

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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To: Selected Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Selected Coordinators, Charter Schools
Selected Institutions of Higher Education
North Carolina State Improvement Project Coordinators

From: Paula Crawford, Ed. D.
NC State Improvement Project Director

Date: March 17, 2016

RE: ANNOUNCING OPPORTUNITY: NC SIP REGIONAL COACHES

The North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP) is announcing an opportunity for current Reading and Math Foundations instructors to expand their influence as an NC SIP Regional Coach. These Regional Coaches will work closely with NC DPI EC Literacy and Mathematics Consultants to develop teaming structures to assist with active implementation of professional learning. There will be a limited number of instructors selected for this role. The goal is to strengthen the regional and state-level network and support for the sustainability and scalability of the work of NC SIP.

In an effort to build greater capacity at the local and regional levels, NC SIP seeks representation from each region. In April, information will be sent to currently certified and LEA employed Reading and Math Foundations instructors describing how to be considered for the NC SIP Regional Coach and responsibilities of the role. EC Directors and SIP Coordinators will be copied on this communication. As part of the selection process for NC SIP Regional Coaches, individuals will be required to submit LEA leadership endorsement and proof of support for their participation as a Regional Coach. The PRC 082 funds associated with LEAs selected to participate in the new 2016-2021 State Personnel Development Grant (NC SIP) cycle will have stipend codes in the chart of accounts to support the responsibilities of this role.

The first cohort of individuals selected will be expected to participate in the initial 2016 Reading and Math Foundations course revision release during the Summer Institute (Math and Reading, July 25-29 and additional days for Reading August 9-11) at UNC-Greensboro. For additional information about this opportunity, you may contact Dr. Paula Crawford at paula.crawford@dpi.nc.gov or (919) 807-3298.

CC

Elizabeth Gibbs
Laura Britt
Matt Hoskins
Melissa Towery
Melanie Sharpe
Doria Sullivan
Laura Marsden
Beth Gilchrist
Bill Hussey
Sherry Thomas

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

William J. Hussey, *Director* | bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (919) 807-3969 | Fax (919) 807-3243

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September 24, 2015

TO: Select Exceptional Children Directors and Charter Coordinators
NC SIP Coordinators and Instructors

FROM: Paula Crawford, Project Director
NC State Improvement Project

SUBJECT: Math and Reading Foundations Revision Timelines

Reading and Math Foundations courses will be revised during the 2015-2016 school year. The purpose of this document is to detail the timelines associated with the revisions and the implications for existing instructors as well as those individuals who are currently in the process of becoming instructors.

Timeline for Aspiring Instructors

For those *currently in the process* of becoming instructors, *the following activities must be completed by the dates below*:

Math Activity	Date	Reading Activity	Date
Instructor Assessment	11/20/15	Training of Instructors (TOI)	10/13 and 10/14/15 or April (TBD)
Observations and video reflection	3/31/16	Observations	6/30/16
Training of Instructors (TOI)	10/29/15 or 4/28/16		

Final Date for Foundations in Current Form

The final day to complete an LEA-level Foundations course in its current form is 6/30/16.

Recertification and Certification Process

As a result of the revision, a recertification process will be required for all current instructors as of 4/28/16 for math and 6/30/16 for reading. For those new instructors who **did not** meet these deadlines, the certification process will depend upon which requirements that had been completed. The varying requirements for the certification process in math and reading are detailed on the next page:

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Certification Process for Math and Reading

Instructor Process Status	Certification Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not attended Foundations • Completed Level 1 • Completed Levels 1 and 2 prior to 8/15/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete revised Foundations Level 1 with all learning tasks • Successfully complete revised Foundations Level 2 with all learning tasks (either Level 1 or 2 must be a state-level) • Complete a letter of intent • Pass instructor assessment • Attend a Trainer of Instructors (TOI) • Complete two NCDPI observations • Complete a video reflection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Level 2 between 8/16/14 and 6/30/16, but has not completed all requirements to become a certified instructor by 4/28/16 (math) or 6/30/16 (reading) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete revised Foundations with learning tasks for Levels 1 and 2 (state-level) • Complete a letter of intent • Pass instructor assessment • Attend a Trainer of Instructors (TOI) • Complete two NCDPI observations • Complete a video reflection

Recertification Process for Current Math and Reading Instructors

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors certified by 4/28/16 (math) or 6/30/16 (reading) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete requirements for revised Foundations
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Please direct any questions to Paula Crawford at paula.crawford@dpi.nc.gov or your regional literacy or math consultant.

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting high quality professional development to improve the provision of services to students with disabilities.

CC

Bill Hussey
 Elizabeth Gibbs
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 Doria Sullivan

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Selected Coordinators, Charter Schools
Selected Institutions of Higher Education
North Carolina State Improvement Project Coordinators

From: Paula Crawford, Ed. D.
NC State Improvement Project Director

Date: March 17, 2016

RE: LEA READING AND MATH FOUNDATIONS COURSES DURING SUMMER 2016

Decisions related to the cutoff dates for the current version of both Reading and Math Foundations were announced in the fall of 2015. These dates have also been shared this school year during the quarterly NC SIP Coordinator meetings in each region. On Friday, August 12, 2016 the current Reading and Math Foundations will be retired and replaced with significant 2016 course revisions currently under way. This is to safeguard fidelity of the new courses and be certain that there is a smooth transition between versions. Later this summer, a schedule will be provided to the LEAs for the state level regional roll out of the revised courses during 2016-17. Those initial offerings of Reading and Math Foundations will be conducted by the NC SIP Literacy and Math consultants in partnership with NC SIP Regional Coaches.

Careful consideration has been given to proactively address the timing of this transition between versions. Some of the NC SIP (PRC 082) spending plans submitted include the scheduling of summer 2016 LEA level Reading and Math Foundations. For those LEAs who plan to provide the courses this summer, it is required that the LEA and LEA instructor be responsible for informing participants *prior to registering* that individuals interested in becoming an instructor *will not be able to count the week toward the instructor certification process*. This information should be shared in advance of individuals registering and during the week so participants do not move forward under the impression that the LEA sessions provided at that time will count toward becoming an instructor.

Our goals in this request are to ensure that: 1) there is no confusion for those with the intent of becoming an instructor; 2) the PRC 082 funds are spent according to plan by September 30, 2016 during this period of the No Cost Extension; 3) we communicate the final date the current version of Reading and Math Foundations can be delivered. Please be proactive in providing participants who want to become instructors with this information before they plan to attend. If you have questions, you may contact Dr. Paula Crawford at paula.crawford@dpi.nc.gov or (919) 807-3298.

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October 9, 2015

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

From: William J. Hussey, Director ~~2015~~
Exceptional Children Division

Re: Special Education Scholarships for Children with Disabilities

Session Law 2015-248 revised several provisions in G.S. 115C, Article 9, Part 1H titled Special Education Scholarships for Children with Disabilities (see G.S. 115C-112.6, et. seq.). As you know, in 2013 the Special Education Scholarships for Children with Disabilities law created a scholarship program operated by the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) that provided grants from state funds to children with disabilities for reimbursement of tuition and related services.

Prior to S.L. 2015-248, G.S. 115C-112.6(c) directed the SEAA to ensure that a student with a disability who was given a scholarship was "reevaluated at least every three years by the local educational agency in order to verify that the student continues to be a child with a disability." G.S. 115C-112.9 further directed the State Board of Education to ensure that LEAs provide reevaluations to students with disabilities who were receiving a scholarship.

S.L. 2015-248 revised 115C-112.6 and 115C-112.9 as follows:

SECTION 10.(a) *G.S. 115C-112.6(c) reads as rewritten:*

"(c) ~~Student Reevaluation.~~ – Continuing Eligibility. – After an eligible student's initial receipt of a scholarship, the Authority shall ensure that the ~~student is reevaluated~~ student's continuing eligibility is assessed at least every three years by ~~the local educational agency in order to verify that the student continues to be a child with a disability~~ one of the following:

SECTION 10.(b) *G.S. 115C-112.9(2) reads as rewritten:*

"(2) Provide ~~reevaluations~~ assessments for continuing eligibility to identified children with disabilities receiving scholarships as provided in Part 1H of this Article at the request of the parent or guardian to ensure compliance with G.S. 115C-112.6(c)." Quote S.L. 2015-248 Sections 10.(a) and 10.(b)

As modified by S.L. 2015-248, 115C-112.6, together with 112.9, gives parents two options for verifying whether their child remains eligible for the scholarship.

(1) *The local educational agency. – The local school educational agency shall assess if the child continues to be a child with a disability and verify the outcome on a form to be provided to the Authority.*

(2) *A licensed psychologist with a school psychology focus. – The psychologist shall assess, after review of appropriate medical and educational records, if the education and*

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related services received by the student in the nonpublic school setting have improved the child's educational performance and if the student would continue to benefit from placement in the nonpublic school setting. The psychologist shall verify the outcome of the assessment on a form to be provided to the Authority."

Most importantly, S.L. 2015-248 does not change an LEA or Charter School's obligation for Child Find and special education reevaluation under federal IDEA law. The assessments described in S.L. 2015-248 above relate to eligibility for the Special Education Scholarships program only.

If you have any questions regarding LEA reevaluation responsibilities under federal law for IDEA, please contact William Hussey (bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov / 919 807-3971) or Sherry Thomas (sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov / 919 807-3992).

C William Hussey
Sherry Thomas