

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

March 2025

Summary of Actions

Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda, Review of Meeting Minutes – December 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 for the September 2024 Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved without changes.

[Agency updates](#) from Dr. Carol Ann Hudgens, OEC Senior Director:

Dr. Hudgens opened her comments by reminding the Council the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) turns 50 this year. She addressed concerns about changes at the federal level by sharing with Council members that the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) continues to support children with disabilities, parents, and school districts and that work has not been interrupted.

- Dr. Hudgens shared a link created by the Office of Government Affairs so members can monitor proposed bills being considered by the legislature: [2025-2026 Biennium K-12 Education Bills Tracking Link](#). She reviewed how to navigate the information for members, and highlighted current bills related to education.
 - HB 289 Change in EC Funding Formula is a different funding model being suggested by legislators and is not related to the Weighted Funding Model, which is still being considered.
 - Council members as a whole or individuals can contact their local representatives with questions about legislation.
- Review of State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2023-2024 SY:
 - In 2019-2020 North Carolina changed SPP/APR reporting to college and career proficiency, which correlates to a score of 4 or 5 on state mandated assessments. Prior to that, the federal reporting requirement for the performance of children with disabilities was stated as “at or above proficiency”. When the state changed to college and career proficiency, the state was required to report the 4s and 5s of children with disabilities. That change in reporting is now showing in data, which includes data for children with disabilities who are at that college and career proficiency level.

- State mandated testing is a snapshot of 1 or 2 days in particular areas, which is not the whole representation of how differently abled students are able to demonstrate their knowledge.
 - Data for Indicators 1 through 7 was reviewed.
 - The OEC will work to improve data and outcomes by collaborating with districts to determine what districts need in terms of support, professional development for staff, and technical assistance.
- OEC is using High Leverage Practices to engage EC directors and districts to determine what they need in terms of professional development and technical assistance.
 - Summer Institutes will focus on four programmatic priorities requested by EC directors throughout the state: specially design instruction, classroom management, policies and procedures, and working with specific disability populations
 - Institutes will be offered regionally across the state over 2 weeks this summer instead of in one centralized location. This is to make this professional development available to teachers who may have to travel long districts. The goal is to increase participation.
 - There is no charge for teachers.
 - Districts are providing spaces for Summer Institutes, which saves money as well.
 - The OEC encourages districts to use PRC 118 and 119 funds to provide a stipend to teachers who attend to increase participation.
- Dispute Resolution data for the 2023-2024 SY was reviewed.
- Proposed changes to EC teacher and EC administrator licensure was reviewed.

Council Business

- Council members reviewed and submitted feedback on a draft letter of support for the proposed Weighted Funding Model.
- Council members reviewed and submitted feedback on a draft letter of support for the Study for Students with Extraordinary Costs (HB 259, SL 2023-134).
- Information on how to receive the monthly OEC Parent and Family Updates newsletter was shared, and Council members were encouraged to sign up and share this information with parents in their respective regions.
- Council members will receive in-person training from the Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) during the Exceptional Children's Conference in November 2025. Members requested a 10:00 a.m. start time for training to allow for travel.
- Council members were asked to encourage parents in their respective regions to complete the Indicator 8 Parent Survey and a link to the survey was shared.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Discussion Items

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

- The Council will consider submitting a letter of support for the proposed Weighted Funding Model.
- The Council will consider submitting a letter of support related to the Study for Students with Extraordinary Costs (HB 259, SL 2023-134).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.