

**EC Division Weekly Update**  
**June 2, 2021**

**Updates to the EC Division Padlet**

**Items of Interest**

**The following is a message from our ECATS vendor, PCG.:**

*We apologize for the system performance issues that DPI staff and LEA users experienced over the last week. We understand the importance of the ECATS system to educators in the field and have made resolution of this issue a top priority of our technical team. The problem was related to a significant increase in system usage that impacted our storage.*

*Last week, PCG technical team added additional hardware capacity to support the increased volume to address system performance issues. Over the weekend we increased capacity at the database level, and reconfigured drives for improved performance. We are continuing with make further adjustments, including additional hardware capacity to handle the load.*

*We value a positive user experience, and we will not rest until we have system performance back to acceptable levels. If you continue having issues, please have your ECATS Designee submit a ZenDesk ticket.*

**Significant Disproportionality**

The EC Division has decided due to COVID-19 and the OSEP requirement to include students ages 3-5 in all current and future disproportionality calculations, to extend a "grace year" to any district who has Significant Disproportionality for the first time in 2020-21. This means that districts who have four (4) consecutive years of disproportionality and have not made reasonable progress will remain on the Mandatory list while districts who have three (3) years or less will remain on the Warning List. **(ATTACHED)**

If you have any questions about this final list, please contact Kelley Blas at [kelley.blas@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:kelley.blas@dpi.nc.gov)

**REMINDER: Statewide Corrective Action**

**The signed LEA Written Assurance must be submitted to the shared folder on or before June 15, 2021.**

This is the only item required from LEAs. Any local artifacts verifying the completion of corrective action should be maintained locally until June 15, 2022, in the event there are further questions or disputes that require evidence related to this statewide activity.

Note: The LEA Written Assurance document is formatted best for editing when downloaded as a word document from the shared GoogleDrive.

The completed, signed LEA Written Assurance document should be uploaded to this location:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i\\_Lo33RPHiWFsFv-otbi3ZfxdriT9Dph?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i_Lo33RPHiWFsFv-otbi3ZfxdriT9Dph?usp=sharing)

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### **NEW OPPORTUNITY: Program Compliance Cohort**

The EC Division would like to provide a new professional learning opportunity through a Program Compliance Cohort. Participants in this cohort are best described as members of the local EC Leadership Team tasked with supporting the EC Director with administering and supervising local special education programs regardless of specific job title (Program Specialist, Compliance Specialist, etc.).

The goal of the cohort is to provide tailored and customized support to expand upon the universal professional learning provided by the EC Division. It is particularly intended to support participants with the application of federal regulations and state policies when decisions are being made at the local central office and implemented at the school and classroom level. Participants must be recommended by the local EC Director/Coordinator/Supervisor in order to participate.

This cohort is not the same as New Directors Leadership Institute (NDLI) or Charter Exceptional Leadership Institute (CECLI) as the goals and objectives for each of these engagements are different. The Program Compliance Cohort is a one-year commitment meeting virtually once a month for three hours. It will require evidence of learning to demonstrate the application of content provided and to facilitate the networking of strong leadership practices. CEUs will be awarded for participation.

In order to appropriately plan this opportunity, the completion of a short survey (six questions with estimated completion time of less than five minutes) is requested.

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/r/UjQq5611aG>

**Please complete the survey by 5:00pm on Wednesday, June 16th.**

Once the survey results have been collected, details regarding how to recommend participants, the scope and sequence of content to be provided and the session schedule will be communicated through the Director's Weekly Message.

### **UPDATE: ECATS Change - "Per Reporting Period"**

As communicated in the May 19, 2021, Weekly Update, the EC Division is organizing a technical assistance package to support the transition from the use of "Per Reporting Period" as an option to describe the frequency of services.

The technical assistance package is being reviewed internally with an anticipated release to EC Directors next week in the June 9, 2021, Weekly Message. During the week of June 14, 2021, the same technical assistance package will be released through other EC Division listservs and posted to the EC Division website. Any deviation from this plan will be communicated through the Weekly Message.

Please be reminded that the EC Division is not requiring LEAs to review and revise current IEPs in anticipation of this change. Based on the concerns expressed from the field, the sunset date for removing "Per Reporting Period" from ECATS will now be September 15, 2021 rather than July 1, 2021. With the extension of time and the aforementioned technical assistance package, it is hoped this will support PSUs to a smoother transition for this change.

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**ENCSD Summer Opportunity**

Please see the attached flyer from ENCSD about a summer opportunity. I just got it from them, but I said I would send it out. Here is the blurb.

The Eastern NC School for the Deaf is offering a free summer opportunity June 14-25 for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in their catchment area (see flyer for counties). Please share with your families who have students with hearing loss. Registration has been extended until June 4. **(ATTACHED)**

**DeafBlind Awareness Month**

Please see the flyers for additional information on activities and resources. **(ATTACHED)**

**2019-20 LEA APR**

Each year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) posts reporting of the State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR), disaggregated by North Carolina district or charter school by June 1. These reports contain a breakdown of data for each federally required indicator.

Due to sudden and unforeseen circumstances that impacted this year's report generation, the NCDPI has instead posted aggregated spreadsheets for each reported indicator to meet the June 1 deadline. We are diligently working with key department staff to publish the reports in a format to which users are accustomed, and we expect this to occur later this summer.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/ecats/lea-apr/2019-20-lea-apr>

**OPPORTUNITY: Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia Virtual Conference**

The EC Division has access to 25 free seats for educators who would like to attend the upcoming virtual [Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference](#). The conference date is **Friday, June 4, 2021, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm CT**

We want to extend an invitation to your educators- first-come, first-serve- who may want to attend. We apologize for the quick turnaround, but registration must be completed by **Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Please contact Davina Elliott for registration, [Davina.Elliott@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Davina.Elliott@dpi.nc.gov). DO NOT register online, as this will require a payment. **(ATTACHED)**

**PK EC Items of Interest**

**COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION**