

EC Division Weekly Update

February 2, 2022

News!

NEW: Section Chief for Special Programs & Data

The EC Division is excited to announce that Nicole Sinclair is the new Section Chief for Special Programs & Data. Nicole comes to NCDPI from Scotland County, where she was EC Director. She previously served in the same role in Cumberland County. Nicole brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and energy to her new positions. Her first official day with the Division was on Monday, January 31st. Nicole can be reached at Nicole.Sinclair@dpi.nc.gov.

February EC Directors' Webinar

The February Director's webinar will be held Tuesday, February 15th, from 10:00-11:00 am. Registration is required and can be found at this [link](#). Registration will be open until COB on Monday, February 14th.

Items of Interest

Professional Learning Opportunity-Mathematics ECS Series

The NCDPI Exceptional Children Division is offering a 5-week webinar series focusing on building capacity to utilize the Extended Content Standards to plan for standards-aligned instruction in Mathematics. The intended audience for this professional learning is educators who support students with significant cognitive disabilities who access the extended content standards. The series consists of a combination of synchronous, asynchronous, and group work assignments. Sessions will be held each Thursday, from March 10th through April 7th, 2022. March 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st sessions will be from 3:30-4:30 PM. The final session on April 7th will be from 3:30-5:30 PM. At the end of this series, you will be awarded 0.7 CEUs. Participants must be able to attend all sessions and partial credit will not be awarded. Attendance is limited to the first 50 registrants. If the registration is full, a wait list will be created. Registration will close on February 24th, 2022. Please click [HERE](#) to register

Federal Reporting

- **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 – 01/31/2022**

[Monday Message 1.31.22.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

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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 and PRC 186 Budgets and Allotments

At the current time, those with approved budgets for PRC 185 and PRC 186 have been allotted 75% of their total funds. The additional 25% will be included in a future allotment. PSUs do not need to make a change in the approved budget. When the additional 25% is allotted, the budget will be reviewed for alignment with the final allotment.

Additional Information from School Business Newsletter – 01/28/22

[School Business Newsletter - 01/28/22](#)

Changing the Culture of Communication: 4th Annual Parent Professional Collaborative for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

This two-day conference for parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who work with them takes place February 25-26, 2022. Please see the flyer for a detailed agenda and registration information and share with parents and professionals. **(ATTACHED)**

Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students – CLOSING SOON

Please be reminded that the annual registration of students who qualify as legally blind will close February 14, 2022. Continue to send in updated password protected spreadsheets to NCAPH@DPI.NC.GOV and add any new students by using this link: [2022 Legally Blind Registration](#) before the deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Terrell, ncaph@dpi.nc.gov.

*Please note we will send out information when funds have been allocated and ordering can resume.

ASL Storytelling Time

The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering ASL Storytime for children of all ages in 2022. Refer to the flyer for dates and information. Please share with anyone, including parents, who may be interested. **(ATTACHED)**

Annual NC DeafBlind Census

The time is nearing for the opening of the annual DeafBlind Census. In this week's update, you will find a document with instructions for the data that will need to be entered when reporting students. It will be advantageous to gather this information ahead of time for ease of reporting. Please remember that all students eligible for the DeafBlind Census need to be reported in the online survey. Districts will not receive a

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spreadsheet with previously reported students to update. If a PSU has no eligible students to report, it is a requirement to report that on the survey. Questions related to the DeafBlind Census may be directed to Dr. Alan Chase, alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov. The survey link will be distributed closer to the opening of the census. **(ATTACHED)**

Free Robotics and Coding Conference for Professionals

Hurry! Additional seats are now available for [We Code, Too!](#) a free accessible robotics and coding conference at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind on February 18-19, 2022, in Raleigh, NC. This conference is to provide TVIs and other professionals with strategies for including students who are blind or low vision in robotics and coding activities. The hands-on sessions will provide participants with opportunities to learn about CodeJumper, Spheros using SAS CodeSnaps, Lego EV3 Robots using Quorum Programming, and much more. Please complete the We Code Too! [Participant Information Form](#) by February 7, 2022. Email questions to wecodetoo@gms.dpi.nc.gov or call 984-292-3018. *Funding for this conference is provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Digital Learning Initiative Grant.*

Youth Retreat for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Middle or High School

Please see this [link](#) for Camp Caraway, a youth retreat for middle and high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The retreat is scheduled for May 13-15, 2022. Please share with parents of these students.

FREE Assistive Technology Professional Learning Opportunity

An exciting opportunity is available for professionals to expand their knowledge about Assistive Technology. The South Carolina Assistive Technology Program is hosting a FREE one-day virtual [AT Expo](#). [Registration](#) and event details can be found in the flyer. **(ATTACHED)**

PK EC Items of Interest

Pyramid Model Updates

Click [here](#) to find the NCPMI February Newsletter. Resources include new scripted stories, updated translations as well as upcoming and recorded webinars.

Action Items/What's Due?

December 2021 Child Count Change Report: 2/2/2022

The [2021 Year-to-Year Change Report](#) showing the student count changes for each LEA from the December 2020 Child Count to the December 2021 Child Count has been posted to the DPI website in the Federal Reporting section (<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/dec2021-lea-3-21-lea-change-year>).

Please review the report, and if your LEA, charter school, or state operated program has been listed in **red** text, your district has shown a significant increase or decrease of more or less than 10% and more than 10 students between the two school years.

The EC Director should email an explanation for the significant change to khalilah.ofarrow@dpi.nc.gov by 3/1/2021. Districts only need to send in an explanation if their information on the report is in **red** text. We appreciate your timely response to this request.