



**EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**  
NC Department of Public Instruction

# Parent and Family Updates

## Exceptional Children | NC DPI

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Office of Exceptional Children website contains resources for parents, teachers, and administrators.

April 2025

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## Join the Conversation: Parents Needed

Are you a parent of a child with special needs in North Carolina? Your voice matters!

The [Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children](#) (CESEC) is established as an advisory council to the State Board of Education, as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) federal regulations in §§ 300.167-300.169 and the North Carolina General Statutes in §115C-121.

The Council plays a vital role in supporting children with disabilities by working with the State Board of Education. The Council focuses on identifying the unmet needs of children and supports the development and implementation of policies that coordinate services for students with disabilities. The Council advises on developing evaluations, sharing important data, and creating action plans to address any findings from federal reviews.

The Council consists of 24 members who are appointed by the Governor, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the State Board of Education. Appointees represent individuals with disabilities, parents, teachers, higher education, public and private schools, business/vocational communities, and traditional and charter schools.

If you are a parent of a child with a disability and are interested in becoming a member of the Council, please submit a cover letter and resume to [Johanna Lynch](#).

# The 2024-2025 Exceptional Children Parent Survey

Research shows students reach higher levels of achievement when parents are actively involved in their children's education. As a parent, family member, or guardian of a student with a disability, you know firsthand what is working and what is not. Therefore, each year, the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) gathers feedback from families through the survey to improve services.

Please complete the [2024-2025 Exceptional Children Parent Survey](#) to share your views on how your school involves you in your child's education. The survey is available through all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and open to all parents in the state.

The survey is available to complete and will accept responses until June 30, 2025. If you have more than one child with a disability receiving services, you may complete the survey for each child. The survey is open to parents with children from preschool through high school.

Completing the survey is voluntary. You will not be asked to provide your name or other personally identifiable information. The information is confidential and will not be shared with anyone. The information from all families will be compiled to create a report about your school system, the state, the efforts to involve families in their children's education, and the impact of that involvement on educational results for students with disabilities. The report is shared with LEAs so they can make improvements. We hope you will participate.

## Resource for Military Families

The Center for Parent Information & Resources (CPIR) has a hub for [Supporting Military Families](#) as they transition their child's services from one state to another.

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### Agencies of Interest:

[Office of Special Education Programs](#) (U.S. Department of Education)  
[N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)

### Upcoming events:

[Autism Society of North Carolina](#)

[Autism Speaks](#)

[The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education](#)

[Exceptional Children's Assistance Center](#)

[Family Support Network](#)

[National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

[NC ABLE](#)

[NC Down Syndrome Alliance](#)

[Special Olympics North Carolina](#)

[Triangle Disability & Autism Services](#)

Do you have an event you would like to share with the community? Please email with information.

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Contact information:

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Historical Newsletters can be found in the [Parent Newsletter Google Folder](#)