

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

December 2021

Summary of Actions

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

Co-Chairperson Christy Hutchinson 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.

The September Agenda was reviewed. The Council approved the September Agenda.

Individual Student Reports [Individual Student Reports](#)

Dr. Tammy Howard presented to the Council on behalf of Accountability Services. She was joined by her team which included Beth Nash, Dan Auman and Jaime Denny. North Carolina is one of five states that have received “demonstration authority” from the US Department of Education to develop a new assessment. Piloting a new assessment for reading and math for grades 3-8. These assessments are intended to be utilized at the classroom level by the student to improve instruction for each student and they're shorter assessments. These assessments will be administered throughout the year. The team shared samples of the assessments with the Council and addressed questions and feedback given by Council members.

SPP/APR Updates-Lauren Holahan - [EC Division SPP/APR webpage -presentation](#)

Lauren Holahan presented Indicator updates with the Council.

Back in the '19-20 school year, we launched a pretty intensive standards aligned IEP development capacity building statewide, and then in March of 2020, of course, COVID happened. The other data that we are particularly concerned about is that the graduation rate for students with disabilities is slowly improving. They are graduating, but not demonstrating improved proficiency on statewide assessments.

Organizational shifts in DPI have contributed to this consideration. The State Board has adopted a strategic plan around the frameworks of equity and whole child to focus on closing some of the opportunity gaps by 2025. We also have a new Superintendent who came into her role very focused on literacy. With this organizational context, the time seemed right to think about SiMR, State-identified Measurable Result, which is connected to reading and math outcomes for students with disabilities.

Social Studies Extended Content Standards/Changes – Dreama McCoy- Matthew Martinez

Alternate academic achievement standards set an expectation of performance that differs in complexity from a grade-level achievement standard. ESSA permits states to develop alternate academic achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In North Carolina, these alternate academic achievement standards are known as the Extended Content Standards. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division convened stakeholder groups to create and review proposed extended content standards for Social Studies for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Extended Content Standards for Social Studies are open for public comment

from September 8 to October 8, 2021. Stakeholder groups created Extended Content Standards and then presented them to the State Board who then votes on them.

The Draft Extended Content Standards for Social Studies can be found on this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L3O_giTvZAFPzEBcwrjykQ2W4-DOaqLM?usp=sharing

Please submit all questions and comments to: ecspubliccomments@dpi.nc.gov

Dispute Resolution – Carol Ann M. Hudgens

State Complaints

- 152 filed, 111 reports issued
- 72 noncompliant, 39 compliant
- 97% of reports were issued within timeline despite pandemic

Facilitation

- 96 requests, 90 meetings held
- no response - one party requested meeting but one party did not respond to the request (both parties must agree to facilitation)
- 97% were successful

Mediation

- 77 requested, 67 held
- 46% reached agreement

Due Process

- 68 filed, 16 resolution meetings held
- 2 written settlement agreements
- 9 went to a judge (adjudicated)
- 10 are pending
- 40 withdrawn/dismissed

Agency Updates -Sherry H. Thomas/Matt Hoskins

Since the last Council meeting, EC was given a grace period for Per Reporting Period (February 1, 2022) due to concerns and feedback that was received. There will be training and a continuum will be included on the program monitoring to look at the students who may have per reporting period.

Legislation regarding COVID-[Senate Bill 654](#) was just signed by Gov. Cooper.

- Provisions related to ESSER Funds
- Provisions related to virtual instruction
- Each district must adopt a policy regarding face coverings and review it monthly
- Removal of the provision that delayed the implementation of the social studies changes
- Removal of the provision that delayed the implementation of class-size requirements in Kindergarten
- Granted licensure extensions for teachers through December 2021
- Driver's education eligibility certificates-waiving some of the requirements

OSEP Corrective Action- EC provided a response to OSEP by the required timeline. There was one item that was asked for an additional 60 days to respond because of waiting for School of Business and Finance to work on some policy changes dealing with the distribution of carryover funds. This will affect the requirements OSEP asked for.

EC Conference- This year's conference will be face-to-face. Theme: Going Platinum. The dates for the conference are November 17-19, 2021 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. The sessions will be organized around the EC Division's strategic plan. School-based enterprises will be a part of the conference this year. Educators of

Excellence will also be celebrated. Council members are invited to attend with free registration. COVID protocols will be in place.

Carol Ann M. Hudgens discussed the Contingency Plans. [OSEP Q & A document](#) Contingency plans is how services are going to continue in a worst-case scenario. It isn't a replacement for an IEP. It isn't a replacement for the offer of FAPE.

Remote Learning Plans- Legislation requiring remote plans ended with the end of the 2020-2021 school year. There is no requirement for the 2021-2022 school year but it is allowed. The pending Senate Bill 105 could impact remote learning.

AWARE Grant-The Substance Abuse and Mental Health agency informed us that we were awarded the second project AWARE grant. That is \$8.9 million over the next five years.

DPI launched a pilot telework program where staff could continue to work remotely with the approval of their supervisor. It will be a hybrid model, which includes a couple of days in the building per week. There have been some COVID outbreaks in the building over the last four weeks. EC as a Division is trying to monitor that closely to keep staff safe. December's Council meeting will be planned for both in-person and remote. A final decision will be determined closer to that date.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Committee Work

Goals for all committees: 2020-2021 Annual Report.