

# Exceptional Children Information for Parents

April 14, 2021



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

## Parent Involvement Opportunities

### Stakeholder Engagement in Selecting SPP/APR New Targets and Improvement Strategies

North Carolina will be starting a [new 5-year cycle of our State Performance Plan](#) in February 2022. We want to partner with stakeholders--especially parents of students with disabilities--to set the new indicator targets and write our new plan. Please share [this invitation](#) with your networks of parents of students with disabilities, staff, community partners, PTAs, and any other organizations with specific interest in the outcomes of students with disabilities. Questions can be directed to Lauren Holahan, SSIP Coordinator, at [Lauren.Holahan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Lauren.Holahan@dpi.nc.gov)

### Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (Council)

The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children was established as an Advisory Council to the State Board of Education. This collaborative team was established based on Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) federal guidelines §§ 300.167-300.169 and the North Carolina General Statute §115C-121. This council advises the State Board of Education with the unmet needs of children with unique needs and reflecting on current or future policies to serve students with disabilities. The council also advises the State Board by reporting on data, developing plans to address identified findings from monitoring.

The council consists of 24 members. Some members are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, 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, traditional and charter schools.

The council is currently in need of two parents of students with disabilities to serve a four-year term on the team. If you are a parent of a child with a disability with an interest in becoming a member of the Council, please submit a cover letter and resume to Deanna Townsend-Smith ([deanna.townsend-smith@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:deanna.townsend-smith@dpi.nc.gov)) as well as your local State Board Representative. To find your local representative, visit: <https://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/about-sbe/sbe-staff> and click on SBE Members and Advisors on the left.

Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-listserv-communications>

## Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
  - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Arc of the Triangle [Events](#)
- Autism Society [Workshops](#)
- Autism Speaks [Information Topics](#)
- CADRE [Parent Resources](#)
- ECAC [Events](#) & [Recorded Webinars](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](#)
- NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](#)
- Special Olympics NC [Events](#)

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

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison  
Exceptional Children Division, NC DPI  
Email: [alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov)

