



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

**FROM:** Sherry H. Thomas, Director

**DATE:** October 3, 2019

### EFFECTIVE MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, previously known as Significant Cognitive Disability Foundations of Math, will establish and implement professional learning and program support services to meaningfully improve the performance and success of students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) in North Carolina.

In order to support the implementation of the course's content, we have restructured the course to require Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to send teams of three to the professional learning. The team must include one member that is able to support instructional practices for teachers of the Extended Content Standards with time in their schedule for follow-up coaching. The other two members should be teachers of the Extended Content Standards in Mathematics. If your LEA does not have a three-person team, neighboring systems can partner to create a team. Please be mindful of the need for flexibility in work schedules that allow time for follow up and coaching after attending the professional development.

Students with SCD are those students accessing the general curriculum through the Extended Content Standards. There is clear research evidence supporting that most students with SCD can communicate, read and write, as well as demonstrate math skills when research validated instructional and learning techniques are effectively employed. The goals of the Effective Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities professional development are:

1. To help professionals recognize mathematical development in typically developing students and students with significant cognitive disabilities.
2. To address the components of the North Carolina Extended Content Standards as they relate to mathematical learning for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.
3. To introduce theoretical models and processes of mathematics and their relationship to students with significant cognitive disabilities.
4. To help professionals collect and use data to organize, plan, and set goals, and use a variety of assessment data throughout the year to evaluate progress.

#### EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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5. To familiarize participants with a range of technologies, a variety of materials, and classroom modifications that support mathematics learning and used by students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.
6. To share a range of resources and strategies for continuing self-education as well as parent and professional support.
7. To develop a coaching/support plan to ensure implementation of effective instructional practices for mathematics within the classroom.

The training for this course will be a blended model of adult learning which includes four face-to-face days (24 hours) and online reading and activities (16 hours) completed before, during, and after the training. Participants will be expected to attend all face to face days and successfully complete assignments in order to receive 4.0 CEUs. No partial credit will be given.

In order to support LEAs, the Exceptional Children Division will reimburse travel expenses for three people per district to attend this training. Reimbursement may include hotel, meals and mileage at state rates. It does not include substitute pay. Hotel expenses will only be reimbursed if the individual lives more than 35 miles from the training site. Meals will only be reimbursed if there is an overnight stay. Space is limited to only 30 participants (only 1 team per LEA) on a first come basis. All registration will be handled electronically.

**Please make sure those attending are the people who register. Training materials are sent electronically to the email address listed at registration.**

Date	Location	Registration Link
November 6, 7 and December 17 and 18, 2019	Grady P. Swisher Center 1108 Swisher Center Rd. Kernersville, NC	<a href="https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cXINgb aW10bfkp">https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cXINgb aW10bfkp</a>
January 6, 7 and February 5 and 6, 2020	Wake County TBD	<a href="https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_01kxA2Z 6r57zFE9">https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_01kxA2Z 6r57zFE9</a>

Questions regarding this professional development may be directed to Matthew Martinez at [matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:matthew.martinez@dpi.nc.gov) or 919-807-4192 or Ginger Cash at [ginger.cash@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ginger.cash@dpi.nc.gov) or 919-807-4196.