PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Program
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: William, J. Hussey, Director
Exceptional Children Division

DATE: September 15, 2017

RE: Assistive Technology Regional Professional Development

The NC Department of Public Instruction's Exceptional Children Division along with the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill invites participants to attend the **Improving Communication and Productivity for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other Developmental Disabilities: AAC/AT in the Classroom and Community** professional development workshop.

Effective communication is critical for individuals to achieve independence and be productive in the classroom and community. For students with ASD, communication can be particularly challenging and impact academic, behavioral, adaptive and social functioning. Assistive Technology (AT), specifically augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), may enhance and improve the communication abilities of students with ASD.

This workshop will introduce participants to AAC/AT strategies, systems and tools that may be easily and effectively integrated into the classroom and community by general/regular education teachers, related services personnel and families. Specific focus will be on the use of AAC/AT to improve reading and writing productivity, access to materials and curriculum, behavior and instructional techniques that incorporate practical AAC/AT strategies. The importance of modeling the use of communication supports and full integration into the classroom will be emphasized; participants will have time to practice these skills and learn to use them interactively with their students. Ideas for structuring the classroom environment and implementing AAC/AT with all ages, grade levels and abilities will be shared as well as suggestions for collecting data and writing measurable goals.

Presenters for this professional development will be Sue Porr, Debbie Reinhartsen, Becky Pretzel and Patricia Byers. Each workshop will start at 8:30a.m. and end at 4:00p.m. Participants will earn 6 contact hours. Please follow select one of the links below to register.

- November 2, 2017 Asheville, NC http://tinyurl.com/yd6baq76
- November 3, 2017 Winston-Salem, NC http://tinyurl.com/ycmtttk2
- November 30, 2017 Rocky Mount, NC http://tinyurl.com/y7f5kvdk
- December 1, 2017 Lillington, NC http://tinyurl.com/y73owyln

For additional information or questions, please email Dottie Snyder (NC DPI) at dottie.snyder@dpi.nc.gov or Becky Edmondson (CIDD) at becky.edmondson@cidd.unc.edu.

WJH/DM/ap

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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