

North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Children with Hearing Impairments

Assurances for Direct Individualized Education Program Services 2019-2020

The North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program (ELSSP) is administered by the Exceptional Children Division in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the ELSSP is to provide direct services to young children with visual and hearing impairments, in addition to consultative services to families and other staff serving these children. The ELSSP provides the majority of its services to children birth through two years of age under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (NC Infant-Toddler Program). This is ensured by a Memorandum of Agreement between the North Carolina Departments of Public Instruction and Health and Human Services. Funding is provided by a special targeted set of state dollars and is also supplemented with Medicaid dollars through allowable Infant-Toddler billable services.

NC Public School Units are responsible for providing special education and related services for eligible children, ages three through five years of age. Funding is provided by state, federal, and local dollars to support those services. State funds supporting the ELSSP are separate from the Public School Unit funding model. Over the past five years, significant funding reductions have impacted the ELSSP's ability to provide direct services when an Exceptional Children Director requests that direct services be provided by the ELSSP. These requests must now be managed between the Exceptional Children Coordinators/Directors and the ELSSP Lead Contact to ensure the capacity for the delivery of consistent services, to maintain compliance with IDEA Part B, and to assist Public School Units in planning. The purpose of this document is to establish clear expectations between the ELSSP-HI program and your Public School Unit. The contents of these assurances were developed through a stakeholder process between Exceptional Children Directors and leadership within the ELSSP.

Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Children with Hearing Impairments Contact Information			
ELSSP-HI Lead Administrator	Ruth Anne Everett	ruth.anne.everett@dpi.nc.gov	828-781-4979
ELSSP-HI Intake Coordinator and Contact	Mandy Hice	mandy.hice@dpi.nc.gov	828-448-9353

Public School Unit: _____

PUBLIC SCHOOL UNIT ASSURANCES	<p>Please check items to ensure agreement of implementation criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify key contact in charge of case management for students with hearing impairments <input type="checkbox"/> Provide ELSSP-HI Lead Contact with a signed "2019-2020 ELSSP-HI Request for Services form" for each student and include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address at which direct services will be provided. 2. Frequency and intensity of direct service. 3. Copy of student's Individual Education Program (IEP). 4. Current audiological report for students not previously served in the ELSSP-HI program. 5. Specific directions on how progress reports should be provided by ELSSP-HI. <input type="checkbox"/> Request additional services throughout the year by submitting a signed "2019-2020 ELSSP-HI Request for Services form" for each new student to the Lead Contact. <input type="checkbox"/> Notify and invite the identified ELSSP-HI teacher of record to all applicable IEP meetings.
STATE ASSURANCES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ELSSP-HI will provide direct services by a NC licensed Teacher of the Deaf (herein referred to as teacher) to identified students based on ELSSP-HI capacity. The ELSSP lead contact and the Public School Unit representative will sign a "2019-2020 ELSSP-HI Request for Services form" for each student. 2. Throughout the year as direct services are requested for additional students, the ELSSP lead contact and the Public School Unit representative will sign a "2019-2020 ELSSP-HI Request for Services form." The signed form will be returned by the lead contact within 14 days to the Public School Unit, indicating available capacity for the delivery of services. 3. If the ELSSP-HI program is no longer able to provide a teacher, a 30-day notice will be provided to the EC Director. 4. The ELSSP-HI teacher will provide appropriate assessment data and progress reports in accordance with the IEP and Public School Unit timelines. 5. The ELSSP-HI teacher will adhere to the IEP and collaborate with educational teams by providing support in ways to enhance student's learning and adapting activities and materials to the student's abilities. 6. ELSSP-HI will comply with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, (FERPA) and take all measures necessary to ensure confidentiality.

The signatures below assure the Public School Unit and the ELSSP-HI program agree to accept the terms of this agreement and will fulfill the responsibilities and activities described above.

Signature of the Exceptional Children Director

Date

Signature of the Preschool Coordinator

Date

Signature of the ELSSP-HI Program Lead Administrator

Date