

Council On Educational Services  
For Exceptional Children  
NC State Advisory Panel

2018 - 19 ANNUAL REPORT

Leanna George, Chairperson  
Cynthia Daniels-Hall, Vice Chair

Staff support provided by the  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
Exceptional Children Division  
Sherry Thomas, Director

## 2017 - 2018 Annual Report

# Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children Division

The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (CESEC) is established in accordance with Section 300.167-300.169 of the federal regulations, Section 1412(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA 2004) and Section 115C-121.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes as the State Advisory Panel to the State Board of Education. The purpose of the Council is to:

- Advise the Board of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on rules and regulations proposed by the Board regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the Board in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the United States Secretary of Education as required by IDEA;
- Advise the Board in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports required by IDEA;
- Assist the Board in developing and implementing policies related to the coordination of services for students with disabilities; and
- Carry out any other responsibilities as designated by federal law or the State Board of Education.

## Membership

The Council shall consist of a minimum of 24 members. Currently, the Council consists of 25 members - 17 appointees and 8 ex-officio. Members are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the State Board of Education. Appointees represent individuals with disabilities from the ranks of parents, teachers, higher education, public and private schools, business/vocational community, and charter schools. A majority of representatives shall be persons with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The term of appointment for members appointed by the State Board of Education is four years. All other terms are two years. The current membership of the Council include the following people.

Leanna George

Cynthia Daniels-Hall

Katie Holler

Diane Cofey

Jennine Vlasaty

Leslie Sellers

Jennifer DeGen

Gina Smith

Greg Singleton

Christy Hutchinson

\*Lisa Phillips

Jennifer Grady

Heather A. Grant

Abby Childers

Jennifer Frey

Lisa Black

Sherita Jones

Mary Grant

Marge Terhaar

Tim Montgomery

Senator Chad Barefoot

Teresa Mebane

Representative Dennis Riddell

Virginia Moorefield

\*William J Hussey

\*Carla McNeil

\*Anna Carter

\*Katherine Nichols

\*Kelli Terrell

\*Sara Bigley

\*Adam R. Johnson

(\*) denotes Ex Officio Member

(\*\*) denotes member whose service ended in 2018

(\*\*\*) New appointees starting July 2018

## **Meetings**

The Council meets four times a year. During the 2018-2019 year, meetings were held on Sept 12 (cancelled - Hurricane Florence), December 12, March 13, and June 12.

For the 2018-2019 School Year, presentations were made by DPI staff, as well as other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Presentation Topics Included:

- Teacher Licensure
- Dispute Resolution Annual Report
- SPP/APR
- Disability Rights - Year in Review
- Progress Monitoring - Significant Cognitive Disabilities
- Surrogate Parents
- NC Center for Safer Schools / Task Force
- AU Policy Changes

## **Committees**

The Council operates four committees to help meet the legislative purpose of the Council. These committees are the Executive Committee, the Unmet Needs Committee, the Reports and Data Committee, and the Policy and Procedures Committee.

### **The Executive Committee - Leanna George, Chair**

#### **Primary Functions**

- Set meeting agendas
- Draft the Annual Report

### **The Unmet Needs Committee - Diane Coffey, chair**

#### **Primary Functions**

- Identify unmet needs impacting Special Education in NC
- Establish priorities for the committee
- Determine topics for Council action relative to unmet needs of stakeholders involved in Special Education programs including students, teachers, parents, and administrators.

#### **Completed work for 2018/19**

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#### **Ongoing projects from 2018/19**

- 

#### **Vision for 2018/19**

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### **The Reports & Data Committee - Cynthia Daniels-Hall, chair**

#### **Primary Function**

- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- Review data and advise on annual reports as needed.

#### **Completed work for 2018/19**

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### **The Policies & Procedures Committee**

## Primary Function

- Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the SEA regarding the education of students with disabilities
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for students with disabilities
- Revise the council's by-laws
- Reviews and updates council operating procedures

## Completed work for 2018/19

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## Vision for 2018/19

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# Recommendations

1. Training for Principals / Assistant Principals with a specific focus on Mental Health and Behavioral Support.
  1. LEA EC department present monthly training topics with Principals and Assistant Principals
2. Training provided during Higher Ed for Mental Health and Behavioral Support
3. School Safety / Crisis Planning
  1. Student specific plans discussed at IEP meeting but NOT part of the IEP. Goals that support successful execution of the plan included in the IEP if appropriate.
  2. Special Education Teachers (1 adapted and 1 general) members of school and district level crisis management teams
  3. Open dialogue between school, district, and state professionals sharing challenges and successes
  4. List of students who require unique assistance during a crisis
  5. Training for teachers and staff
  6. Consistent Practice and drills
4. Last year's recommendations
  1. All school level improvement teams should include at least one parent of a student with special needs.
  2. All district level advisory groups should include at least one special education teacher and one parent of a student with special needs.
  3. State Superintendent Parent Advisory Council should include at least one parent of an Exceptional Student.
  4. Add EC Involvement in School Safety Advisory committees with a focus on ensuring students with significant needs (cognitive or physical) are appropriately planned for during an emergency.
  5. A variety of appropriate and meaningful assessments are needed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These assessments should be individualized based on the unique needs of the student.
  6. The Mental Health Tiered Support program needs to be inclusive of students with special needs.
  7. EC Teachers pursuing Adapted Curriculum (K-12) Licensure should be considered exempt from the Pearson's Mathematics Skills and Reading Foundations licensure requirements as the assessments do not align with the standards expected to be taught to students on the Extended Content Standards.

## Opportunities

1. LMEs may offer Youth Mental Health First Aid Training. I know Alliance does offer Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.