



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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To: Directors/Coordinators/Lead Administrators, Exceptional Children Programs
Members, Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children

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

Reference: Action Requested: Family Engagement – Parent Involvement

The Exceptional Children Division, in an effort to support the Local Education Agency Self-Assessment (LEA-SA) process, would like to establish a variety of technical assistance opportunities focusing on Core Element Six - Communication and Collaboration. The EC Division would like to support a specific Core Element Six strategy; the “LEA facilitates meaningful parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.”

At the state level, evidence of the commitment to this core element has been demonstrated by establishing a Parent Liaison position within the EC Division. Ms. Heather Ouzts currently serves in this role. Key accomplishments for 2015-2016 include the revision of the Parent Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education – Notice of Procedural Safeguards; Special Education Surrogate Parent resource and training materials; initiation of the EC Language Access Plan; and collaboration with a variety of stakeholder groups focused on meaningful outcomes for children with disabilities.

In order to support this core element at the local level, the next steps include:

- Replicating the Parent Liaison role at the local level;
- Assisting in the development of parent advisory councils;
- Establishing a statewide network of parent liaisons; and
- Providing technical assistance through customized training opportunities.

To facilitate the implementation of these next steps, participation in a short, five-minute survey is requested.

The purpose of the survey is to identify LEAs who wish to initiate the development and implementation of a parent liaison role and/or parent advisory council. Information from this survey paired with a review of the needs documented within the Improvement Plan of the LEA Self-Assessment will determine the LEAs invited to participate in this cohort. The survey can be accessed by following the link below. The link will be active until September 9, 2016.

<https://goo.gl/forms/8S2DIC9ciaG7I4C62>

Additionally, one of the first customized training opportunities focused on family engagement will be offered as an Institute during the annual Conference for Exceptional Children. The Institute will be held on November 8, 2016. Participants may register through the conference links on the EC Division website.

We look forward to these collaborative opportunities. For additional information, you may contact Heather Ouzts at Heather.Ouzts@dpi.nc.gov.

WJH/CAH/ho

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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