

Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children

NC State Advisory Panel to the State Board of Education

2016 - 17 ANNUAL REPORT

Leanna George, Chairperson
Vicki Simmons, Vice Chairperson

Staff support provided by the
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Exceptional Children Division

William J. Hussey, Director

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children Division

The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (CESEC) is established in accordance with Section 300.167-300.169 of the federal regulations, Section 1412(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA 2004) and Section 115C-121.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes as the State Advisory Panel to the State Board of Education.

The purpose of the Council is to:

- Advise the Board of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on rules and regulations proposed by the Board regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the Board in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the United States Secretary of Education as required by IDEA;
- Advise the Board in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports required by IDEA;
- Assist the Board in developing and implementing policies related to the coordination of services for students with disabilities; and
- Carry out any other responsibilities as designated by federal law or the State Board of Education.

Membership

The Council shall consist of a minimum of 24 members. Currently, the Council consists of 25 members - 20 appointees and 5 ex-officio.

Members are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the State Board of Education. Appointees represent individuals with disabilities from the ranks of parents, teachers, higher education, public and private schools, business/vocational community, and charter schools. A majority of representatives shall be persons with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

The term of appointment for members appointed by the State Board of Education is four years. All other terms are two years. The current membership of the Council includes the following people.

Leanna George	Jennifer Grady
Cynthia Daniels-Hall	Heather A. Grant
Katie Holler	Tim Montgomery
Elena Roberts	Senator Chad Barefoot
Jennine Vlasaty	Teresa Mebane
Vicki Simmons	Representative Dennis Riddell
Jennifer DeGen	Laura Hall
Gina Smith	*William J Hussey
Greg Singleton	*Carla McNeil
Dr. Dale Carpenter	*Jason Vogler
Susan Humbert	*Rickey Smith
Mary LaCorte	*O. Martin Pharr Lisa Phillips

(*) denotes Ex Officio Member

Meetings

The Council meets four times a year. During the 2016-2017 year, meetings were held on September 14, 2016; December 7, 2016; March 15, 2017; and June 14, 2017. The Council received an orientation and training on June 13, 2017, from Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education.

For the 2016-2017 school year, presentations were made by NC Dept. of Public Instruction staff, as well as other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Topics Include:

- New items in the Policy, Monitoring and Audit Section of the Exceptional Children Division
- Local Education Agency (LEA) interest in parent liaison positions / parent councils within LEAs
- Dispute Resolution Reports
- Agency Updates
- State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report
- Medicaid Reform and possible impact on education
- EC Funding
- Interventions for populations of interest – Autism

Council Actions:

- Participated in the School Mental Health Initiative
- Provided input regarding cell size in determining significant disproportionality
- Advised that smaller, rural counties may not be aware of Autism training that is available
- Invited the new Superintendent to introduce himself to the Council, which he did at the June 14, 2017, meeting.

Unique Opportunities:

- Implemented Public Comment at Council meetings

Plans for the future:

- Increase awareness of the Council among stakeholders

Committees

The Council completes much of its work in four (4) subcommittees:
Executive, Unmet Needs, Reports & Data, and Policies & Procedures.

Executive Committee - Leanna George, Chairperson

- Set meeting agendas
- Discussed strategies to address unexpected concerns during meetings
- Drafted the Annual Report

Unmet Needs - Interim, Chair

- Determine topics for Council action relative to unmet needs of students with disabilities
- Established priorities for the committee
- Continued efforts to increase opportunities for public input to the Council
- Developed a data tool for categorization of Public Comments

Reports & Data - Cynthia Daniels-Hall, Chair

- Advised the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- Reviewed data and advised on annual reports as needed
- Created a template for committee work

Policies & Procedures - Interim, Chair

- Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the SEA regarding the education of students with disabilities
- Advised the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for students with disabilities
- Review and revise the Council's by-laws

2016 - 2017 Membership - Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children

Name	Role	State Board District	Term 1st / 2nd	Membership Status
State Board of Education Appointments				
Leanna George	Parent	3	1	Ongoing
Cynthia Daniels-Hall	Parent	3	1	Ongoing
Katie Holler	Parent	1	1	Ongoing
Jennine Vlasaty	Parent	3	1	Ongoing
Diane Coffey	Parent	7	1	New
Leslie Sellers	Parent	4	1	New
Elena Roberts	Parent	4	1	Resigned - Military Orders
Vicki Simmons	Special Education Teacher	5	2	Ongoing
Jennifer DeGen	Special Education Teacher	6	1	Ongoing
Gina Smith	LEA	6	1	Ongoing
Greg Singleton	LEA	1	1	Ongoing
Dr. Dale Carpenter	Higher Education	8	1	Ongoing
Susan Humbert	Charter Schools	6	2	Term Ended
Christy Hutchinson	Charter Schools	6	1	New
Mary LaCorte	Parent Training Information Center	6	2	Ongoing
Lisa Phillips	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	5	2	Ongoing
Jennifer Grady	Voc. Comm.	3	1	Ongoing
2 Year Appointments - Executive				
Heather A. Grant	Individual with a Disability	3	2	Ongoing
Tim Montgomery	Private School Representative	3	2	Ongoing
2 Year Appointments - Legislative				
Senator Chad Barefoot	Senator	3	2	Term Ended

Parent of a Child with a Disability	Teresa Mebane	2	2	Ongoing
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Name	Role	State Board District	Term 1st / 2nd	Membership Status
Dennis Riddell	Representative	5	1	Term Ended
Parent of a Child with A Disability	Laura Hall	6	1	Resigned
State Agency Representatives				
William J. Hussey	DPI			
Carla McNeil	DHHS Child Welfare			
Jason Vogler	DHHS Mental Health			
Rickey Smith	DOC			
O. Martin Pharr	DJJ			