



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.

February 2025

Spotlight: Autism Society of North Carolina

The [Autism Society of North Carolina](#) (ASNC) provides services and resources to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. These include:

- Autism Resource Specialists, all of whom are parents of children or adults with autism, are trained professionals who support parents/guardians of children and adults with autism;
- virtual workshops that address diagnosis, how autism may affect a child, options that may help a child, and resources to support families;
- resources for younger children and school-age children, including information related to school services;
- a network of support groups across the state;
- an annual conference and summer camp;
- information related to insurance coverage and the Innovations Waiver Waitlist; and
- information about appropriate treatments and interventions.

ASNC has been working with families since 1970 and focused on advocacy for clinical services, family support, educational opportunities, and policy changes that would recognize autism as a developmental disability. The summer camp program was developed that same year.

The 2024-2025 Exceptional Children Parent Survey

Research shows students reach higher levels of achievement when parents are actively involved in their children's education. 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 Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) gathers feedback from families through the survey to improve services.

In previous years, the OEC used the sampling method to collect this feedback and provided the survey to the five largest Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and select LEAs across the state. Based on stakeholder feedback, the OEC has moved to a census model and has shared the parent survey with all LEAs in the state. This allows every parent in the state to share their views on how their school involves them in their child's education.

The survey will be available to complete from January 6, 2025, to June 30, 2025.

If you have more than one child with a disability receiving services, you may complete the survey for each child. The survey is open to parents with children from preschool through high school.

Completing the survey is voluntary. You will not be asked to provide your name or other personally identifiable information. The information is confidential and will not be shared 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 report is shared with LEAs so they can make improvements. We hope you will participate.

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

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