

EC Division Weekly Update
August 18, 2021

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

Items of Interest

****The 70th Conference on Exceptional Children -- Call for Proposals**

The call for proposals for general conference sessions for the 70th Exceptional Children Conference, Going Platinum: Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future, was distributed on Monday, July 19, 2021. It is attached again for your convenience. Please share this opportunity with your staff and other stakeholders that may be interested in submitting a proposal. **(ATTACHED)**

****REMINDER: Past Conference Photos**

Do you have any pictures of yourself, your colleagues, or highlights from your past attendance at the Conference on Exceptional Children? If so, we would like to celebrate the past while we share them in a slideshow loop at our 70th Conference on Exceptional Children. You may upload them to this [Google Folder](#) or email them to Ginger.Starling@dpi.nc.gov.

*Link to Google Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IDNqKNFWeslWMNTV1YEHEobyVGER-52t?usp=sharing>

*Please feel free to share this with staff who may also have photos to share!

Demystifying Dyslexia

The EC Division provides the opportunity to engage in the professional learning course, Demystifying Dyslexia, virtually. This course is an introduction to dyslexia and provides educators information regarding evaluation, identification, and education of students with dyslexia. **(ATTACHED)**

Learning Ally Overview Sessions

NC DPI provides funding for a limited number of K-12 public and charter school students with print disabilities to access the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution. Learning Ally will be providing two overview sessions on September 2nd as an introduction to how students can benefit from, and teachers can access, these audiobooks. *Please be sure to attend through a Wi-Fi connected device to experience the Audiobook App during the session.*

The Learning Ally NC flyer and NC Learning Ally Guidance Document provide additional information. **(ATTACHED)**

Please click on the link below for the session you would like to attend and register.

September 2nd 12:00-1:00

Open to the first two hundred registrants

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VZcsPYRVx8tw1w

September 2nd 3:00-4:00

Open to the first two hundred registrants

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7TXg7QRjwb4crno

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Extended Content Standards

The new website address for the Extended Content Standards can be found on the link below. Scroll down and to the right you can find the Extended Content Standards and the Extended Content Standard Support Tools. [Significant Cognitive Disabilities | NC DPI](#)

The Economic and Personal Finance Extended Content Standards (EPF ECS)

The Economic and Personal Finance Extended Content Standards (EPF ECS) can now be found on the Exceptional Children Webpage. The EPF ECS Course credit is now a requirement for incoming students for the 2021-2022 school year per State Policy Grad 010 for students with significant cognitive disabilities and instructed on the Extended Content Standards.

Economic and Personal Finance Extended Content Standards [download \(nc.gov\)](#)

Glossary Link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UcdrN0e5PJzl-Jhg1-xzT9rNv1q7f0dR/view?usp=sharing>

Building Administrator ECS Support

The Building Administrator ECS Support video is now available. This 20-minute video provides valuable resources and helps guide conversation when observing and meeting with the classroom teachers of the Extended Content Standards. The resource page provides links to webpages that assist in the understanding and teaching students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Administrator ECS Support Video

Password: ECSClassroom2021

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=c3cafc462b6421e8ebe226f726c9f8b5>

Resource Page

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y6xGa2eIWtWizNVqthfurotFlyOHUFP46p6Vf-ioytA/edit?usp=sharing>

Exit Count

September captures end-of-year reporting data on students exiting special education during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. The Exit Count opens September 15, 2021 and is due by close of business September 30, 2021. See the memorandum for more information. **(ATTACHED)**

Special Grants Training:

(Risk Pool, Special State Reserve, Developmental Day, Community Residential, Group/Foster Home and Out of District) will be held on the following dates:

August 31, 2021	9:00 – 11:30
August 31, 2021	1:00 – 3:30
September 2, 2021	9:00 – 11:30

Participants only need to attend one of the sessions.

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCTI29GHDXx8QDA

Please register for the training by August 27th. When registration closes, you will receive a meeting link to utilize to attend the registered session. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Davis at:

Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov.

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Grant applications will open on September 7, 2021.

EC Office Hours: Contingency Plans, Long COVID, Homebound Requests, Remote Learning & Virtual Academies

This EC Office Hours is intended to support EC Directors in the management of unique circumstances related to returning to school this fall and potential reviews and revisions to individualized education programs.

- Questions related to the above topics may be submitted until 5:00p Wednesday, August 25th using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ng5JcknUmB>
- EC Office Hours will be held on Friday, August 27, 2021, from 10:00a-11:30a.
 - No registration required.
 - Participants may join at 10:00am using this link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/carolann.hudgens>
 - The format will include sharing the responses to previously submitted questions at the beginning and an open forum for additional questions as time permits.

Indicator 11/12 Notification Letters

EC Directors/Coordinators recently received LEA Determination letters that were based on FFY 2018 Data Submissions. Since program monitoring activities contribute to the SPP/APR and the LEA Determinations, please be advised that the data collection activities for FFY 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) for Indicator 11/12 have been completed. As required, the SEA must notify LEAs regarding findings of noncompliance. Therefore, the notification letters regarding compliance with Indicators 11/12 for FFY 2020 will be distributed across the state by the end of September.

This is a courtesy alert that the determination letters and indicator letters are reporting compliance/noncompliance for both Indicators 11/12 but for different data collection years. The EC Division is in the process of syncing these activities to avoid the overlap of these types of notifications in the future.

Deaf-blind Intervener Cohort Opportunity

Please find the attached information about the upcoming Deaf-blind Intervener Cohort. This is a great opportunity for paraprofessionals or other staff interested in this valuable educational opportunity.

(ATTACHED)

Program Compliance Cohort

As previously communicated, the EC Division will be coordinating a Program Compliance Cohort for members of local EC Leadership Teams tasked with supporting the EC Director/Coordinator with the supervision of local EC programs. The scope and sequence of the topics along with the dates and times the virtual sessions will be held are listed on the following page. Each PSU/LEA may recommend up to three participants for this cohort. The link to recommend participants will be made available in the August 25th EC Division Weekly Update. Once available, recommendations will be accepted through Friday, September 3rd. During the week of September 7th, participants will be provided additional information (virtual links, etc.) via the email provided when the individual was recommended.

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Program Compliance Cohort*		
Month	Topic	Time
Wednesday, September 29, 2021	Authoritative Sources: Federal Regulations/Guidance NC Legislation/Statute	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, October 20, 2021	SLD and AU Policy	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, November 3, 2021	Eligibility/Evaluations (Assessment Summary in ECATS)	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, December 15, 2021	Alternate Assessments	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, January 12, 2022	Secondary Transition	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, February 16, 2022	Homebound/Modified Day Placement Discipline/Manifestation Determination	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, March 23, 2022	Proportionate Share/Private School Services Plan	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, April 27, 2022	State Complaint Procedures Dispute Resolution Processes Independent Educational Evaluations	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, May 18, 2022	Latest & Greatest [Placeholder for Issues Relevant to the Planning of the Next School Year and/or Topics Requested by Participants During the Cohort]	9:00a - 12:00p
Wednesday, June 15, 2022	Internal Monitoring Practices	9:00a - 12:00p

**As a reminder, the day, time and topics were based on the responses to a planning survey collected from recipients of the EC Division Weekly Update.*

ECATS Clarification Regarding “Monthly”

The EC Division has received questions regarding the definition of “Monthly” as a frequency option in ECATS. “Monthly” is defined as a calendar month; not a month calculated by the start date of the IEP (ex. 9/13/21-10/13/21). It is necessary to ensure that this definition is consistently applied across the state to support accurate implementation of IEPs.

Consent for Release of Contact Information to NCDPI and the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind

Please see the memorandum and Consent for Release regarding HB 1030’s annual requirement for distribution of consent for release of information, by parents/guardians of students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/ Visually Impaired. **(ATTACHED)**.

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American Printing House for the Blind

Questions have come in recently about whether or not American Printing House for the Blind items follow a student if they move to a new PSU. If a student is on the current legally blind registry, Assistive Technology devices and other instructional materials purchased with APH Federal Quota funds for that student should follow the student if the student enrolls in another PSU located within North Carolina. If you have any questions about such materials or any other APH related questions or concerns please email Terri Terrell, ncaph@dpi.nc.gov .

Art Display for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

North Carolina's Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Asheville's Regional Center will be hosting a Deaf Awareness Month kick off on September 9, 2021, from 3:00-7:00pm. There will be an art display created by students who are deaf or hard of hearing from public schools across Western North Carolina. The Asheville Regional Center is collecting artwork to display. If you have students who would like to participate in displaying their artwork at the event, please contact McKenzie Giruintano, McKenzie.Giurintano@dhhs.nc.gov, or Laura Herman, Laura.Herman@dhhs.nc.gov .

LEASA Submission

The Qualtrics submission portal for the LEA Self-Assessment Improvement Plan is now open at this link <https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/2021LEASAImprovementPlan>

We highly recommend you use [this template](#) to revise/rewrite your 2021-22 improvement plan before going into the Qualtrics workspace. You will be cued to make your own copy of the template; once complete, you can then copy and paste content as needed into the Qualtrics form.

If you are not revising your plan, you will need to enter a data-based rationale for why no changes are needed in the Qualtrics form.

Please direct any questions or need for assistance to Lauren Holahan at lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov.

PK EC Items of Interest

Estimated Federal Reversions

The [School Business Newsletter](#), April 1, 2021, advised PSUs to pay careful attention to expiring balances to avoid reversion of funds and provided specific information to PSUs regarding expiring balances. Please be reminded of the [Allotment Policy](#) update for Federal Grant Programs effective July 1, 2021. The policy manual now indicates that the current year PRC119 awards for which a PSU is eligible will be reduced by the amount of PRC119 funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. As you prepare to obligate these funds, refer to the approved spending plans/initiatives to determine how to support 2021-22 Preschool Programming and ensure timely obligation of Federal funds.

If you have questions about your grant balances or requirements related to the period of availability for Federal funds, please contact School Allotments. If you have any questions regarding PRC 119 spending plans and initiatives, please contact Keashia Walker at keashia.walker@dpi.nc.gov.

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NC COVID-19 Childcare Guidance Updates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that people who live in areas with [high or substantial levels of transmission](#) wear a mask when in indoor public settings--even if they are vaccinated.

The [ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit](#) has been updated to align with this recommendation, and includes the following updates:

- The Toolkit has been updated to align with current CDC [COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs](#) and CDC's updated guidance from July 27, 2021.
- Each section of the Toolkit has been organized into three categories that prioritize implementation of the strategies that have been shown to be most effective in lowering the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread in childcare settings.
 1. Strategies that are required are based on existing North Carolina laws and childcare rules and must be followed by all childcare providers.
 2. Strategies that NC DHHS recommends that childcare programs require. These strategies, if not implemented, create conditions of high risk for COVID-19 exposure and spread. NCDHHS strongly advises that childcare programs adopt all the strategies in these sections.
 3. Strategies that childcare programs should consider adopting. These are strategies to provide additional layers of prevention and that, if implemented, will further reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread.
- Streamlined content, including reduced duplication of information, throughout the Toolkit based on the latest known facts and data around COVID-19.

If you have questions about these guidance updates, please contact your childcare health consultant.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
