

# COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

December 2024

## Summary of Actions

Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda, Review of Meeting Minutes – September 2024

Chairperson Peyton Davis virtually called the meeting to order. There was a quorum, with 18 members present.

December 2024 Meeting Agenda and Summary of Actions September 2024 approved without changes.

Peyton Davis called the meeting to order.

Dr. Carol Ann Hudgens, OEC Senior Director, provided Agency updates:

Dr. Hudgens shared the history of the Weighted Funding Model and how the model would differ from the current funding model:

- Per Session Law 2021-189, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction contracted with RTI International to investigate different funding models for special education and to make recommendations.
- Results of that study were shared with the NC Legislature in January 2024 and updated in March 2024
- The proposed Weighted Funding Model would adjust funding based on the specific needs of the student population and would consider the intensity of a student's needs as described by the number of services being provided to students.
- If districts are serving complex students, that funding follows those students accordingly.
- The Weighted Funding Model looks at how state dollars contribute to the education of students with disabilities. This funding is in addition to the federal funds determined by the child count.

Dr. Hudgens then discussed a report due to the NC General Assembly, House Bill 259 (SL 2023-134) in January 2025. The study addresses Students with Extraordinary Costs and was intended to provide recommendations related to improving funding options for children with disabilities with intensive needs which require placement in an Approved School. She reviewed the study requirements, the underlying factors and need for the study, and the outcomes of the study. The study recommends a funding model that uses a percentage of funding from Federal IDEA Funds, State Appropriations, State Funds/Local Allotments, and State Appropriations – Extraordinary Transportation Costs.

Dr. Hudgens updated the Council on the Office of Exceptional Children's (OEC) Fall Stakeholder Meeting, which covered potential changes to EC License, EC Administrator License, SPP/APR Dispute Resolution Targets, IDEA Grant Application, and LEA Determinations related to compliance and compliance with outcomes.

She reviewed the OEC Fall Conference, highlighting the EC Educators Recruitment Fair, the General Education Administrator Institute and the Parent Institute, all of which are being considered for next year's Fall Conference.

## Council Business

Not applicable.

## Public Comment

No public comment.

## Discussion Items

What can the Council do to address the unmet needs of students?

- Draft a letter to the State Board of Education in support of the Weighted Funding Model.
- Draft a letter to the State Board of Education in support of addressing funding for Students with Extraordinary Costs to have on hand when the item is discussed by the State Board of Education.
- Create an internal directory of Council members so the members can learn more about each other.
- Council member attendance has been a concern.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.**