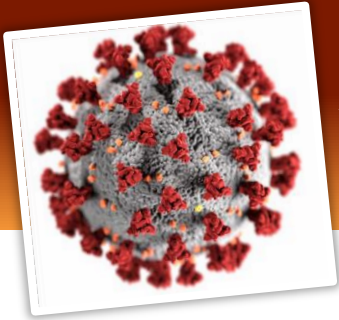


SPECIAL UPDATE: COVID-19



EC DIVISION

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MARCH 18, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Good afternoon,

As a reminder, EC Division staff who work at the NC DPI building are encouraged to work remotely. This may impact your ability to reach our staff by phone, so email contact is encouraged until further notice. Staff will continue to check voicemail but responses could be delayed.

In this update, you will find information that we have been able to gather on family support organizations. Other parent agencies are welcome to provide communication to Alexis Utz, Alexis.Utz@dpi.nc.gov, to be included in future updates. There are also some resources listed on the next page that may provide useful activities for your children while schools are mandatorily closed.

Please continue to take care, and follow the CDC guidelines for personal care during this pandemic.

Stay well,

Sherry

Sherry H. Thomas, Director
Exceptional Children Division



Public Schools of North Carolina

State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction



ecac
exceptional children's
assistance center

Exceptional Children Assistance Center

ECAC staff will be working remotely beginning March 19th to April 1st. ECAC management will closely monitor the situation and adjust these dates as needed.

ECAC has decided to **cancel**, effective immediately until further notice, the following:

- ALL in-person visits to the office
- ALL in-person workshops and trainings

Autism Society of NC

Out of an abundance of caution, any non-essential visitors, vendors, or stakeholders are not permitted to enter Autism Society of North Carolina offices or program facilities. This includes siblings, children, and family members.

The day and afterschool programs will be closed until March 18th to assess and implement measures to continue service delivery. Services that are based in the homes and in community/employment settings will **continue** to operate. For the most up-to-date information please visit: <https://www.autismsociety-nc.org/coronavirus-disease-2019/>.



Autism Society
of NORTH CAROLINA

Special Olympics of NC

On Tuesday, 3/10, Special Olympics International decided to suspend all sports training and competition for athletes through March 31. Due to recent developments, including N.C. Governor Roy Cooper's most recent announcement on March 12, Special Olympics North Carolina (SONC) has decided to **extend this decision through May 15**. For the most up-to-date information please visit the website calendar: <https://sonc.net/events-calendar/>.



Special Olympics
North Carolina



The Arc of NC

The *Rooted in Advocacy* conference scheduled has been cancelled.

Disability Rights NC

Disability Rights NC is moving to temporary virtual office status and implementing a social distancing policy effective March 16-27, after which it may be continued. Phone lines will remain open.

The disability advocacy conference previously scheduled for April 30 has been postponed.



Easter Seals

As of March 13, Easterseals UCP offices and services will continue to operate on the regular schedule without disruption.

Ideas for Children While at Home

- Virtual Field Trips
 - <https://tinyurl.com/qghx5tn>
 - <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours?fbclid=IwAR0Lv0cryeLqysJ0f6gO-fZf-Nn2X-W4aaGuLN0O-2oZhBkv4sURkdWH72Y>
- Scholastic Learn at home
 - bit.ly/2wOrpz4 #Coronavirus
- Mystery Science
 - <https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning>
- Khan Academy
 - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- Interactive Simulations for Science & Math
 - <https://phet.colorado.edu/>

Exceptional Children Information for Parents

March 19, 2020



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

Special Needs Grants and Scholarships

Did you know there are grants available to help people whose children have special needs and scholarships specifically for those with special needs? This is not an all-inclusive list but provides a starting place for those in need. These sites are not endorsed by NCDPI. Please do your own research into the company and application requirements before proceeding.

Autism Treatment or Support

- <https://www.act-today.org/our-funds/autism-care-today-sos/>
- <http://www.autismescapes.org/>
- <http://careautismfoundation.com/family-funds/>
- <https://dannyswish.org/>
- <https://mygoalautism.org/mygoal-resources/#grants>
- <https://nationalautismassociation.org/family-support/programs/naas-give-a-voice-program/>

Speech/Language Services

- <http://www.smallstepsinspeech.org/grant-application/individuals/>

Medical Needs

- <https://www.firsthandfoundation.org/request-funding/>
- <https://www.fodac.org/programs/durable-medical-equipment/>
- <https://www.funditfwd.org/resources/faq.html>
- <https://www.uhccf.org/apply-for-a-grant/>

General Need

- <http://maggiewelby.org/Grants.html>
- <https://www.modestneeds.org/for-applicants/index.asp>

Scholarships

- <http://maggiewelby.org/Scholarships.html>
- <https://risescholarshipfoundation.org/> (ADD/ADHD)
- [https://researchautism.org/how-we-help/scholarships/\(Autism\)](https://researchautism.org/how-we-help/scholarships/(Autism))
- <https://www.ncl.org/what-we-do/scholarships>
- <https://www.lighthouseguild.org/patients-families/scholarships/> (Legally Blind)
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx>

Upcoming

*be sure to check if events are still occurring

April 2020

- Autism Awareness Month
- Counseling Awareness Month
- Limb Loss Awareness Month
- Occupational Therapy Month
- Primary Immunodeficiency Awareness Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- 6th: Public Health Week
- 16th: National Healthcare Decisions Day

Free Virtual NC College Fair

- Tuesday, March 31 at 11:00 a.m.
- Contact Daniel Earixson (eari0001@ad.unc.edu) to register
- Start your college search about Inclusive College Opportunities

Child Care Resource Center

- Child Care Resource Center has provided professional development for over 25 years. Their goal is to improve the quality of childcare by offering high quality professional development opportunities for childcare educators. Child Care Resource Center provides access to trainings throughout our region which includes Alleghany, Ashe, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin Counties.

<https://childcareresourcecenter.org/events/category/training/>

NC Council on Developmental Disabilities

Welcomes new, innovative ideas to help accomplish the Council's goals. Whether it is about improving financial stability, community living opportunities, or strengthening advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities, they want to hear them. Submit ideas here:

<https://nccdd.org/we-want-your-ideas>

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison
Exceptional Children Division, NC DPI
Email: alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov
Phone: 919.807.3264