



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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February 20, 2017

To: Directors/Coordinators
Exceptional Children Programs

From: Director William J. Hussey *WJH*
Assistant Director Sherry H. Thomas *SH*

Re: **Exceptional Children Accountability Tracking System (ECATS)**

The Exceptional Children Division (ECD) is excited to announce that ECATS is a fully executed contract. The vendor is Professional Consulting Group (PCG) and initial conversations have begun concerning implementation. This has been a long and arduous process but the plan agreed upon will be beneficial to everyone. In conversations on Friday with PCG and ECD, both sides are excited about the opportunity and see this as a real chance to provide a single and efficient exceptional children reporting system. As a quick reminder, PCG is the sole vendor for EC paperwork and all LEAs and Charter Schools will report through PCG. MTSS and Medicaid modules are included. However, the MTSS and Medicaid modules are not State required and may be purchased through another provider, using the chosen provider's system to gather and process data.

The EC Division's goal is to be ready to fully implement in January 2018 with a backup plan of August 2018. You will be kept in the loop as things progress. The first big step is to work with PCG to get the new EC forms into the PCG system. This will take some time and in that timeframe, the ECD will work with PCG to develop a comprehensive joint training plan. This will ensure all LEAs and Charter Schools have an understanding of the system and the reports that can be generated and used.

The March Institute will provide LEAs and Charter Schools with an initial look at the changes in the forms and the impact of the changes on planning, development and implementation of the IEP. This review of the changes will prepare everyone for the integration of the new IEP process into the workings of the PCG system. This integration of the IEP process and the workings of the new PCG system will be the primary beginning focus. It is the ECD's hope that PCG will be at the March Institute and that we will be able to share some basic information with you at that time.

The ECD has mentioned before that we will need some LEAs and Charter Schools to help in the rollout of the new system, both present PCG users and CECAS users. The ECD would like to hear from those who are interested and we will choose from those willing to experiment for the good of the whole. As previously stated, the goal is to have enough volunteers to keep any one LEA from being overworked.

This is truly exciting, setting off on a new endeavor and the ECD looks forward to working with PCG to develop the whole ECATS model; EC paperwork and reporting, MTSS, and Medicaid as an efficient, time saving system that helps each LEA and Charter School improve outcomes for all our students.

If there are questions or you would like to volunteer, please contact Bill Hussey (bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov / 919 807-3970) or Sherry Thomas (sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov / 919 807-3992).

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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