



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Preschool Coordinators, Exceptional Children Programs

FROM: William Hussey, Exceptional Children Division *WH*
John R. Pruette, Office of Early Learning *JRP*

DATE: February 3, 2017

DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS AND THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (LRE)

Attached is a letter from the Office of Special Education Programs in the US Department of Education clarifying previous information issued by the Department on the applicability of LRE requirements to preschool children with disabilities. Specifically addressed are: Key Statutory and Regulatory Requirements, Preschool Placement Options, Reporting Educational Environments Data for Preschool Children with Disabilities, and Use of IDEA Part B Funds for Preschool Children with Disabilities.

Information about this memo, and the Preschool Least Restrictive Environment data displays for each of North Carolina's Local Education Agencies for 2015-16 will be held on Friday, February 24, 2017 (see information below)

Preschool Coordinators Data Webinar: LRE Educational Environments, will be held on Friday, February 24, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. You may register to attend at https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bxA9k1D9AkuFIhv

For those that cannot attend during the morning hours, this webinar will be repeated on Friday, February 24, 2017 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. You may register to attend this timeslot at https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ycSTAwQ0jUwQ2p

If you have any questions about the content of this memo, please contact Dr. Vivian James at 919-218-8485 or write her at Vivian.james@dpi.nc.gov. Questions regarding registration for the webinar may be directed to Matt Coy at 919-962-7300 or matt.coy@unc.edu.

VKJ/TR/ws

C: Sherry Thomas
Kelly Pleasant

Tracy Riddle
Robin Rooney

Vivian James

Attachment

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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