

EC Division Weekly Update
October 6, 2021

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.

Clarification: Negative COVID Test Requirements

Following guidance from NCDHHS, either a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or a rapid Antigen test will be accepted to meet the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to the first event attended. No other data, including Antibody tests, will be accepted.

First Year Teacher Registration Code

This year, the EC division is delighted to provide free registration for individuals who are a first-year teacher with a Special Education License and currently working in a Special Education classroom. A registration code that can be entered by these individuals will be shared with EC directors and coordinators this afternoon. North Carolina maintains a list of these individuals and will verify that individuals who enter the code meet the criteria. The code is being distributed through EC directors to ensure their oversight and communication locally.

<u>Items of Interest</u>

OSEP FAQ

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) released on September 30th a Q&A entitled the [Return to School Roadmap: Development and Implementation of Individualized Education Programs in the Least Restrictive Environment under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#).

This second in a series of Q&As builds on the [August 24 press release](#) and demonstrates the Department's continued commitment to support States to ensure they have the information necessary to carry out these important requirements and to make good use of the additional American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to ensure the full implementation of IDEA requirements.

OSEP Brief: Personnel

OSEP has released a collective brief, entitled [Leverage Points to Enhance State and Local Efforts to Attract, Prepare, and Retain Effective Personnel for Children With Disabilities](#) which may provide support and information to support recruitment and retention initiatives.

Federal Reporting

- **Reminder: Indicator 8 Surveys**

Please send a reminder to parents to complete the Indicator 8 Survey for the 2020-21 school year. This survey provides important information to NCDPI about the role parents play in IEP Development and outcomes for

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students with disabilities. As of today, we have noticed a sharp decrease in the number of responses than we had at this time last year.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) not only reviews the percentage of parents reporting that schools facilitated their involvement, but also compares the distribution of surveys with the return rate. Please stress the importance of completing the surveys to all schools and parents.

We understand that some students with disabilities will have matriculated to another school, moved away from your LEA, graduated, dropped out, or are no longer eligible for special education services. Therefore, please distribute to the parents/guardians of children who were on your December 1, 2020 Child Count, unless a child has passed away. Please disseminate the information as soon as possible and emphasize the importance of parents completing the survey by November 1, 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 opened 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.

- **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 – 10/04/2021**
[Monday Message 10.4.21.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **American Rescue Plan: EC Funds**

The American Rescue Plan funds have been allotted under the following Program Report Codes. The budgets will be submitted the same way as the IDEA budgets. A new application is not required.

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- **PRC 185 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Basic – 611**

The funds will align with the IDEA Section 611 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 611 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds can be revised.

- **PRC 186 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Preschool – 619**

The funds will align with the IDEA Section 619 Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the Section 619 Use of Funds, the Use of Funds can be revised.

- **PRC 187 IDEA/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) CEIS**

For PSUs with mandatory CEIS, the funds will align with the CEIS Use of Funds. If the funds are budgeted for items not currently in the CEIS Use of Funds, the Use of Funds can be revised.

Note: For PSUs with an approved IDEA grant and needing a grant revision, it should be submitted at the same time as your MOE Expenditures. Contact your fiscal monitor for additional information regarding the IDEA grant status and the submission of the budgets.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Training & Technical Assistance

If you were unable to attend the MOE training or if you need a refresher, the recording, along with the PowerPoint, are available on the Exceptional Children website [here](#) and on the NC CCIP Home Page. The MOE Expenditure Table opened for PSUs with approved IDEA grant on October 1, 2021 and is due on October 31, 2021.

Note: If you were unable to attend the MOE technical assistance session yesterday, there will be another session from 8-11:30 and 1-4:30 on October 19th. These sessions are available 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 session: <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.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter

[School Business Newsletter - 10.01.21](#)

Learning Ally

NC DPI provides a limited number of memberships for qualified students with a print disability. Please see the memo for more information and the Learning Ally NC Flyer. **(ATTACHED)**

Delegate Voices on Dyslexia

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. The Exceptional Children Division has trained Dyslexia Delegates who provide professional development on dyslexia throughout the state. The attached flyer was designed by a

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delegate representing the Northeast Region and highlights information awareness regarding dyslexia.
(ATTACHED)

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

October 1 was the deadline to provide parents of children with a primary eligibility of Deafness, Deaf-blind, Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, or Multiple Disabilities with a hearing and/or vision impairment with a consent for release of information to receive more information about the residential schools for the deaf and blind in North Carolina. The next deadline to remember is November 30. This is the date by which all PSUs, including charter schools, must report any “yes” consents or report that no “yes” consents were received. To read the memo regarding HB 1030 and get the link to the electronic reporting survey, please go to the [Federal Regulations & State Policies](#) page on the EC Division website. Expand the “forms” tab and scroll down to the “supplemental forms” section to find the information. Questions may be directed to Sherri Vernelson, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov.

Blindness Awareness Month – Information and Fun Facts

- Videos, performances, and field trips have the potential to be important instructional tools in the classroom. However, students with visual impairments often lack access to these activities because of their visual nature. Audio description is a descriptive narrative of key visual elements. Audio description can be in real time (plays, performances, etc.) or recorded in advance (movies, videos, etc). The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute has an audio description project called, [You Describe](#), that makes YouTube videos accessible using audio description. Check it out.
- Fun Fact: Have you ever noticed the tactile markers on the “J” and “F” keys on a standard keyboard? These are known as homing bars and are for those learning touch typing. These homing bars are also essential for persons who are blind to orient and have access to a standard keyboard. See if you can orient just by using touch and finding the homing keys.

PK EC Items of Interest

EC Conference Pre-Institute for Preschool Exceptional Children Coordinators

Registration has opened for the [70th Conference on Exceptional Children](#), November 17th-19th at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. Please read the [Directors Memo on Safety Protocols](#) prior to completing [registration](#). There will be a limit to the number of registrations available and registration will close on November 1st.

We are thrilled to be coordinating a [Pre-Conference Institute](#) (institute #5) on Wednesday, November 17th titled “Achieving Educational Equity in Early Childhood: Right Here, Right Now....Together!”. This Institute will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Iheoma Iruka, as well as fantastic café style sessions featuring our peers and partners. We hope to see you there!

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION
