

Exceptional Children Information for Parents



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 16, 2021

Exceptional Children Parent Survey

Research shows students reach higher levels of achievement when families are actively involved in the education system. As a parent, family member, or guardian of a student with a disability, you know firsthand what is working and what is not. Therefore, each year the Exceptional Children Division gathers feedback from families through a survey. The five largest local educational agencies (LEAs) and select LEAs across the state are provided this survey to pass along to families within their district.

Filling out the survey is completely voluntary. You will not be asked to provide your name or other personally identifiable information. The information is confidential, and we will not share it with anyone. The information from all families will be compiled to create a report about your school system, the state, the efforts to involve families in their children's education and the impact of that involvement on educational results for students with disabilities.

The survey has already been sent from the EC Division to LEAs for distribution to their families. If your LEA is listed below and you have not received communication regarding this survey, please reach out to your local [EC director](#).

Avery County	Francine Delany New School	Quest Academy
American Renaissance Middle	Grandfather Academy	Randolph County
Arapahoe Charter	Guilford County	River Mill Academy
Brevard Academy	Harnett County	Scotland County
Bridges Charter	Henderson Collegiate	Stanly County
Buncombe County	Hertford County	Sugar Creek Charter
Cabarrus County	Hickory City	The Learning Center
Caldwell County	Invest Collegiate - Imagine	Thomas Academy
CG Woodson School of Challenge	Jones County	Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy
Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Lake Lure Classical Academy	Torchlight Academy
Chatham County	Longleaf School of the Arts	Union Academy
Clay County	Mooreville Graded	Vance Charter
Columbus Charter School	Mountain Island Charter	Vance County
Community School of Davidson	Neuse Charter	Wake County
Cornerstone Charter Academy	Orange Charter	Watauga County
Craven County	Orange County	Wilkes County
Cumberland County	Perquimans County	Willow Oak Montessori
Durham County	Quality Education Academy	Winston-Salem Forsyth County
Edgecombe County	Queen's Grant Community	

Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
 - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
 - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

Upcoming Events

- Arc of the Triangle [Events](#)
- Autism Society [Workshops](#)
- Autism Speaks [Information Topics](#)
- CADRE [Parent Resources](#)
- ECAC [Events & Recorded Webinars](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](#)
- NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](#)
- Special Olympics NC [Events](#)



[Bradley Tepper](#) from Conover, NC won the 2021 Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Scholarship Award for demonstrating attributes such as determination, perseverance, dedication, confidence, and motivation.

You can find previous newsletters in the Parent Newsletter google folder at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ECParentNewsletters>

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison
Exceptional Children Division, NC DPI
Email: alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov





For immediate release
Oct. 15, 2021

Webinar Series Aims to Help Families Prepare for Learning Anywhere

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction invites parents and guardians to attend a free webinar this month in a series focusing on how to support their child's learning, no matter the setting and regardless of potential disruptions to learning.

The webinar is part a new initiative, Rethink Education, supported by a \$17.6 million federal grant, to help districts across the state prepare for any short- or long-term learning disruptions by developing plans tailored to the specific needs of their school communities. These partnerships are focused on improving blended learning, which combines face-to-face and online instruction, access and content for students in grades K-8. Rethink Education is creating resources for rural and under-resourced communities as well as tools for families to support their children's learning.

As parents have assumed larger roles in their children's learning since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work carried out by Rethink Education is all the more important. When parents were asked by an Education Week survey last year to provide their perspectives on their preparation to support their child's learning, a majority (53%) said they felt at least somewhat prepared to support their own children's learning, but only one-quarter felt extremely or very prepared. One-third believed they were at least somewhat unprepared.

Launching this month, the webinar series' first session, "Creating an At-Home Learning Environment," will provide families with practical advice on how to create spaces at home that are safe and comfortable for student learning. The webinar will be available in both English and Spanish.

Melissa Davis, director of NCDPI's Rethink Education program, said the webinars are designed to share timely advice with families that are adapting to new ways of learning, starting with creating spaces that support and encourage learning.

"Where students learn can affect how they think, feel, and act," Davis said, "and that's why we're dedicating our first webinar to creating at-home learning environments."

Join the Rethink Education team to discuss important tips to help North Carolina parents and guardians create the best learning environment at home.

Thursday, Oct. 21, 7 to 7:45 p.m.

Creating an At-Home Learning Environment

Speaker: Amber Garvey

Sign up [here](#)

Monday, Oct. 25, 7 to 7:45 p.m.

Crear un Ambiente de Aprendizaje en Casa

Speaker: Rachel Wright Junio

Sign up [here](#)

Learn more about Rethink Education at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/Rethink Education>.