



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools
Programs Serving Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director ~~2017~~
Exceptional Children Division

SUBJECT: 2018 Summer Learning Conference for Families/Teachers of Students with Deaf-Blindness

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce a learning opportunity for Families/Teachers of students with Deaf-Blindness at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro on August 3-5, 2018. The conference will address innovative techniques and approaches to educating students with Deaf-Blindness, focusing on transition across the age span. Experts in the field of Deaf-Blind Education will present on selected topics.

Please duplicate and share this information with the family of any child that meets the criteria for Deaf-Blind (i.e., between the ages of birth and twenty-two who have a vision and/or hearing impairment). We encourage the team working with the child who has Deaf-Blindness to participate in the conference as well. The team approach will strengthen relationships, assist with communication, and encourage cooperation to achieve common goals. A team member may attend even if the family is not able to attend. The teacher will receive 1.5 renewal licensure credit for participating in the full conference (all day Saturday and Sunday morning). This invitation is also extended to the Exceptional Children Directors and related service personnel serving any student who is Deaf-Blind.

This conference is a benefit provided under the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Project Grant in collaboration with East Carolina University (Teacher Support Program) and the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC). This conference will be provided to the family and team members at no cost. Meals and accommodations will be provided. Transportation will be the responsibility of the participants. While we hope to accommodate all registrants, please be aware that space is limited. Priority will be given to family/teacher teams but all families and teachers are invited to attend. If we reach capacity, a waiting list will be established.

Registration will be completed online. **The deadline for registration is June 15, 2018.**

The link for **family members** is:

https://ncvps.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9M5i82T5bdy1XVP

The link for **teachers and other service providers** is:

https://ncvps.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJx6ssn549Zp5SI

This conference is designed to meet the needs of the family and the professional (s) as a team. Due to strict federal regulations, only immediate family members and approved service providers will be sponsored to attend unless special arrangements (e.g., nursing care, etc.) have been approved by the conference coordinator. **Also, due to fiscal constraints, no sibling over the age of 14 may attend the conference.**

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

William Hussey, *Director* | bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

NOTE: Families must bring one person to provide care for the child who is deaf-blind while parents attend conference sessions. It is expected that the parent will attend all sessions. If this is a hardship, a family member must contact Dottie Snyder to inquire about available options by June 15, 2018. We will provide childcare staff to direct activities during conference sessions and to assist the primary childcare provider if needed. It is expected that children participating in our activities will adhere to the rules set by staff for the safety of all participants. The designated childcare provider MUST take full responsibility for the child(ren). The designated childcare provider must be at least 18 years of age and capable of addressing the needs of the child. There will be organized activities for the children and an indoor pool will be available. Parents will need to sign a release absolving conference staff of any liability for injuries during childcare camp. The childcare provider will stay in the same hotel unit with the family or be assigned to a room with another conference participant. Please note that parents are responsible for administering medications.

Please contact Dottie Snyder, Deaf-Blind Project Director (919-807-3987 or dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov), if you have any questions about the conference or eligibility. We look forward to a successful conference and hope you and the eligible families and teachers in your LEA or program will be able to participate.

WJH/DM/DS/mt