

Hello:

Thank you for your tireless efforts to meet the needs of students with disabilities. As was reiterated in the webinar yesterday, as reasonable and appropriate, doing something during this crisis is better than doing nothing. You are all to be commended for your tremendous efforts and ability to reimagine how services are delivered in these unprecedented circumstances.

If you were unable to attend, the PowerPoint and link to the recording from yesterday's webinar is posted to [the padlet](#).

As was indicated in the webinar, we intend to continue providing accurate information in a timely fashion. Our communications will continue from this point forward every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. FAQs will continue to be updated daily and placed on the padlet. In addition, subject headings will be included above the questions to expedite your search for needed information by Monday.

There are several key pieces of information that need to be communicated across a variety of topics today:

### **Memo Concerning OSEP March 21<sup>st</sup> Guidance**

Please see the attached memo concerning Clarification on March 21, 2020 USED Supplemental Fact Sheet.

### **Reminder about Providing Services during School Closures:**

Special education and related services support a student's involvement and progress in general education. As districts consider how the unique needs of students with disabilities are met during this time, consideration should be given to whether or not the LEAs activities are supplemental or mandatory distance learning required for all students. Special education and related services should be accessible or delivered comparable to the district's instructional plan and reasonable in light of the student's unique needs. More specific information about how this impacts process will be provided in the next communication.

### **Disability Rights NC Data Request**

As you are aware, each LEA received a public records request from Disability Rights and Legal Aid on 3/11/2020 about data related to participation in the Occupational Course of Study. Prior to this most recent request, DPI provided records it had available for the initial request.

Since 3/11/2020, the NCDPI EC division has received numerous questions about responding to this request. At this time, each LEA's response to this request needs to be a local decision. NC DPI does not plan on producing additional records. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

## NC SIP

The NC SIP (PRC 082) expenditure report is due to your region's literacy or math consultant by or before April 15<sup>th</sup>. The status of PRC 082 expenditures is required for inclusion in a report to OSEP. A large balance of remaining funds at this time in the federal fiscal year (10/1/19 to 9/30/20) puts NC at risk of receiving continued full funding for the NC SIP grant cycle. Your attention and diligence in spending down your LEA's funds for the approved activities is greatly appreciated. (Note: the due date has been extended).

### **New Grant System Project Timeline**

**March 3, 2020 (March Institute)** - Overview of the new grant system was provided to EC Directors. They were instructed to pull any documents needed from the current grant system and to complete Maintenance of Effort and etc. as soon as possible.

**May 11-15, 2020** - New Grant Training (IDEA) scheduled during the eight EC Director Regional Meetings

**May 15, 2020** – Deadline for Access to Current Grant System. **No Amendments, Corrections or Maintenance of Effort can be Submitted after this date. No Access to Previous Grants will be available. Please Print and/or Save any Needed Documents.**

**May 2020-July 2020** - **Additional IDEA Grant Training, Including Special Grants for EC Directors.**

**\*\*Finance Directors are welcome to attend any of the grant training**

### **Free Resources**

Freedom Software, the company that makes Zoom Text and Jaws, software that supports students with visual impairments, is offering FREE software on home devices for students until June 30, 2020. <https://www.freedomscientific.com>

### **Contracted Independent Providers**

EC Directors are encouraged to review contracts with independent contract providers, especially "minimum billable time" clauses and have an open dialogue with the providers about its impact during this time. For example, if a virtual lesson is only 30 minutes (given new extenuating circumstances of reasonable and appropriate), and the minimum billable time in the contract is 60 minutes, the provider will bill for a full hour, not 30 minutes.