



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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February 15, 2018

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

From: William J. Hussey *WJH*

Re: **Summer Reading Camp**

Based on questions from the field, there is a need to provide an update on Read to Achieve Summer Camp. Summer Reading Camp is an opportunity for reading support. It is not summer school or regular school. It is a part of the Read to Achieve legislation and its primary purpose is to further support students' reading needs and to keep children from being retained.

Parents have a choice in whether or not a child attends Summer Reading Camp. That choice includes the school-sponsored Summer Reading Camp but may also include choosing an approved reading program of the parents' choice. If a parent chooses an alternate summer option, that program will need to be approved by the school district prior to the student enrolling and the parents are responsible for any costs associated with the program.

Because the reading camps are open to all students who did not score proficient on the Reading EOG or other alternative measures, LEAs have to be aware that accessibility for students with disabilities through the implementation of appropriate accommodations is required. Under Section 504, LEAs are required to provide an equal opportunity for students with disabilities to participate. Even though FAPE is not required (no implementation of the IEP) for reading camps, accommodations or related services may be required to meet the needs of the student in order for the student to access the program. Examples of required accommodations would be transportation for a student with orthopedic impairment or the use of an interpreter for a student with HI. LEAs must determine, on an individualized basis, what accommodations and/or related services a student with a disability needs in order to participate in the program.

The funds to support the reading camps are being allotted to the districts by DPI. These funds include the services and accommodations available to EC and 504 students. Local EC departments are not responsible for funding teachers, services or child specific transportation.

There should be EC involvement in the reading camps to help support EC students, including assisting the reading camp administration in the development of appropriate accommodation plans. EC teachers should be a part of the general teaching pool and are qualified as content teachers K-5. The IEP itself will not be in effect during Summer Camp, including related services (except related services necessary for the student to access the program, which must be provided) because, as stated above, FAPE is not provided due to the voluntary nature of the reading camps. EC teachers may teach summer reading camp classes that include EC and regular education students. The additional support EC teachers should provide, beyond teaching reading, is to assist regular education teachers in how to differentiate approaches based on an EC student's learning styles and/or issues.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

If there are concerns with individual students regarding programming and or funding issues, contact Bill Hussey (bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov) or Sherry Thomas (sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov) in the EC Division for assistance to work through any concerns.