



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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July 12, 2012

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Division
Directors, Charter School
State-Operated Programs

From: Mary N. Watson, Director *MNW*
Exceptional Children Division

Subject: Future Ready Occupational Course of Study (FR-OCS)
Paid Employment Waiver Continued

On October 7, 2010, the North Carolina State Board of Education granted a waiver, amending the paid employment graduation requirement for students graduating in the 2010-11 and the 2011-12 school years. This waiver allowed students to substitute 360 hours of additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internships, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities and volunteer and/or community service hours for the required 360 hours of competitive employment as part of graduation requirements.

The economic situation has continued to make it extremely difficult for students enrolled in the FR-OCS program to obtain the required 360 hours of competitive employment to meet graduation requirements. As a result, on July 11, 2012, the North Carolina State Board of Education voted to continue the waiver allowing 360 hours of additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internships, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities and volunteer and/or community services hours to be substituted for the 360 hours of competitive employment required to meet graduation requirements for the 2012-13 school year.

This continued waiver means that students in the FR-OCS will still be required to complete a total of 900 hours of vocational training and/or employment in order to receive a North Carolina Diploma. All employment, unpaid vocational training hours, internship hours, volunteer and/or community service hours will be conducted in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and applicable state and federal child labor laws. In addition, LEAs continue to be required to maintain documentation of their attempts to help the student secure paid employment through referrals to the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for the Blind, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded youth employment programs and other appropriate adult employment service agencies. Evidence of interagency collaboration and referrals(s) must be documented on the student's transition component of their IEP.

Questions regarding this continued waiver may be addressed to Sherry Abernethy at 919-807-3920 or sherry.abernethy@dpi.nc.gov.

MNW/SHA/ms

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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