



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Coordinators, Charter Schools
Coordinators, North Carolina State Improvement Project

From: William J. Hussey, Director *WJH*
Exceptional Children Division

Date: March 16, 2017

RE: Dyslexia Capacity Building Application

Students identified with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) comprise the largest group of students with disabilities in North Carolina. The majority of these students have a learning disability in reading and spend the majority of their day in general education classrooms. Of these, a word level reading disability, synonymous with dyslexia, is the most prevalent.

In recognition of the need to increase the capacity of North Carolina Public School educators to identify and educate students experiencing core difficulty with word recognition, fluency, spelling and writing (referred to as dyslexia), 32 Dyslexia Delegates engaged in a two-day professional learning last summer. This first cohort of trainers are now certified to provide a full day training on dyslexia.

To continue expanding our capacity, the NC Department of Public Instruction's (NC DPI) Exceptional Children Division is extending an invitation to currently certified and employed Reading Research to Classroom Practice instructors to submit an application to attend the Dyslexia Capacity Building two-day training during the 2017 Exceptional Children Summer Institute.

The benefits to the LEA employing a selected and certified trainer is increased capacity to accomplish the following:

- Identify needed research-based practices and/or instructional methods to increase the percentage of students who respond to core instruction alone
- Improve outcomes for students with dyslexia receiving supplemental and intensive intervention
- Identify and intervene early with students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia
- Facilitate collaborative communication with parents and other community stakeholders around the topic of dyslexia.

Please find attached a document describing the commitments of the LEA and the selected trainers in further detail. All interested applicants should complete the attached application in full. The application must be received at NC DPI by Friday, May 5, 2017. Applications received after that date may not be considered. The application must be signed by the Exceptional Children Director, and/or the applicant's immediate supervisor. All applications will be reviewed by NC DPI staff and applicants will be notified by June 2, 2017 of their acceptance.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

For questions, please contact Lynne Loeser at lynne.loeser@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3980.

WJH/DM/LL

CC: Paula Crawford, Section Chief, Program Improvement & Professional Development
Reading Foundation Instructors

Attachments: LEA Dyslexia Capacity Building Application
Dyslexia Capacity Building Proposal