

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

September 2024

Summary of Actions

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

Chairperson Diane Coffey virtually called the meeting to order. There was a quorum, with 17 members present.

September 2024 Meeting Agenda and Summary of Actions June 2024 approved.

Diane Coffey's term as chairperson ended. She thanked the Council for the opportunity and will continue to serve as a member. Vice Chairperson Aimee Combs led the meeting.

The Council voted and unanimously elected Peyton Davis as Chairperson.

Dr. Carol Ann Hudgens, OEC Senior Director, provided [Agency updates](#): Dr. Hudgens reported there were not updates to Rulemaking at this time and EC Weighted Funding Model is still being considered by the NC General Assembly; reviewed the 2022-2023 SY SPP/APR reported on earlier this year and the required actions for the OEC; discussed the priority areas of support for PSUs; shared results of the 2023-24 state-mandated assessments from the Accountability Office; shared a plan to improve outcomes for students with disabilities that was shared with the SBE; discussed changes to the Indicator 8 Survey for 2024-2025 SY; discussed OEC Funding Resources available to LEAs for additional funding to be considered by BOE; updated the Council on recruitment and retention activities; reviewed new Council representatives being presented to the SBE; discussed a planned Stakeholder Meeting for late October 2024, which Council members will be invited to attend; and reviewed planning for the OEC Conference, including sponsoring the Council members' attendance.

Les Spell, Data & Policy Consultant Specialized Instructional Support & NC Healthy Schools, reviewed data collected from the [2023 NC Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#). NC has participated in the survey since 1993 and is one of few states that surveys middle and high school students. The survey is anonymous and voluntary. Students are asked to self-identify if they have a disability: In 2011, 11% of students reported a disability; in 2023, 13% reported a disability. Data from survey indicated differences in responses between all students and students who reported themselves as having a disability were significantly different, with students with a disability reporting more likely to be bullied, feel sad or hopeless, seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months, made a plan

about suicide, and who actually attempted suicide in the last 12 months. Students are given resources to address suicide at the end of the survey.

Dr. Alan Chase, Consultant for Visual Impairment and Co-Director, NC DeafBlind Project, Sensory Support and Assistive Technology, Office of Exceptional Children reviewed the data from the [2023-24 DeafBlind Census](#). The NC DeafBlind project is a federally funded program and a collaboration between the OEC, the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC), and the Eastern Carolina University Teacher Support Program for Learners with DeafBlindness. Data is collected on the census so the team can tailor and guide the technical assistance and program. The census collects information about children birth to age 21 who have both a hearing loss and a vision loss. New for the 2023-2024 SY, school staff can add students to the census from within the ECATS system. About 400 students across the state are on the census.

Johanna Lynch, Parent Liaison, OEC, shared data collected from the [2023-24 Indicator 8 data review](#) and asked the Council to consider changes to the [2024-25 Indicator 8 survey](#), being considered to simplify the survey and improve parent response rate. The Council recommended reducing the number of questions from 25 plus demographics to 7 question plus demographics.

Public Comment

Stephanie R. Kitchens discussed issues around IDEA Surrogate Parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.