

EC Division Weekly Update
September 29, 2021

70th Conference on Exceptional Children

70th Conference Registration is OPEN!

Plans are continuing for our annual Conference on Exceptional Children, to be held at the Koury Center in Greensboro, NC. Pre-conference Institutes will be held November 17th and General Conference will run November 18th-19th. Please see the memo for information on registration and protocol requirements for all attendees (**ATTACHED**). Please note the addition of the administrator institute to the registration that is limited to EC directors and their invitees. We encourage EC directors to invite staff (e.g., data managers and/or MTSS coordinators) that would benefit from collaborative work during the session. We look forward to seeing you there.

REMINDER: 2021 Educator of Excellence

All nominations for the 2021 Educator of Excellence should be submitted electronically by **Friday, October 8, 2021**. Please see the memo for the link to submit nominations. (**ATTACHED**).

Items of Interest

UPDATE: ECATS - Clearing the Workspace

Prior to the start of this school year, the EC Division alerted PSUs that the workspace in ECATS would clear when the meeting purpose of "Annual" was selected. This was intended to ensure that a student's unique needs were comprehensively reviewed annually with updated academic achievement and functional performance, goals, accommodations, services, etc. This was also intended to reduce extra effort experienced by users when old information required deleting in order for new, more current information to be entered. However, at the present time, concerns have been raised about the amount of time required to re-enter accommodations. While accommodations should be reconsidered annually, the EC Division has considered this request in light of potential underlying issues with the design of the user interface specific to accommodations.

Therefore, while the EC Division works to improve the user experience with the data entry of accommodations, we have revised our decision to clear the workspace upon the selection of "Annual" as a meeting purpose. The clearing of the workspace will end on Sunday, October 3rd and at this time, users will have the functionality of accommodations carrying over to new IEPs being developed. Please be mindful that all accommodations should continue to be reviewed for appropriateness and need.

Annual reviews must include current and relevant data specific to the student's unique needs and participation in the general curriculum.

- IEPs that are not reviewed and revised according to unique needs and a student's unique circumstances annually may appear inappropriately calculated to ensure progress if nothing changes from year to year. (*Andrew F.*)
- As a result of reversing this decision, users will now be required to delete information that no longer applies from the workspace prior to developing a new annual IEP.
- PSUs are encouraged to monitor the appropriate development of annual IEPs through the sampling of IEPs developed after October 3rd to ensure that procedural requirements are being met.

Applications for Fall 2021 Tuition Reimbursement

Please see the attached memo regarding Fall 2021 Tuition reimbursement. (**ATTACHED**)

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National Resource Center for Paraeducators Regional Conferences

Recognizing the diverse and complex training needs of paraeducators working in special education and regular education settings, the National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) and the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) are organizing three regional, virtual paraeducator conferences **beginning fall of 2021**. Fliers addressing the Save the Date and a summary of the sessions and presenters are provided for your information. Registration is live for all three regional conferences. Please note each conference is held in the **region's time zone and in the evening hours**, so as not to interfere with the school work days. **(ATTACHED)**

- Western Regional Conference October 27-28, 2021
 - Western Leadership Meeting October 26th
 - Register Here: <https://cvent.me/0K9xoZ>
- Central Regional NRCP Conference December 8-9, 2021
 - Central Leadership Meeting December 7th
 - Register Here: <https://cvent.me/GzA1IQ>
- Eastern Regional NRCP Conference January 12-13, 2022
 - Eastern Leadership Meeting January 11th
 - Register Here: <https://cvent.me/xkDREX>

Appropriate audiences for this conference are instructional leaders, teachers, paraeducators and other stake holders that appreciate the value that trained paraeducators bring to student learning.

Virtual Family Forum for Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The AG Bell Association is hosting a virtual family forum on Sunday, October 3, 2021, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm via Zoom. The event will feature expert speakers who will talk about IEPs, 504s, literacy, executive function, self-advocacy, social dynamics and more. Parents of children with hearing loss from preschool through 8th grade are invited. The event is free for AG Bell members. If a family is not a member, they can sign up for a free [AG Bell Friends and Family membership](#) and attend the event for free. Visit the [AG Bell website](#) for more information.

DIBELS-8

The Exceptional Children Division has received questions about students with disabilities being exempt from the mClass DIBELS-8 assessment. Students with disabilities on the standard course of study are not exempt from the statewide mClass DIBELS-8 assessment. For more information, please see the attached memo.

[ATTACHED]

Disability Awareness and History Month

In 2007, [Senate Bill 753](#) was passed designating the month of October as Disability Awareness and History month, requiring local boards of education to provide instruction on disability history and awareness. This is a great opportunity to encourage and promote activities that provide education, awareness, and understanding of disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement.

October is also Blindness Awareness month, and October 15 is White Cane Safety Day. Here are some resources you can share to promote instruction and awareness.

- [Sightsavers](#)
- [Blind Etiquette: six ways to be considerate when interacting with people with visual impairments](#)
- [Famous blind individuals](#)

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· [White Cane Safety Day](#)

Federal Reporting

- **Exit Count Reminder**

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 opened on September 15, 2021 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 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.

- **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 must finalize the data for your district.

- **Information from Monday Message – 09/27/2021**

[Monday Message 9.27.21.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training & Technical Assistance**

If you were unable to attend the MOE training last week or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint, is now available on the Exceptional Children website [here](#).

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Note: There will be MOE technical assistance available from 8-11:30 and 1-4:30 on October 5th and 19th. These sessions will be an opportunity for EC Directors to ask MOE questions and receive direct feedback from the Fiscal Monitors about the new MOE process. Please click on this link to attend the sessions: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/adam.parent>.

- **Special Grants**

Grant applications opened on September 7, 2021. Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. Notification of review is made through NCCCIP. For your review, the Special Grants Training recording, along with the PowerPoint are 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.

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.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter:

[School Business Newsletter - 9.24.21](#)

Monitoring - Indicator 11/12 Notifications

As previously communicated, Indicator 11/12 notification letters were distributed to PSUs during the month of September. At this time, all notifications for Indicator 11 and Indicator 12 letters for 2019-2020 SY have been issued. Below you will find the next steps.

1. The monitoring consultant on your letter will notify you of the students and action necessary to bring the area of noncompliance into correction. *Note: A large percentage will be remedied by entering and uploading the consent for services response and response date.*
2. The PSU will make corrections as directed by their monitor.
3. Monitors will begin reviewing indicator 11/12 data for 2020-2021 beginning on November 15, 2021 (Prong 2 Review).
 1. If the LEA has achieved 100% compliance on this data set and corrections have been made for the 2019-2020 data; corrective action for the 2019-2020 data set has been achieved and no further action is required.
 2. If the LEA has not achieved 100% compliance and/or completed required corrections for 2019-2020 data, the PSU will be notified, informally by the monitoring consultant, with student specific data corrections. Monitors will review Indicator 11/12 data quarterly thereafter until the LEA has subsequently achieved the required 100% compliance.
 3. Districts will receive a formal letter notifying them when corrective action has been completed.

Please note: *The End of Year Data Submission for Indicators 11/12 noted above under "Federal Reporting" is part of the certification process for federal reporting of 2020-2021 data. The notification letters and corrective action requirements noted here is specific to certified Indicator 11/12 data for 2019-2020. This is an example of how new data is reported while old data is being corrected if still noncompliant at the time of a new certification.*

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Program Compliance Cohort - Update

The first session of the PCC met this morning. As a reminder, participants have committed to sharing the content provided during each session locally with the EC leadership team in between monthly sessions. We understand that participation in this cohort may be challenging given local circumstances with staff shortages.

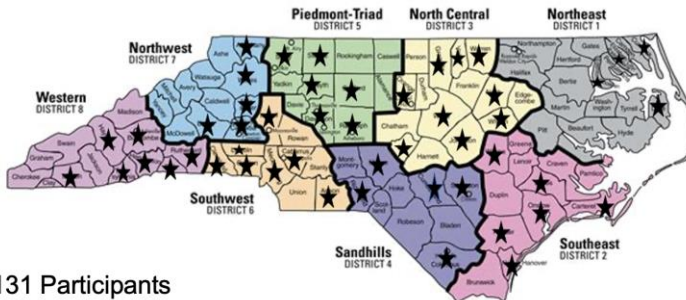
If the recommended individuals are unable to participate in the cohort activities due to a change in circumstances, please let us know as sessions are conducted live and are not able to be made up. We will be happy to consider that participant the next time the cohort is offered.

While we have been able to accommodate last minute recommendations as of this Monday, now that the cohort has started, new recommendations/additions will need to wait until a new cohort begins. We have 131 participants representing 61 PSUs. The map below highlights the location of our participants. If you have further questions, please direct them to the following individuals.

Participants should contact: Alexis Utz (Alexis.Utz@dpi.nc.gov), Teresa Cestaro (Teresa.Cestaro@dpi.nc.gov) or Polly Lilly (Polly.Lilly@dpi.nc.gov).

EC Directors/Coordinators should contact: Carol Ann Hudgens (CarolAnn.Hudgens@dpi.nc.gov)

North Carolina State Board of Education Districts



131 Participants
61 Public School Units

New ECD IDEA Fiscal Consultant

Please join us in welcoming Milinda Martina to the ECD, as an IDEA Fiscal Consultant. You can read about Milinda in the memo. **(ATTACHED)**

ECD Staff Member Leaving

Amanda Byrd, Section Chief for Special Programs and Data will be leaving the ECD and NCDPI to pursue other professional opportunities. We will greatly miss her here at the Division but appreciate and value all she has contributed to the Department and to PSUs during her time at DPI. Until her position is filled, please contact Sherry Thomas (sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov) or Matt Hoskins (matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov) for questions/support around fiscal monitoring or budget items.

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Deep Dive Into Dyslexia

The EC Division is providing an upcoming virtual session of Deep Dive Into Dyslexia. This professional learning course discusses the definition, characteristics, and instructional practices. Additional information and the registration link can be found on the attached flyer. **(ATTACHED)**

PK EC Items of Interest

REMINDER: Indicator 12 Spreadsheet Updates

PSUs using the Child Find & Transition Calculator should update their existing Child Find & Transition Calculator file to the newest version of the file that was released in July. Updates to the spreadsheet included changes to the ways in which Indicator 12 data is entered and tracked. Transferring existing data to the updated file should occur before submitting your Indicator 12 report, as the update impacts how numbers are reported on the Indicator 12 worksheet and will improve the accuracy of the Indicator 12 data submitted to DPI.

A copy of the updated Excel Spreadsheet and GoogleSheet, as well as Instructions (written and recorded) for updating, can be found on the DPI website under the [EC Division ECATS Reporting](#) section or on the NC-ELN website under both the [Child Find Resources](#) and [Transition Resources](#) sections.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
