



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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April 10, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Directors, Charter Schools  
Programs Serving Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness

FROM: Mary N. Watson, Director  
Exceptional Children Division

RE: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Families/Teachers of Deaf-Blind  
June 22-25, 2012

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Families/Teachers of Deaf-Blindness at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro on June 22-25, 2012. The conference will address innovative techniques and approaches to educating students with deaf-blindness. National and local experts in the field of Deaf-Blind Education will present on selected topics.

Please duplicate and share this information with the family of any child that meets the criteria for Deaf-Blind (i.e., between the ages of birth and twenty-two who has a vision and a hearing impairment). We encourage the team working with the child who has Deaf-Blindness to participate in the conference as well. The team approach will strengthen relationships, assist with communication, and encourage cooperation to achieve common goals. A team member may attend even if the family is not able to attend. **The teacher will receive renewal licensure credit for participating.** This invitation is also extended to the Exceptional Children Director and related service personnel serving any student who is Deaf-Blind.

This conference is a benefit provided under the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Project Grant. It is provided to the family and team members at no cost. Meals and accommodations will be provided. Transportation will be the responsibility of the participants.

Conference registration forms are enclosed. **The deadline for registration is May 18, 2012.** This conference is designed to meet the needs of the family and the professional. Due to strict federal regulations, only immediate family members and approved service providers will be sponsored to attend unless special arrangements (e.g., nursing care, etc.) have been approved by the conference coordinator. **Also, due to fiscal constraints, no sibling over the age of 14 may attend the conference.**

### EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Mary N. Watson, *Director* | [Mary.Watson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Mary.Watson@dpi.nc.gov)

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

We have had an excellent response to this conference over the years and space is limited. We hope to be able to accommodate all registrants but there is no guarantee. Please encourage families and service providers to register early. The family and service provider registration forms should be submitted together. Priority will be given to those families who are bringing the classroom teacher but all families and teachers are invited to attend.

***NOTE: Families are encouraged to bring one person to provide their childcare. If this is a hardship, contact Claire Greer to inquire about available options. We will provide childcare for any family who needs it. We do not want anyone to miss this conference because of childcare issues. The family's designated childcare provider must be someone other than the parents. Parents are expected to attend all sessions. The designated childcare provider MUST take full responsibility for the child(ren). There will be organized activities for the children and an indoor pool will be available. The childcare provider will stay in the same hotel unit with the family unless special arrangements have been made with the conference Chairperson.***

Please contact Claire Greer (919-807-4036, [claire.greer@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:claire.greer@dpi.nc.gov)), Deaf-Blind Project Coordinator, Chris Jones (919/807-3991 or [chris.jones@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:chris.jones@dpi.nc.gov)), Consultant for Deaf-Blind, or Dorothy Snyder (919/807-3888 or [dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov)), Educational Consultant if you have any questions about the conference or eligibility. We look forward to another successful conference and hope you and the eligible families and teachers in your LEA or program will be able to participate.

Enclosures