

Exceptional Children Information for Parents

April 23, 2020



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

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

A Message from the NCDPI EC Director

Hello parents and parent advocates,

I hope this finds you and your family well and practicing safety precautions during the rise of COVID-19. Our Division continues to provide support to EC Directors, administrators, teachers and parents with information and guidance during this most unprecedented time.

The EC Division has been made aware that many parents are concerned about the potential request for waivers and flexibility that Secretary DeVos may provide to Congress at the end of April. Please be assured that our Division is not advocating for a reduction of IDEA. In no way would we support lesser guidance or requirements. The Division does support flexibility with timelines, which will include some required federal reporting that will be impossible for districts to meet, due to the shuttering of schools because of COVID-19. We continue to be required to uphold IDEA and take our responsibility for the General Supervision requirements very seriously; however, there are some areas where flexibility is needed to ensure Districts have the support they need, and the time to respond to our federal reporting requirements.

Please stay well and take good care,
Sherry

Due to COVID-19, many events that were scheduled for April have been cancelled or postponed. Upcoming events will be posted here once normal activities begin again.

Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)

Digital Resources

[NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

The digital resources included have been helpful to some educators across the state. However, due to the rapidly changing digital environment, NCDPI does not represent nor endorse that these resources are the exclusive digital resources.

<https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/remote-learning-resources/home/shared-resources?authuser=0>

Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-newsletter-2020>

The link below has been created for parents to submit questions to the EC Division regarding services during school closure as a result of COVID-19. Questions will be collected with responses incorporated into other editions of this parent newsletter.

<https://tinyurl.com/ParentFAQ-COVID-19>

Optional Parent Survey

Parents/Guardians of children with disabilities are invited to participate in two research studies. The first study entitled “*Perceptions of IEP Meetings Through the Lens of Parents*” is being conducted by Dr. James Deni, a faculty member at Appalachian State University and Dr. Stephanie Corcoran, a faculty member at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Diane Coffey, Parent to Parent Family Support Network at Appalachian State University. The second study entitled “*A Snapshot of Special Education*” is also being conducted by Dr. Jim Deni and Diane Coffey, Parent to Parent Family Support Network at Appalachian State University, as well as Morgan Brooks, School Psychology Graduate Student.

If you agree to take part in one or both of the research studies, you will be asked to complete a survey, which is estimated to take approximately ten minutes.

This research study is anonymous. No one, including the researcher, will be able to associate your responses with your identity. Your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, to stop responding at any time, or to skip questions that you do not want to answer. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in this study. Your participation serves as your voluntary agreement to participate in this research project and your certification that you are 18 years or older.

Questions regarding the purpose or procedures of the research projects should be directed to Jim Deni at denijr@appstate.edu. This study has been exempted from Institutional Review Board (IRB) review in accordance with Federal regulations. The IRB, a university committee established by Federal law, is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of research participants. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the IRB Administrator at 229-259-5045 or irb@valdosta.edu.

Perceptions of IEP Meetings Through the Lens of Parents Survey

Link:

https://appstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bNmVEWUf6qHXWPb

A Snapshot of Special Education Survey Link:

https://appstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eeugAnueMMaYNUd

Please note: This optional parent survey is being conducted by Appalachian State University; not on behalf of the NC Department of Public Instruction.



Resources for Home Instruction

Many parents have expressed the need for resources to help them support their children with schooling while at home during this pandemic. The best place for answers and support is the district in which the child goes to school, but here are some general resources as well.

- [K-12 Curriculum Guides from NCDPI](#)
- Read Aloud Accommodation
 - Google Chrome
 - [Adding the Extension](#) (Video)
 - [Using the Read Aloud](#) (Video)
 - [TTSReader](#)
 - [Balabolka](#)
 - [Natural Reader](#)
- Time Management Strategies
 - [10 Habits of Successful Students](#)
 - [10 Effective Time Management Tips for Students](#)
 - [Time Management for Students](#)
- Creating a Learning Schedule
 - [How to Make a School Schedule for Students and Stick to It](#)
 - [12 Morning and Evening Routines That Will Set Up Each Day for Success](#)
 - [Printable Homeschool Schedules](#)
 - [Create a Homeschool Schedule That Works](#)
 - [Teachers Pay Teachers](#) (search by grade level)
- Reducing Stress / Manage Anxiety
 - [16 Simple Ways to Relieve Stress and Anxiety](#)
 - [Tips to Manage Anxiety and Stress](#)
 - [27 Stress Relief Activities to Keep Your Cool](#)
- Online Tutoring
 - [Grade Power](#)
 - [Club Z](#)
 - [eTutorsZone](#)
 - [Huntington Learning Center](#)
 - [Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes](#)

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