

Important Information Concerning COVID-19

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Exceptional Children Division have been monitoring the spread of COVID-19 at both the federal and at state levels. In particular, we have been considering implications for educating students with disabilities as school systems assess risk and consider scenarios for serving students while also limiting the spread of the virus. Today, we received information from the Office of Special Education Programs, CASE, and the Chief Council for State School Officers in the form of an FAQ document and webinar.

After reviewing this information in light of NC policies and procedures, we have several pieces of information to share:

- If you have questions concerning the services of students with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak, please submit them to the following link. Centralizing these questions will ensure the most efficient response and that you are receiving the most accurate and recent information available to the Exceptional Children Division: <http://bit.ly/ECcovid19FAQ>.
- The EC division completed a webinar on the afternoon of 3/13/2020 addressing common questions we have received to date. This captioned webinar and responses to questions will be posted to the [EC division webpage](#) by the afternoon of 3/16/2020. The powerpoint for the webinar [is available here](#).
- The EC division has committed to daily afternoon email communication to EC directors and coordinators with any new information or developments concerning COVID-19 and services for students with disabilities.

To limit the spread of the virus, the EC division is cancelling, rescheduling, or making a virtual option for all face-to-face meetings through April, 2020. The communication about this will come shortly and include individual messages for meetings you are currently registered for, as well as a summary document indicating all statewide meeting changes.

There are a number of useful and credible resources that contain accurate information that is timely and relevant to EC directors. We have included these resources below:

[How to manage COVID-19 while maintaining the privacy of student records \(FERPA\)](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 on assessments and accountability under ESSA](#)

[Q&A: Providing services to students with disabilities during the Coronavirus](#)

[COVID-19 Resources for schools and school personnel](#)

We appreciate your diligene in acting swiftly at the local level as we face a rapidly changing landscape with COVID-19.

Other Information

Call for Proposals for the 70th Annual Conference for Exceptional Children

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce that the Call for Proposals for general conference instructional sessions for the *70th Conference on Exceptional Children* is now open through **April 30, 2020**. The Conference will be held **November 18-20, 2020, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro**. Each year thousands of special education teachers, administrators, related service providers, community partners, and families of students with disabilities gather at this event to learn, network and celebrate exemplary practice models, people, and content.

GENERAL CONFERENCE INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS: The Division is seeking proposals for 90-minute general conference instructional sessions on a wide variety of topics pertaining to the education of students with disabilities. These sessions will be held on Thursday, November 19, and Friday, November 20. Please visit the following link to submit a proposal: <http://bit.ly/70thECCConfProposals>

Please share this information with staff in your school/school system, as the Conference is building a rich tradition of local presentations from throughout North Carolina. Questions related to general conference instructional session proposals may be directed to ECCConfProposals@dpi.nc.gov.

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTED PROPOSALS: The EC Conference Proposal Committee has created a padlet for the notification and sharing of information for proposals that are accepted. Individual emails regarding the acceptance of proposals will not be provided. *Individuals submitting a proposal should check the link below to determine whether or not a proposal has been accepted for presentation.* This site should be checked often for updates regarding those proposals that are invited to be presented at the conference as well as particulars for presentation materials, logistical arrangements, reimbursements, etc. <http://bit.ly/PresenterPadlet>

Additional Information on Related Service Meetings

As a note of clarification, [the virtual meeting](#) that has been scheduled for the lead related service providers will be recorded and posted with meeting materials. Please note that CEUs will only be given to participants who register for and attend the live session. Please pass this information on to your related service providers.