

Parent and Family Updates

[Exceptional Children | NC DPI](#)

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Office of Exceptional Children website contains resources for parents, teachers, and administrators.

December 2024

Family Resource: Technical Assistance Centers

The U.S. Department of Education's [Office of Special Education Programs](#) (OSEP) funds technical assistance centers to support the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by state and local education agencies and to provide technical assistance to ensure the needs of children with disabilities and their families are met. They provide training and resources to support school professionals, families, and students.

The [Center for Parent Information & Resources](#) (CPIR) supports parents and families of students with disabilities, students with disabilities, and the national network of state Parent Training and Information Centers, including North Carolina's [Exceptional Children's Assistance Center](#) (ECAC). CPIR's website includes a resource library of articles, fact sheets, training materials, webinars, videos, and information about early childhood learning.

The [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) (ECTA) supports state implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and services for preschool children with disabilities. Parents and families can find information about developmental milestones and the importance of participating in their child's learning.

The [Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education](#) (CADRE) offers:

- communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school;
- asynchronous training videos that provide families and educators strategies for working together and through difficult conversations;

- parent guides for the IDEA Part B dispute resolution options with companion videos and a dispute resolution comparison chart;
- Guiding Principles of Collaborative Advocacy;
- information about parent and family engagement; and
- “Your Journey to Self-determination,” a series of videos that introduces key concepts and skills needed to support students in becoming self-determined and engaging in one’s educational journey.

STEM Program Opportunity

NC State University is hosting an open house in January 2025 for the Catalyst program, a free international and national Award-winning STEM program for students with disabilities interested in STEM careers. Participating students must:

- be rising 9-12 grade students for the 2025-2026 School Year;
- have a documented disability, Individualized Education Program (IEP), or 504 Plan; and
- participate in regular education, honors, advanced placement, and/or college-level classes, or the Occupational Course of Study Program.

Participants must complete the [registration form](#) to attend open house. More information can be found on the [Catalyst Program flyer](#).

Agencies of Interest:

[Office of Special Education Programs \(U.S. Department of Education\)](#)
[N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)

Upcoming events:

[Autism Society of North Carolina](#)

[Autism Speaks](#)

[The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education](#)

[Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center](#)

[Family Support Network](#)

[National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

[NC ABLE](#)

[NC Down Syndrome Alliance](#)

[Special Olympics North Carolina](#)

Triangle Disability & Autism Services

Do you have an event you would like to share with the community? Please email with information.

Contact information:

Johanna Lynch, Parent Liaison

Office of Exceptional Children, NCDPI

Email: johanna.lynch@dpi.nc.gov

Historical Newsletters can be found in the [Parent Newsletter Google Folder](#)