

EC Division Weekly Update
January 26, 2022

News!

Spring 2022 Tuition Reimbursement Application

The Spring 2022 Tuition Reimbursement Application is available for current residency, provisional, or lateral entry exceptional children teachers who are employed in the K12 setting. Please forward the linked memo below to your staff who would be eligible for this opportunity. **(ATTACHED)**

Translating Documents in ECATS

ECATS receives home language information from PowerSchool. However, there are occasions in which the home language is different from the language needed for translating EC documents. In order to select the appropriate language for translation, a separate language field will be available. The ability to edit the language field is restricted to the following permission types.

- LEA Administrator 1
- LEA Administrator 2
- LEA Administrator 3
- LEA Administrator 4
- School Administrator 1
- School Administrator 2
- School Data Manager
- LEA Data Manager

This new functionality will be deployed into ECATS the evening of **January 30th** and accessible to users on **Monday, January 31st**. Please look for the directions for this process in next week's Monday Message.

Items of Interest

Distinguished Service Awards

As part of the Spring Institute (May 9-12 at the Koury Convention Center), the Division will honor individuals who are distinguished for their many years of service and statewide impact on improving the education and lives of exceptional children in North Carolina. Please see the linked memo and directions for nominating an individual for this honor. Nominations are due by March 7, 2022. **(ATTACHED)**

American Sign Language (ASL) Classes:

The NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is hosting a free, virtual introductory course for those wanting to learn ASL. Please RSVP by January 28 - space is limited. The link to RSVP as well as more information about the course can be found [at this link](#).

mCLASS DIBELS 8 Large Print Materials

The NC Department of Public Instruction has worked with Amplify to secure editable versions of mCLASS DIBELS 8 files that a Public-School Unit may use to convert to large print for students who require it as a part of their IEP or Section 504 Plan. Please see the memo for more specific information related to this process. **(ATTACHED)**

Annual Deaf-blind Census

It is almost time for the Annual Census of Students with Deaf-Blindness which is a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Grant. The child count is a point-in-time

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snapshot and should reflect the infants, toddlers, and youth identified from your December 1, 2021, headcount. The census will open February 15, 2022, and close March 15, 2022. For more detailed information, please see the accompanying memo. **(ATTACHED)**

National Center on Deaf-Blindness: Photos Needed

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness is looking for a wide variety of videos and photos of educators, children, and family members to help illustrate the skills and strategies that are involved when working with children who are deaf-blind, both in the home and the classroom. The images and videos will be used in an exciting new training series they're creating called, "[Teaching Children Who Are Deafblind: Professional Development for Educators.](#)"

Anyone who contributes photos/videos selected for use will receive an Amazon gift card or mailed check in the following amounts:

\$50 per video

\$15 per photograph

Select the links below to see lists of specific videos and photos that are currently needed: [Photo/Video Needs List: Lesson 2](#) and [Photo/Video Needs List: Lesson 3](#)

Clarification on Upcoming Webinar from SSAT

The webinar announcement for ***Understanding ECATS Revisions Related to Low-Incidence Disabilities***, is the same webinar as our previously titled webinar: ***Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities***. We apologize for any confusion. The content of this webinar will focus on both topics; documenting specially designed instruction (SDI) for students with low incidence disabilities, and how to do this in ECATS because of the updates and revisions that have occurred over the past year. The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology section will be hosting this webinar on January 31st at 3:00pm. To register, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3qBbk9z>. Registration has been extended through Friday, February 28 at 12:00 noon.

*Please Note: The Webex link to join the webinar will be emailed to you prior to the event to the email address used when registering. If you have questions, please contact your Regional Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing or Visual Impairment.

PRC 118 Funding Clarification Statement

Several PSUs have raised concern about the PRC 118 funding for related service providers, specifically educational audiologists, orientation and mobility specialists, and educational interpreters, to make sure the money was not allocated in error. The concern is whether the amount of support provided by these professionals was taken into consideration when the funds were distributed. The answer is no. The money was allocated based solely on whether the PSU directly employs these professionals or contracts for the services. If a PSU does not directly employ or contract for the related service providers specified in the memo yet money was allocated, please contact Matt Hoskins, matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov.

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Federal Reporting

- **Federal Reporting Office Hours for February**

The Federal Reporting Office Hours will be held on February 2, 2022, at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Please contact Khalilah O'Farrow-Boulware at khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions. To join in and ask any questions about upcoming federal reporting, please use the following link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>.

- **Federal Personnel Survey & Training**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2021-22 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. Responses should include all indicated personnel (employed, contracted, itinerant, full-time and part-time) that served students with disabilities on December 1, 2021. The revised survey includes headcount, FTE, vacancies, salary, and other helpful staffing information for programs supporting students with disabilities.

All LEAs, Charters and State Operated Programs that submitted a December 2021 child count are required to submit personnel data via this survey.

The survey tool will be available mid-February. Training on the new survey fields will be held via webinar on February 9, 2022. Repeat 1-hour sessions will be available at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. The link to attend the training is: <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/khalilah.ofarrow>

- **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 – 01/24/2022**

[Monday Message 1.24.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **Special Grants**

Special grants, with the status of Chief Administrator Approved, are reviewed monthly after the 15th. (If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, the review will start of the next business day after the 15th). Notification of review is made through NC CCIP. For your review, the Special Grants Training recording, along with the PowerPoint are available on the EC Website [here](#) under the Special Grants section.

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

American Rescue Plan budgets should be submitted as soon as possible.

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.

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 must be revised.

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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 must 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 must be revised.

Contact your fiscal monitor for additional information regarding the IDEA grant status and the submission of the budgets.

- Allotments can be seen on the allotment page of the IDEA Grant in CCIP
- Budgets are submitted through each PSU's budgeting system and will be pulled into CCIP
 - Directors/Coordinators can view the budgets once submitted by clicking on the budget link on the IDEA Grant Sections page
 - The funds can be utilized on any IDEA allowable expense. The Chart of Accounts now contains the allowable budget codes for PRC 185, 186 & 187. It can be found here:
<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-district-finance-operations/chart-accounts>
- If the budget aligns with the current Section 611/619 and or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant does not need to be revised.
- If the budget includes line items not currently in the Section 611/619 or CEIS Use of Funds, the IDEA Grant must be revised to include the new line items. Designate in the Use of Funds that the revision items are for PRC 185/186/187.
 - Example: Current Use of Funds does not include funds for professional development. Add to the Use of Funds: Revision for PRC 185: Professional Development Workshop Expenses
- After the IDEA Grant and all related budgets are approved, SPD notifies NCDPI School Business. SPD does not allot the funds or know when the funds will be allotted.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 01/21/22

[School Business Newsletter 01.21.22](#)

PK EC Items of Interest

2022 Support for Local Communities: Transitions

In 2022, the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, NC Partnership for Children, NC Early Childhood Foundation, the SERVE Center at UNCG, and EducationCounsel will support local communities in collaborating to create/update transition plans that meet requirements for all community partners and create an opportunity for meaningful coordination and collaboration. We listened to your feedback about the importance of having additional regional meetings with dedicated time to collaborate with local partners in order to provide the best possible experiences and services for young children and their families. Join us virtually for an opportunity to reconvene and collaborate with your local early learning partners to develop/improve transition strategies/plans. See the attachment for registration details. **(ATTACHED)**

Allocation for PRC 119- Preschool Projects

The Office of Early Learning and the Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce the release of PRC 119 Preschool Targeted Assistance Funds. NCDPI Financial and Business Services completed the allotment on

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01/21/2022. See the attached memo for further details. Funds should be budgeted, or a budget revision performed to align with the NCDPI Finance allotment amount. Budgets must also align with the initiatives spending plan. Please be reminded of the Federal Grant Programs [Allotment Policy](#) update. Current year awards for which a PSU is eligible are reduced by the amount of funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. If you have any questions, please contact Keashia Walker at Keashia.Walker@dpi.nc.gov (**ATTACHED**)

Action Items/What's Due?

March 14, 2022	Federal Personnel Report Due
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