excellence (EOE) - The memo and eligibility criteria were distributed with the August 24th Weekly Update.

All Weekly Updates are archived on the NCDPI EC Division Memo padlet at <https://bit.ly/ECDMemos>. This site is password protected. Access can be made available to EC Directors/Coordinators via a request to the Regional Coordinator.

ECATS Monday Messages are archived on the Office of Exceptional Children [website](#).

OEC > ECATS > Monday Messages

2022 Child Find Materials

Child Find materials are being processed at this time and will be mailed out by the end of September. For any questions, please contact Jamie Davis at Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov.

Federal Reporting

- **Exit Count**

All Public-School Units are responsible for certifying the Child Exit Count: September in ECATS. The certification schedule for the Exit Count opens September 15, 2022 and is due by close of business September 30, 2022. **(ATTACHED)**

- **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.

- **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.



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- **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

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training**

MOE Training will be offered on the following dates:

Monday, September 19th - 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=rc04174aff0369b15631d83cfe506aa0b>

Thursday, September 22nd - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Registration Link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?RGID=rdd1b3943d3b41f97c2a84798228f3cc4>

Please use the links to register. 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 registration, please contact Jamie Davis (jamie.davis@dpi.nc.gov).

- **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.

- **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 opened 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.



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Assistive Technology Expo

NCDPI and NCATP are pleased to share this year's agenda for the 2022 Virtual AT Expo, September 29th, 2022 (9:00-4:00). There will be some exciting demonstrations as well as testimonials from the field and invite you to spend the day learning more about possible AT solutions. [Registration is now open.](#) Expo CEUs will be available for participants who participate for the full day (participation will be verified through session surveys after each session and survey at the end of the day) . See the attached PDF for more details. **(ATTACHED)**

Free Assistive Technology Webinars

Please see the linked list of [free webinars for Assistive Technology \(AT\)](#) to find a list of options around a variety of different AT and accessibility topics for the month of September.

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.

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](#)

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| <h3><u>PK EC Items of Interest</u></h3> |
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Duke HEARS Literacy Event for Families of Children with Hearing Loss

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[In person registration](#) for those planning to attend at the Museum of Life & Science

[Virtual registration](#) (attending online only)

New Insights into Early Childhood in North Carolina

Last week, NCDHHS launched new interactive dashboards that show how North Carolina's children, from birth to age 5, receive services like child care, food benefits and protective services. The dashboards use data from the North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System and reflect NCDHHS' commitment to comprehensive child and family well-being. Making the data easily accessible and relevant for use by policymakers, researchers, communities and families will support investments and decisions that foster equity.

Users can generate reports to summarize the number of children receiving early childhood services by program, fiscal year, gender, race, ethnicity, age and county; provide a count of children served by each program; and differentiate the number of children receiving services from two or more of these seven programs: NC Pre-K, Child Care Financial



EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

NC Department of Public Instruction

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Assistance, NC Infant-Toddler Program, Food and Nutrition Services, Child Protective Services, Work First Family Assistance, and the Preschool Exceptional Children's Program.

Visit the [NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System](#) webpage to learn more and explore the data.

Coming soon: [Stabilization Grants](#) Quarterly Update + Recertification Application!

Please see the August 10, 2022 OEC Weekly Updates and related attachment regarding LEA eligibility for the stabilization grants.

Two tasks will need to be completed to receive the October 2022 grant payment. All child care programs receiving Child Care Stabilization Grants must complete both the Quarterly Update and a new Recertification Application. To allow plenty of time for these tasks, the Quarterly Update and the Recertification Application will be available September 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM. Submit a Quarterly Update and an approved Recertification Application no later than 5:00 PM on October 7, 2022 to receive the full 3-month October grant payment.

Updated COVID-19 Guidance for ECE Settings

On August 31, 2022, DHHS's Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) announced the retirement of the "ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit". Going forward, child care programs and local health departments should follow the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) [Operational Guidance for Early Care and Education Programs](#) with the following exception: **mask exemptions are allowed in North Carolina** when children and staff return to child care following an exposure or 5-10 days after a COVID-19 infection. For details on the specific mask exemptions, as well as information to support implementation of the CDC guidance, please see DCDEE's supplemental document on [Managing COVID-19 Cases in Child Care Facilities](#).

Action Items/What's Due?

PRC 118 Autism Funding Request for Funding

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

September Calendar Items

- ☐ September 22, 2022: Last day to [register](#) for Program Compliance Cohort 2.0
- ☐ September 23, 2022: Last day to [submit nominations](#) for Educator of Excellence