



Weekly Update
March 8, 2023

News!

SiMR Information from March Institute

Last week, the OEC provided an overview of Phase II of the SiMR Self-Assessment: [Root Cause Analysis](#) (link to PPT) at the March EC Administrators' Institute in Greensboro. A repeat virtual orientation will be offered (and recorded/posted on the [SiMR Self-Assessment webpage](#)) on Friday, March 17, from 2-3:30p at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan>

Based on feedback from last week's participants, the Root Cause Analysis submission has been moved back to **JULY 31, 2023**. Please reach out to Lauren Holahan, SSIP Coordinator, at lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov with any questions.

Combined Expenditure Report Due Next Week

The Combined Expenditure Reports for Mid-Year are due on or before **March 15, 2023**. If you have not expended any of the funds, please send in the form along with a note that states that no funds have been spent from July 1 through December 31, 2022. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Sinclair at nicole.sinclair@dpi.nc.gov.

IDEA American Rescue Plan (ARP) for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187

ARP funds allocated through PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187 have a period of availability from 7/01/2021-9/30/2023. All ARP funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and liquidated by 12/31/2023.

There is currently \$50,405,046.90 in PRC 185; \$3,328,605.34 in PRC 186; and \$952,294.88 in PRC 187. These funds if not liquidated will be reverted to the federal government. The Office of Exceptional Children is currently reviewing each PSU's current carryover to determine next steps which may include a reversion of funds and re-allocating to districts who have utilized their funds. Please work with your finance officer to create a plan for spending these funds. If you need assistance, please reach out to your fiscal consultant and/or your regional consultant.

Session Ten of the Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality

Session ten of the Educational Equity and Significant Disproportionality monthly webinar series will be held on **Thursday, March 23** from 3:00pm-4:30pm. This month's presenter will be Dr. Silvia Romero-Johnson, a K-12 educational leader, administrator, and advocate for multilingual learners. Dr. Romero-Johnson currently serves as the Director of Bilingual Programs and Instructional Equity for the Verona Area School District in Verona, Wisconsin. Dr. Romero-Johnson will present ***Advancing Educational Equity in Dual Language Programs***. Please see the webinar information below.

Join link:

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m8ef216fd9f8e0a30a90a60967f504e37>

Webinar number:

2421 195 0016



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Webinar password:

EESDWeb10 (33739321 from phones)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0003 US Toll

+1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)

Access code: 2421 195 0016

Questions and concerns may be directed to Dreama McCoy, Dr. Alysha Gray or Angel Goodwine Batts.

2023 Draft 2 Proposed K-12 Science ECS

NCDPI will formally collect feedback from all stakeholders regarding the 2nd draft of the proposed 2023 K-12 Science Extended Content Standards. Please see the attached document for additional information.

(ATTACHED)

HB 317 Data Collection for 2022-2023

The Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section needs to confirm the primary and secondary contacts for HB 317 that will receive the data collection spreadsheet along with the list of students your LEA needs to report for the 2022-2023 school year. Please [update your contacts](#) by March 31, 2023.

Items of Interest

Follow-Up- Special Edition: EC Office Hours SLD/AU Statewide Targeted Monitoring

This EC Office Hours was held on Friday, February 24th. The recording, corrective action timeline, proposed AU protocol, and various resources for accessing NCEES courses have been uploaded to a [Google shared folder](#). As a reminder, the only action required at this time is a NCEES SLD Eligibility Course that takes approximately :75 minutes to complete. This course was released on February 24th and PSUs have between now and September 2023 to ensure that EC staff completing SLD eligibility worksheets have participated in the course - either independently or through district facilitated PLC activities.

Statewide AU monitoring will occur virtually this month. Corrective action (NCEES AU Eligibility Course) will only be ordered if there are priority areas that fall below 80% on the record review protocol. If ordered, the course must be completed between May - September 2023 and can be coordinated similarly or in conjunction with a PSU's plan to complete the SLD Eligibility course. *However, no action is required from PSUs regarding AU monitoring at this time.*

SIMR Root Cause Analysis Due Date

Last week, the OEC provided an overview of Phase II of the SiMR Self-Assessment: [Root Cause Analysis](#) (link to PPT) at the March EC Administrators' Institute in Greensboro. A repeat virtual orientation will be offered (and recorded/posted on the [SiMR Self-Assessment webpage](#)) on Friday, March 17, from 2-3:30p at <https://ncgov.webex.com/meet/lauren.holahan>



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New Resource for School-Based Psychological Services

Please visit the [link](#) to view a resource regarding considerations for contractual School-Based Psychological Services.

Applying an Ethical Lens to Workload Management for School-Based Occupational Therapy Practitioners (OTPs)

This webinar will be delivered on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm (1.5 contact hours). OT practitioners (OTPs) will discuss and apply ethics to workload management in school-based occupational therapy practice. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend the live session; however, a recorded version will be available by May 1, 2023. Participants will have until June 30, 2023 to view the recorded version and obtain their certificate of attendance. Register using the following link or the QR code in the attached flyer: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8II9631GNvvkIEC

Please note OTPs are required to complete an ethics course for state licensure renewal in NC. An ethics webinar for school-based OTPs is offered annually by the Consultant for Occupational Therapy to support continuing competency. **(ATTACHED)**

RIT Tech Tiger Program

This summer July 22-27, 2023 for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing students entering the 7th, 8th, or 9th grade in the fall of 2023. Get a head start thinking about your dream career and how to make it happen! Explore chemistry, computers, engineering, science, and more while meeting other students who are interested in science and technology. Use high-tech lab equipment to solve problems and experience what it is like to stay at an RIT college residence hall. Classes are taught in English and ASL. The cost is \$700 and includes housing and food for the week. Limited scholarships available based on financial need. Register [here](#) by May 15, 2023!

Free Assistive Technology Webinars

Please see the list of [free webinars for Assistive Technology \(AT\)](#) to find a variety of different AT and accessibility topics for the month of February 2023.

Summer Camp at the Eastern NC School for the Deaf

The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf will be having a summer program for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in Eastern NC, from June 12 - June 23, 2023. Fliers for the summer program - Operation Accelerate '23 - are attached! [Applications are available now](#) and are due by March 31, 2023. The program includes field trips, STEM activities, sports, art and explorative play, life skills, and American Sign Language enrichment. (All connected to the state standards!) Overnight boarding for students is available Sunday - Thursday. Please pass on this information to any teachers, parents, and guardians! If you have any questions, please contact [Natasha Wood](#) at ENCSD. **(ATTACHED)**



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Medicaid Renewal Process

In North Carolina, the renewal (recertification) process for Medicaid beneficiaries will begin April 1, 2023, as the flexibilities allowable during the COVID-19 public health emergency expire. Recertifications will be completed over the next 12 months, as beneficiaries are up for renewal. Recertification could result in a beneficiary's termination or reduction of benefits. PSUs are strongly encouraged to support families with re-enrollment in NC Medicaid using the Medicaid CCU Toolkit in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to ensure all eligible students are enrolled.

ICYMI

Federal Reporting

- **Federal Personnel Survey: Training Resources now available!**

The Federal Personnel data collection for the 2022-23 school year will be submitted via a revised survey that combines the Related Service Workforce survey with the federally required personnel data. Here is the link to access the survey: https://ncdpi.azurewebsites.net/jfe/form/SV_50oVIRpkycSzRWe. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to access the survey. The federal personnel survey opened on February 8, 2023, and the due date has been extended to March 31, 2023. For more information about completing the federal personnel survey, please review the recorded training sessions and PowerPoint presentation located on the ECATS Federal Reporting website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>.

- **December 2022 Child Count Change Report**

The 2022 Year-to-Year Change Report showing the student count changes for each PSU from the December 2021 Child Count to the December 2022 Child Count has been posted to the Exceptional Children Federal Reporting website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/program-and-fiscal-monitoring/federal-reporting#child-count>. From the Federal Reporting website, navigate to Reports > click to expand Child Count > navigate to December 2022 > click to access Dec2022 by LEA 3-21 with LEA Change Year. Please review the report, and if your PSU has been listed in red text, your PSU 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 3/10/2023. PSUs only need to send an explanation if their information on the report is in red text. We appreciate your timely response to this request.

- **Federal Reporting Preparation**

In preparation for upcoming federal reporting, the following reports are available to check data each month for accuracy and address any possible errors that must be corrected prior to the certification schedule:

- April Child Count – April 2023 | 04/02/2022 – 04/01/2023
- Indicator 7 – August 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Exit Count – September 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023
- Indicator 11 – October 2023 | 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023

These reports are accessible in ECATS from Reporting > Standard Reports > Special Education tab. As a



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reminder, the schedule for the upcoming indicators and counts are listed in the Important Dates Calendar at the following link: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/every-child-accountability-tracking-system-ecats/reporting>.

- **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 – 03/06/2023**

[Monday Message 3.6.23.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Grant Information

- **IDEA Grant Training**

The Special Programs and Data section has developed a short screencast training targeted toward New EC Directors/Coordinators or for those who may need a refresher on accessing the IDEA Grant through NCCCIP. This training was developed to support PSUs in preparation for IDEA grant submission in May 2023. Please click [here](#) to access the training. The PowerPoint is attached to this communication. For any questions, please contact your Regional Coordinator and Fiscal Monitor. Links to this training and PowerPoint can also be found under NCDPI resources in NCCCIP. **(ATTACHED)**

- **CEIS/CCEIS Plans**

The Office of Special Education (OSEP) has made a change in the data collection for PSUs with CEIS/CCEIS plans and these changes are now required for the 2022-2023 school year. The attached spreadsheet has been updated with the changes. PSUs currently implementing a CEIS/CCEIS plan will receive a follow-up email from the fiscal consultants for support. **(ATTACHED)**

- **Developmental Day Center (DDC) Funds Reminder**

To be eligible for Developmental Day Center funds, each student must be placed in the DDC as the least restrictive environment by the IEP team. As discussed in the Special Grants training, the placement decision should be documented on the IEP or Prior Written Notice. As with all placement decisions, the placement in the DDC should be reviewed and documented at all subsequent IEP team meetings for the student. Additional criteria for receiving DDC funds for preschool students are:

- Require special education 5 days a week and one of the following
- At least three hours each day of specially designed instruction or
- At least two hours each day of specially designed instruction with at least one weekly related service
- At least one hour each day of specially designed instruction with at least two weekly related services

For school aged students, the need for specially designed instruction should be 5 days a week for a minimum of four hours each day.



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- **IDEA American Rescue Plan (PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187)**

New Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been sent out through CCIP for PRC 185, PRC 186, and PRC 187. The previous GANs that were provided incorrectly stated that the Subaward Budget Period of Performance/Subaward Period ends on 9/30/2024. The newly issued GAN has the correct period of performance of 7/01/2021-9/30/2023 with a subaward amount of 0.00 because all funds are carryover funds with no new allotment. All funds must be encumbered by 9/30/2023 and spent by 12/31/2023.

- **IDEA Funds and Overtime Pay**

Overtime pay for classified employees is an allowable expense in federal grants. For the classified employee to receive overtime pay out of federal funds the employee is required to be serving students with disabilities 100% of the time. If the employee is serving non-disabled students in any capacity, then the overtime cannot be paid out of federal funds.

- **IDEA Grant and Budget Update**

The Object Code 122 EC-Salary-Interim Teacher-Non-Certified has been removed from the Chart of Accounts for all federal EC Funds. EC Teachers paid from federal funds are required to hold licensure in Exceptional Children.

Annual DeafBlind Census

The annual [DeafBlind Census](#) registration link is now open and will be open until March 15, 2023. Please refer to the DeafBlind Census Memo and DeafBlind Census Qualtrics Survey attachments. As a reminder, ANY student with ANY level of vision loss and ANY level of hearing loss should be reported. The student may be found eligible under ANY of the 14 disability categories. Inclusion on the DeafBlind Census offers FREE resources and support to families and school staff. If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Alan Chase alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov. (ATTACHED)

Western North Carolina Transition Event for Students who are DHH

As a reminder, the western North Carolina transition event for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, Step Forward to the Future, will be held April 26, 2023 from 8:00 am - 3:15 pm in Marion, NC. If you have students who would like to attend, please submit one registration form per event attendee by using the [registration forms](#) or by completing the [online registration](#).

PK EC Items of Interest

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Assessment Practices Learning Collaborative (LC)

This LC is sponsored by the ARCh Project (free to accepted applicants). Please share with providers to help recruit an incredible leadership cohort. The attachment includes an active link to the participation application. (ATTACHED)



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Allocation for PRC 119- Preschool Targeted Assistance:

The Office of Early Learning and the Office of Exceptional Children are pleased to announce the release of PRC119 funds. These Targeted Assistance Funds are used to support:

1. *PSU Preschool Coordinator professional learning,*
2. *Preschool Pyramid Model (PPM) Implementation, and*
3. *Preschool Regional Representative Support*

Each PSU has been allotted \$2,000 to ensure their preschool leaders and/or staff participates in professional learning events designed to support preschool initiatives related to child find and serving children with disabilities. Funds can also support related travel expenses as applicable. Cumberland, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, and Forsyth Counties will be allotted \$4,000 to support additional staff participation. PSU Preschool Coordinators who serve as regional representatives will also receive additional funds.

A PRC119 budget or budget amendment must be submitted that aligns with the NCDPI Finance allotment amount. Allocation amounts for PPM implementation, and regional support must align with the approved activities, spending plans and assurances. The use of a unique identifier would assist with tracking and efficiently monitoring the use of funds per spending initiative.

Per the Federal Grant Programs [Allotment Policy](#), current year awards for which a PSU is eligible have been 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.

Compliance Tip of the Week

Age of Majority and the Transfer of Rights

As students are nearing age 18 and moving toward graduation, remember there are specific steps IEP teams must complete. There are two parts to the **Age of Majority and Transfer of Rights** process.

The first part is informing the student and parent that the transfer of rights is forthcoming at age 18 completed **at least** one year prior to the student turning 18.

Document:

- The date the Transfer of Rights discussion associated with the Age of Majority was held, and
- Any resources provided to the student and parents

Second, if the student is 18 or older during the life of the IEP, document:

- The date the discussion notifying the parents and student that the transfer of rights has occurred was held

For additional information on these topics and on the requirements when a child is determined to be incompetent (Special Rule), see **NC 1504-1.21 Transfer of Parental Rights at Age of Majority**.



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ECATS TIP: This process can be documented **in ECATS** within the IEP in the **Student Rights** section by indicating "YES" and should be noted in the Prior Written Notice as an Action Proposed or Special Factor.

March Calendar Items/What's Due?

- **March 15th**
Combined Expenditure Report: Mid-year Submission
- **March 10th**
December Child Count Change Report
- **March 15th**
Deaf Blind Census closes (memo)
- **March 31st**
Federal Personnel Survey - Training Material
- **April 1st**
Request to order Braille EOG/EOC
- **April 1**
Child Count opens
Certify by: 4/24