



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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TO: Superintendents  
Exceptional Children Directors  
State-operated Programs

FROM: Dr. Pamela Shue, Deputy State Superintendent of Early Education *PSh*  
Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent for District Support *MPM*  
Sherry H. Thomas, Director, Exceptional Children Division *SH*  
Dan Tetreault, Interim Director, Office of Early Learning *DT*

## EARLY LEARNING SENSORY SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR VISUAL AND HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

The Office of Early Learning and the Exceptional Children Division are pleased to announce the transition of the Early Learning Sensory Support Programs (ELSSP) for Vision and Hearing Impairment to the Sensory Support and Assistive Technology Section within the Exceptional Children Division. These programs support children birth to age three with sensory impairments of vision or hearing loss or both, and their families, through the Part C Infant-Toddler Program. Through special assurances and on a case-by-case basis, these programs may also support LEAs for these students up to age five.

Housing the Early Learning Sensory Support Programs under the Exceptional Children Division supports Agency alignment efforts of programs and supports to LEAs. While this move supports alignment, there will be no impact or changes to current services.

Questions regarding these programs may be directed to the following people:

Sherri Vernelson, Section Chief [sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov)  
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The Agency is excited about this transition and looks forward to the continued and uninterrupted support of children, families, and LEAs the Early Learning Sensory Support Programs provide.

c: Mark Johnson

### OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF DISTRICT SUPPORT

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