

0COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

December

Summary of Actions

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

Chairperson Cynthia Daniels-Hall called the virtual meeting to order. Council members provided self-introductions and reviewed the day's agenda.

The June Summary of Actions was reviewed. The Council approved the June Summary of Actions with no comments or edits. Alexis Utz provided instructions for the Public Comment procedures.

TAESE Debrief – Council Members

John Copenhaver provided training for the Council. Chairperson Cynthia Daniels Hall felt that the training was effective and informative. She suggested that the Council members review the resources that were made available. Comments and concerns from those in attendance were shared. These concerns included going forward that the members are mindful that they represent ALL EC students and not just their individual children. The Council should keep track of state-wide issues presented during the meetings, and not to vere off into personal issues. Try not to use identifiers when speaking about names of schools, LEAs and children.

It was suggested during the discussion that the by-laws include representation of all disabilities. However, by adding specific disability categories would limit those who want to serve on the Council. It was suggested that outside persons to provide information that the Council does not have knowledge of.

These concerns will be taken into consideration in the Unmet Needs and Policies and Procedures committees.

Agency Updates

Exceptional Children Division Director, Sherry H. Thomas addressed the Council. Agency is still teleworking until Phase 3. Once Phase 3 is over, employees will begin staggered entry. Fridays will be for groups (based on appropriate numbers). Council meetings may continue virtually.

There will be no EC Conference in November. We are working on determining if Professional Development can be done virtually for the districts. The districts are recognizing outstanding educators on a quarterly basis

ECATS-MTSS module will be released in February, 2021. Included in that platform, is an early warning system to be able to track students' behavior, attendance, performance and making sure that students that are at risk are targeted.

EC Staff is pretty stable at this point. There are just a couple of vacanciesto be filled in the next few weeks.

Contingency Plans

Carol Ann Hudgens presented PowerPoint presentation in regards to using a contingency plan. It is not something that is required by the state. It is an option to document how an IEP will be implemented when there is an unexpected change. Each LEA is going to have their own procedure regarding the use of the contingency plan. In the case of the pandemic, the expected changes are in sudden shifts from remote learning to in-person learning and possibly back to remote learning should things worsen. The remainder of the presentation answered questions as it related to why contingency plans are good options for IEP teams to consider and when a contingency plan is needed. Other things to consider is will the child require additional services and support during an interruption? Are there services that need to be delivered with different frequency, intensity and duration? Answering these questions will help the IEP teams determine if they need a contingency plan. Ms. Thomas presented a template that will be provided to the State regarding some critical

features that may need to be considered. The template is just a suggestion, and not required. A copy of the presentation was made available to the Council.

Beginning of the Year Assessments – Molly Britt and Shannon Jordan

- Waivers for assessments from the spring did not carry over into the 2020-21 school year
- Information presented can be found on this document:

<https://files.nc.gov/dpi/documents/files/20-21-testing-program-overview.pdf>

- Passport for Learning: Grades 4-8 & Math 1 for reading and math; July 15-October 30
- Math Sets: Grades 4-8, Math 1 & Math 2 for math; available all year
- Released Tests: Grades 3-8, Eng 2, Biology, Math 1, Math 3; available all year
- Schoolnet: Grades 3-8 & HS courses; available all year
- Special Edition Tests Fall 2020: grades 4-8, Math 1, Math 2; academic achievement on the previous grade level standards
- Local decision to use the above 5 resources, not required

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Work

The goals and function of each committee were discussed before breaking into committee work.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.