



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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DATE: April 17, 2017

TO: Exceptional Children Directors
Exceptional Children Preschool Coordinators

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director, Exceptional Children Division *WJH*
John R. Pruette, Director, Office of Early Learning *JRP*
Vivian K. James, Program Administrator & 619 Coordinator, Office of Early Learning *VKJ*

RE: **Identifying School System Needs- Early Learning Sensory Support Survey**

The North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program (ELSSP) is administered by the Office of Early Learning and collaborates with the Exceptional Children Division and the Infant Toddler Program (IDEA Part C) in the Division of Health and Human Services. We serve over 800 children annually with vision and hearing impairments for children who are ages birth through five, with most children being under the age of 3. To develop a strategic plan to support Local Education Agencies (LEAs) who are responsible for serving children three through five years of age, we ask that you and pertinent staff complete the survey (see, link below) by April 30, 2017.

The intent is to identify areas of the state that lack staffing resources needed to appropriately serve this population of children so that the ELSSP can strategically plan to offer the provision of direct services at a reduced cost. This process is being piloted with a select few LEAs during this school year, and was developed with LEA stakeholder input and fiscal cost modeling. Another goal of the survey is to identify professional development needs that are specific to enabling existing LEA staff on topics relevant to young children with vision and hearing impairments. We will work collaboratively with the Sensory Support Section in the Exceptional Children Division to provide this support in the future.

Please share this survey link with your preschool staff, teachers of the visually impaired, hearing impaired, and other relevant staff: https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5jdVWR406uPQCY1

c: Sherry Thomas
Sherri Vernelson
Tracy Riddle
Bethany Mayo
Ruth Anne Everett

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

John R. Pruette, M.Ed., Executive Director

2075 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2075 || (919) 807-3424 | Fax (919) 855-6841

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