



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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September 17, 2021

TO: Public School Unit Superintendents  
Directors/Coordinators, Exceptional Children Programs  
Karen Burkes, Interim Director, State Operated Healthcare Facilities, DHHS  
Adam Johnson, Director, Juvenile Education Services, Division of Public Safety  
Julie Jailall, Director of Education Services, Division of Adult Correction  
Barbria Bacon, Superintendent, Education Services for the Deaf and Blind

FROM: Dr. Catherine Edmonds, Deputy Superintendent for Office of Educational Equity *CE*  
Sherry H. Thomas, Director Exceptional Children Division *SH7*

## 2021 EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION

The Exceptional Children Division's 70<sup>th</sup> Conference on Exceptional Children will be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on November 17-19, 2021. It is our desire to pay special tribute to educators of exceptional children and to present the 2021 Educator of Excellence Award to each nominee at the conference.

We will recognize one educator from each of the 117 traditional school systems, one each from the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Division of Prison Education Services, Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities, and Education Services for the Deaf and Blind Schools, and one educator per region from charter schools. Each educator will:

- have special seating during the Thursday morning plenary session;
- have his/her name listed with appropriate information in the conference program;
- attend a recognition ceremony in his/her honor on Thursday evening; and
- have his/her picture with PSU and school name displayed at the conference.

Each recipient of the Educator of Excellence Award will receive a **paid registration** to the general conference (excluding pre-conference institutes) and one roundtrip mileage reimbursement to and from the conference. It is the responsibility of the school system, charter school, or state operated program to reimburse the nominated teacher for lodging and subsistence. The nominee will be notified by the Exceptional Children Division regarding conference registration processes as an Educator of Excellence.

To facilitate the selection process, the Exceptional Children Division requests that:

- local school systems identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children;
- Education Services for the Deaf and Blind identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children;
- charter schools identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children. (One per region will be selected); and
- Division of Prison Education Services identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children from the schools under its oversight.

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Sherry H. Thomas, Director | sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

The nominee must:

- have a continuing license if a teacher;
- have at least a Class G license if an audiologist, a speech-language pathologist or school psychologist; or be licensed by the appropriate licensing board if an occupational therapist or a physical therapist;
- be an employee or direct hire of the nominating LEA;
- provide direct instruction or therapy/services to students with disabilities 70% of the time; and
- be recognized as a leader in service to the school and/or school system through innovative instructional programs or methodologies that have demonstrated positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

Consideration should also be given to the person whose leadership, dedication, and service in extracurricular and nonacademic activities have improved the quality of education for exceptional children and youth. It is the responsibility of the nominating entity to ensure that the nominee selected demonstrates a positive reflection on the educational profession. Recipients of the award during the past five (5) years should not be nominated this year.

All nominations should be submitted electronically by **Friday, October 8, 2021**, using this link: [https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0AHjv9u4rtcQOkS](https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0AHjv9u4rtcQOkS)

A completed submission requires uploading the following items. Be sure to have them available when completing the form.

1. PDF of a letter that describes the person's contributions as mentioned above (the letter must carry the signatures of the Superintendent and the Exceptional Children Program Director on school system letterhead); and
2. One (1) 3" x 5" digital color photograph (jpg) of the person.
3. The name of Public School Unit and School Name.

We look forward to your participation in this event to recognize and honor Exceptional Children Educators of Excellence. You may direct any questions or concerns to Melissa Towery, [Melissa.towery@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Melissa.towery@dpi.nc.gov), Virginia Madorin, [Virginia.madorin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Virginia.madorin@dpi.nc.gov) or Jamie Davis, [Jamie.davis@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Jamie.davis@dpi.nc.gov)

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