

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

September 2022

Summary of Actions

Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda, Review of Meeting Minutes – June 2022

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

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

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

Welcome Letter/Term announcements - [2022-2023 Welcome Letter](#)

Jennifer Grady's term ended after serving on the Council for two terms. Kristen Hodges, Christy Grant and Anthony Baker agreed to serve a second term and were re-appointed by the State Board during their May 2022 meeting. Abby Childers has also agreed to serve a second term. Her information will be sent to the State Board in July. Matthey Potter has been reappointed by Governor Cooper for a second term. Erin Crites and Tifini Ferrell were appointed by the State Board during their May 2022 meeting. They will officially join us for our September meeting. Linda McDonough was appointed by Governor Cooper for her first term as a private school representative.

Agency Updates - Matt Hoskins

- Extended School Year/Comp Ed – ESY are services provided outside of the regular school year, typically during the summertime for students with disabilities when the IEP team determines that the services are necessary to provide FAPE to those students. It is based upon the IEP goals and is not the same as Compensatory Education which happens when there has been a documented failure to provide a student with disability with FAPE.
- Summer Learning – Programs that the LEA provides for students with disabilities. They would receive both general education and their special education services as needed. It is not a supplement to anything considered ESY or Comp Ed.
- Mental Health Policy - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthy-schools/school-mental-health-policy>. This link provides information the implementation of the policy on all levels.
- Occupational Course of Study (OCS) – During COVID, it became challenging for students to meet work hours. A waiver reduces the graduation requirements to 157 hours for the graduating class of 2020 and 2021. [Grad-004 Requirements](#). That waiver has expired, and the same number of hours required in the past are going to be required moving forward. Students can go through a ceremony if they have met all course credit requirements and receive a certificate. To receive a diploma, they will need to complete all work hours by age 22.
- Police Wander Bracelets – These are issued by local police departments for students who may be a flight risk. It is not a part of the student's IEP so we don't have the authority to provide a lot of guidance.
- Reorganization – Exceptional Children Division will now be called the Office of Exceptional Children. It will be housed within the Division of Educator and Student Advancement. The Deputy State Superintendent is Dr. Derrick Jordan.

Discussion: Report to the NC General Assembly: An Impact Analysis of Student Learning During the Pandemic

From State Board of Education June 1 meeting: This month, the Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration (OLR) started a blog that will release a series of monthly whitepapers throughout 2022: [Recovery & Research Round-Up](#). These whitepapers are intended to help the field unpack the comprehensive report released in March 2022 and better understand the overall impact of the pandemic on different groups of students. Each month OLR will focus on a key finding or student group to explore in more detail and use existing literature to identify and propose key evidenced-based interventions intended to help those students combat the impact of lost instructional time and accelerate learning. The first blog post, Unpacking the COVID-19 Learning Loss Impact Analysis, can be found [here](#).

Committee Work

Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations: The term is from July 1, 2022, to June 20, 2024.

New Chair

Dianne Coffey

New Vice-Chair

Cynthia Daniels-Hall

2021-2022 Annual Report – Final report is due to Alexis by August 5, 2022, to send to the State Board for their September meeting.

Recommendations for the State Board for Unmet Needs

- Additional support/ funding to continue to provide extensive summer recovery programs to both EC and reg ed students
- Mental Health training on de-escalation, trauma-informed care, CPI, Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Emergency Action Plans: collaboration between emergency agencies and the school for those students that need extra attention during an emergency. More state oversight and guidance
- Ratio recommendations between related services/counselors to students
- Continue to emphasize funding for recruiting & retaining high-needs areas in the teaching field. Providing funding for those student teaching to keep in the teaching field.

Public Comments

A parent emailed the Council regarding her concern that there needs to be more training about disability rights to prevent violations. She feels that parents shouldn't have to rely on dispute resolution as the only means to correct errors with special needs children.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm.