

EC Division Weekly Update
September 15, 2021

Updates to the EC Division Padlet

Items of Interest

URGENT: Fund Reversion

Finance officers received notice concerning estimated federal reversions (PRCs: 60, 70, 118, 119) that will occur for funds not encumbered by 9/30/21. These funds are FFY19 and FFY20. Please work closely with your finance officer to ensure these funds are encumbered by 9/30 and liquidated by 12/31/21. It is important that these funds are expended for the benefit of students with disabilities. Reversions will be considered a risk that may trigger future monitoring activities and large reverted balances will be considered in future special grant applications. Please reach out to your Regional Fiscal Monitoring Consultant or Regional Coordinator for additional support concerning the encumbrance of these funds.

ECATS Translation and Quick Reference Guide

As of September 13, 2021, document translation for EC documents has been enabled in ECATS. Document translation is enabled based on the Home Language set in PowerSchool and is not editable in ECATS by any school- or district-level users. This data, received from PowerSchool, ensures that the document is translated to the correct language for each student. If a language is incorrect for a student in the system, this will need to be corrected in PowerSchool. Currently, ECATS offers document translation when Spanish is set as the Home Language. In the future, ECATS will offer the following languages for EC document translation: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian. Please review the ECATS Translation Quick Reference Guide for more information on how to create a translated version of the document created in ECATS (**ATTACHED**).

2021–22 Summer Programs

Dr. Catherine Edmonds and Dr. Tammy Howard provided a memo to all LEA Superintendents and Charter School Directors regarding 2021-22 Summer Programs expectations and requirements. We have provided here for your information. (**ATTACHED**)

ECATS Automated Student Transfer Issues

This week's Monday Message provided details regarding the transfer of student records and current challenges with functionality. NCDPI staff members are working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible and are manually transferring student records as appropriate. Please share the Monday Message with appropriate local staff for troubleshooting.

Notifications: Indicator 11 and Indicator 12 Data

As previously communicated, PSUs will be notified regarding the compliance status of these indicators throughout the month of September. If your PSU has received its notification, please stand by as a Monitoring Consultant will be following up with you regarding the next steps required for your PSU.

New Resource - ECATS: Onboarding for New EC Staff

This resource is intended to provide an overview and the location of several ECATS resources produced and posted by the EC Division. This may be especially helpful for onboarding new staff and locating materials since

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the transition to the new EC Division website. Special thanks to Dr. Karen Little, Monitoring Consultant, for curating and hyperlinking these items. **[ATTACHED]**

EC Conference - Call for Proposals for Poster Sessions

Poster presentations are an interactive opportunity to share innovative practices, interventions and research in the field of Special Education and Related Services for Exceptional Children. Educational professionals are invited to submit a poster proposal to present your practice with colleagues across the state. The poster proposal requires a description that includes a problem statement, target audience, implementation of a specific strategy or best practice and data to support its effectiveness. If selected to present your poster, presenters will be asked to share it during two separate sessions on the same day at the EC Conference. *This invitation is not intended for vendors or non-profit organizations to share information regarding products or services. Proposals must be focused on educational research, practices, methodologies, interventions and/or pedagogies.*

The link to submit a proposal for a poster session can be found here:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6QNrKsQMLbWxM9M

*Please share this information with staff as appropriate.

ALERT: EC Conference: Nominations for Educators of Excellence

Please check the Conference page on the ECD website, [EC Annual Conference | NC DPI](#), for a memo forthcoming addressing the nomination of Educators of Excellence, to be recognized at this year's conference. This should be available by the end of this week. Nominations are due by Friday, October 8, 2021 and can be submitted through the link included in the memo.

National Center on Deaf-Blindness Media Needs

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness is looking for photos and videos of children who are deafblind, their families, and educators for a new training series, [Teaching Children Who Are Deafblind: Professional Development for Educators](#). Please review the [Media Needs Announcement](#) and share with families and educators as appropriate.

Using Cued Speech in an ASL/English Bilingual Setting: Please share this information and save the date for this upcoming, two-part webinar for professionals working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. This professional learning will look at the connection between language and literacy, the interactive process of reading, the stages of reading development, and the findings of the National Reading Panel (2000). Combining this information with an understanding of current reading achievement data for students, presenters will share their experience using Cued English in an ASL/English bilingual setting. This webinar will be presented by guest speakers from the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD), Angela Kuhn and Mary Allison Fraas, who have supported ISD's movement to incorporate Cued American English into its bilingual program for deaf students from across the state of Illinois over the past ten years. This webinar is scheduled to take place on Tuesday October 12th, 3:30pm-5:30pm (Part 1) and Thursday October 14th, 3:30pm -5:30pm (Part 2). Registration information will be shared on the DHH, Audiology, and Educational Interpreter listservs in the near future. If you have any questions about this professional development opportunity, please contact Nancy Woytowich, at Nancy.woytowich@dpi.nc.gov

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Virtual Chat for Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Durham Public Schools will be hosting a virtual “DHH Chat” for North Carolina Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TOD) on Monday, October 4, at 4:00 pm. This virtual chat is an opportunity for TODs to share thoughts and ideas in an informal manner. If you are interested in participating, please contact Denise Nelson, denise_nelson@dpsnc.net to obtain a Zoom link. Any agenda ideas for discussion should be communicated to Denise. A sign language interpreter will be provided as well as live transcription on Zoom. Any PSUs interested in hosting future virtual chats can let Denise know.

House Bill 1030 Consent for Release of Information to the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind

The electronic reporting link is now available for the HB 1030 Release of Information to the Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind. The survey may be accessed at the hyperlink above as well as under the Forms tab on the Federal Regulations & State Policies page on the EC Division website.

As a reminder, PSUs **must** provide a consent of release of information form to receive more information about the NC schools for the deaf and blind to parents of students identified as Deaf, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Deaf-blind, or Multiply Disabled with a vision and/or hearing loss. This consent form **must** be sent to parents by October 1 of each school year. By November 30 of each school year, all PSUs, including charter schools, **must** use the electronic reporting tool to report one of the following:

- No parents in the PSU provided consent; OR
- Which parents provided a YES consent.

If you have questions, please contact Sherri Vernelson, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov. Consent forms in English and Spanish, along with the memo may be found on the Federal Regulations & State Policies webpage linked above.

2022–23 State Testing Accommodation Update and 2021–22 ACT Accommodations Policy Update

The *Scheduled Extended Time* accommodation language for writing Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, English Learner (EL) plans, and transitory impairment plans will be revised for the 2022–23 school year. Also, beginning with the 2021-22 testing year, students who already receive accommodations through an IEP, 504 Plan, or EL Plan, will automatically be eligible to receive the allowable testing accommodations when they register for the ACT with accommodations. Please see attached Accommodations Updates for the most up to date accommodations. **(ATTACHED)**

Applications for Autism Model Program Sites

The Autism Model Program Sites initiative focuses on implementing a framework of intentional structures within Public School Units (PSUs) to support building capacity in improving services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This is done by leveraging existing infrastructure and resources within the PSU, such as the Autism Support Team, and focusing on the critical components for capacity building based on an Implementation Science framework.

We are pleased to announce that a new cohort will be added for the 2021-2022 year. To begin the process of becoming an Autism Model Program Site, your PSU will need to complete the application as a team. Selected applicants will receive an additional \$3,000.00 in PRC 118 Autism funding to support the requirements of being a part of this initiative. Applications need to be submitted to Davina Elliott, davina.elliott@dpi.nc.gov no later than **October 15, 2021**.

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The NCDPI Autism Team will hold two optional informational sessions on September 22, 2021, regarding this initiative and submission of the application. Join us either from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm or 3:30 pm-4:30 pm at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/amanda.passmore>.

Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov with any inquiries. **(ATTACHED)**

Autism Support Team Meeting

This virtual meeting is for those Public School Units (PSUs) who receive PRC 118 Autism funding at the Team Support level and is required. The content provided is to support capacity building in effective implementation of services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and will focus on the critical components that are needed to pursue that goal. Updates from the NCDPI Autism Team will be provided as well as time to network with other PSUs.

The meeting will be held on **October 21, 2021** from 12:00 - 3:30 (with a 30-minute break built in). Access registration at https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9sDkgc75cHHwVGS

Registration will close on October 13, 2021. Participants will receive 0.3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at the conclusion of the meeting. Please email asdteam@dpi.nc.gov or contact your NCDPI Consultant for Autism with any inquiries.

Aligning Instructional Design with the ECS

The NCDPI Exceptional Children Division is offering a 9-week webinar series focusing on building capacity to plan for standards aligned instruction towards the Extended Content Standards in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. The series consists of a combination of synchronous, asynchronous, and group homework assignments. Participants must be able to attend all sessions.

The series will be held on Mondays, from October 18 until December 13, 2021 from 3:30-4:30, with the last day of December 13 being 90 minutes from 3:30 until 5:00. Registration closes October 4, 2021 and is limited to 50 attendees. This series will be worth a total of 1.3 CEUs. Partial credit will not be awarded.

Please contact Matthew Martinez at matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov with any questions.

Registration link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0HP3wOz2uNtSSbk

Federal Reporting

- **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 today, September 15th and is due by close of business September 30, 2021.

- **2020-2021 End of Year Data Submission for Indicator 11**

All Public-School Units are responsible for certifying Indicator 11 - Child Find in ECATS. The Indicator 11 count captures the percent of students for whom a referral was received, and placement determined within 90 days and is based on data from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The Indicator 11 Count opens October 1, 2021 and is due by close of business October 29, 2021. The training video, ECATS Webinar – Indicator 11 Reporting, along with additional reference handouts are posted in each district's ECATS instance on the main page under Resources > Federal Reporting. Please submit any

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questions or student level data corrections directly to ZenDesk to ensure that problems with data are corrected efficiently.

- **2020-2021 End of Year Data Submission for Indicator 12**

Indicator 12 captures data on students who received Part C services and were referred to Part B during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. All students must have an IEP developed within 90 days of the referral and receive services by their 3rd birthday. Indicator 12 will be submitted on spreadsheets by all PSUs and can be accessed by clicking this link: [Indicator 12 Spreadsheet](#) or by going to the ECATS site under Resources (<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/resources>). The spreadsheet has a tab with helpful clarifications to assist PSUs on entering their data and can be submitted at any time prior to the due date of October 29, 2021. Charter Schools do not need to submit an Indicator 12 spreadsheet this year. Please email all Indicator 12 spreadsheets to ecindicators@dpi.nc.gov.

- **Indicator 8 Reminder**

For the select districts who have been notified, please be sure to get the Indicator 8 surveys out to the parents.

- **Indicator 14 Reminder**

For the select districts who have been notified about Indicator 14, the survey closes on Friday, September 17th.

- **Important Federal Reporting Reminder: Submission Timeliness**

If your district does not certify the data required for Indicators by the due date, your data may be certified by state staff. The integrity of the data is always at risk when the Department of Public Instruction has to finalize the data for your district. There will be penalties when data is not submitted in a timely manner.

Information from ECATS Monday Message – 09/13/2021

[Monday Message 9.13.21.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **Special Grants**

Grant applications opened on September 7, 2021. If you were unable to attend the Special Grants Trainings or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint is now available on the EC Website [here](#) under the Special Grants section.

- **PRC 167 ESSERF**

Please ensure that budget and grant use of funds align to ensure timely approvals.

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training**

MOE training will take place on September 21st and September 23rd. This is a mandatory training for all Districts and Charter Schools. Please encourage your financial officers to attend this training. There

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will be four opportunities for you to attend, but you only have to attend one (see times below). To register, please click on the link below. The deadline to register is Friday, September 17th.

Registration Link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bQpzTobuF4U1cUu

Dates & Times:

Tuesday, September 21st: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 23rd: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Child Find

Child Find materials are being processed at this time and will be mailed out by the end of September. For any questions, please contact Jamie Davis at Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov.

American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Updates

1. The NC Legally Blind Registry is moving to an electronic signature for the Exceptional Children Director Acknowledgement and Assurance Form for the APH Legally Blind Registration. This assurance acknowledges that you have been informed and understand that parent permission is required to have a student's name and identifying information included on the American Printing House for the Blind Federal Quota Census and have access to funding, in accordance with The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. We are asking that all EC Directors and Coordinators sign the new form that will be distributed in the coming weeks using DocuSign.
2. The APH quota fund spending limit for this fiscal year has been reached. Please note, while orders may continue to be submitted, they will be placed on hold until the new fiscal year funds are received. Orders will be saved in the order in which they are received and will be placed by the Ex-Officio Trustee as soon as possible after October 1, 2021, or whenever funds become available.
3. For 163 years, the American Printing House for the Blind has created specialized materials, products and services for people who are blind and visually impaired. The world has continued to evolve due to the pandemic and APH realizes that an accessible world with opportunity for everyone is more important than ever! We must all strive to grow and develop different learning options to support the individual so that each person can "**Learn Your Way**"! Please join us APH as they celebrate the 2021 Annual Meeting of APH Ex Officio Trustees, EOT Census Assistants, Online Ordering Assistants, and other attendees, October 6-15, 2021. This year the APH Annual Meeting is virtual. **The registration deadline is Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. EST.** Please use this [Registration Link](#) to register.

PK EC Items of Interest

NCPMI Webinar: [Guiding Providers in Supporting the Social-Emotional Needs of Young Children during the Pandemic and Other Traumatic Events](#) (linked)

September 29, 2021, 3-4pm

Join us for a discussion to learn about how early childhood education and care programs are being guided to use Pyramid Model practices in addressing the needs of young children during the Pandemic and other Traumatic Events. Our panel will discuss the impact of trauma on young children's social-emotional health and how Child Care Resource & Referral leaders are making a difference in the support of programs. A recording of the webinar will be made available, on this [page](#), within 2 business days after the event.

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DEC Recommended Practices 9 - Leadership Monograph

As part of the DEC RP9 Monograph, we are creating a field-wide word cloud about Leadership for the Monograph using this short survey: [Leadership in Early Childhood Intervention Survey](#).

The purpose of the survey is to explore the concept of leadership within early intervention (EI), early childhood education (ECE), and early childhood special education (ECSE). We want to hear from you. Please share your ideas and experiences with us. Insights from this survey will be used for information gathering and to create a WordCloud for the upcoming Division for Early Childhood Monograph about leadership in EI/ECE/ECSE.

Please consider taking the survey and sharing it with your early learning teachers and directors.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
