

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

June 2021

Summary of Actions

Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda, Review of Meeting Minutes – March 2021

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

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

EC Licensure-Test Concerns- Kim Evans – Ms. Evans oversees PEPSC (Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission. [Presentation](#)

Ms. Evans gave a detailed overview of test results and pass rates for the EC-GC (Exceptional Children-General Curriculum). In the Reading and Math subtests for the first attempts versus the EC Core tests, the pass rates were lower. The EC Core Licensure exam had a higher pass rate than the Reading and Math subtests.

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report- Nancy Johnson

2020 SPP/APR - submitted Feb. 1st

- Indicator 8 (parent involvement): Parent responses to revised survey (25 questions to 17 questions, increased response rate, new baseline because of changing survey, 49.36% parents responded “strongly agree” and “agree”, similar rate to previous years although slightly higher)
- Indicator 13 (transition). Dropped in rate to 56.42% from ~80%--possibly due to suspension in monitoring because of COVID and change to ECATS.
- Next Steps: Clarification Period with state and OSEP, posting LEA & SPP/APR reports, and state determinations.

*2020-2025 SPP/APR Report

- Kelley Blas and Lauren Hollahan will be leading this work moving forward as Nancy prepares to retire.
- General Requirements: Stakeholder Involvement-expanded information needed to report. New targets for Indicators 1-17 through 2025-Council will provide input for this. Indicator 17 data now due Feb. 1 instead of April 1st.
- Changes: Chart of changes in presentation to view at leisure. Please email Alexis (alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov) with questions for Nancy. I will compile a list to send to her.
- Opportunities for Stakeholder Engagement/Feedback. Two meetings per topic (repeat sessions) are being set up for stakeholder groups. April-SWOT/Indicator 1 & 2, May-Indicator 3, June-Indicator 5 & 6
- Next Steps: ECD finalizing plan of activities, roles, & timelines for completing SPP/APR (due 2/1/22). Council will receive invitations for participation in stakeholder meetings.

Agency Updates

Mental Health Initiative

NC Healthy Schools has created a [website](#) to support school-based mental health. This was born out of a law from June 2020 that required NCDPI to develop a school-based mental health policy. The policy requires that mental health and social-emotional support must be addressed. [Requirements](#) from State Board of Education. Schools must adopt and implement a plan for promoting student mental health & well-being by July 1, 2021. Samples have been provided to schools on the various requirements of the [Statute](#).

Social-Emotional Learning state team has developed strategies for schools to support students as they return to classroom; they developed a [website](#) for Evidence-based Practices for schools; webinars/trainings.

Technical Correction: SLD Policy Change

This came about as part of the State Complaint. Policies were 90% of IDEA language but new changes will use even more of IDEA language. Trainings (webinars) and numerous documents have been provided to LEAs to support the necessary changes brought about from the complaint. EC Office hours have been held weekly in February and scheduled throughout the future months for problem-solving sessions.

Strategic Plan -[Strategic Plan](#)

This is the final version of the Strategic Plan for EC Division. Council members used the opportunity to provide feedback. One of the things created from some of that feedback was a glossary at the end that explained terms, titles and courses. EC Division is now with the Office of Equity, we are focused on equity as part of our reorganization with Superintendent Truitt coming on board. Our organization now reports to Dr. Catherine Edmonds.

Public Comments

There was an emailed comment asking what measures were in place to notify parents of absences during an IEP meeting, and what responsibilities are in place for application of an IEP. The email will be forwarded to Alexis to address as it is not for the Council.

Committee Work

Committee Goals:

Policies and Procedures – Issues proposed to the group were group norms and social media presence. They came up with a set of proposed group norms that may be available at the start of each meetings as a reminder of some guidelines for participation. (will be shared at next meeting) It was also discussed having a person or group of people on the Advisory Council who will keep up with the Council's presence on social media.

Unmet Needs – They are still looking for ways to address transportation issues with contract vehicles. Making sure they have swing out stop signs, flashing lights and "Official School Transportation" on at least three sides of the vehicle. They also wanted to add the establishment of support groups for EC parents, support groups for EC students. All committees were asked to complete their section of the 19-20 Annual Report.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.