



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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March 20, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Directors, Charter Schools

FROM: Mary N. Watson, Director
Exceptional Children Division

SUBJECT: State Improvement Project
Reading/Writing and Math Site Application

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to notify you that we are requesting applications to participate in our State Personnel Development Grant (referred to as the State Improvement Project). This grant has provided personnel development, since 2000, that has resulted in significant gains in performance for students with disabilities.

This memo serves as an invitation to submit an application for participation as a reading/writing and/or math site. The invitation is extended to all public school Exceptional Children Programs that are **not** currently involved as a reading/writing or math center/site as part of the North Carolina State Personnel Development Grant (NC SIP).

The purpose of the North Carolina State Personnel Development Grant (NC SIP) is to establish and implement staff development and program support services to significantly improve the performance and success of students with disabilities in North Carolina. The five major goals of the NC SIP are:

- Improve basic skills performance for students with disabilities
- Increase the percentage of qualified teachers of students with disabilities
- Increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates of students with disabilities
- Improve parent satisfaction with, and support of, school services for students with disabilities
- Improve the quality of teachers' instructional competencies to impact on students' basic skills performance.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Mary N. Watson, Director

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Currently there are seventy-eight LEAs (including 3 Charter Schools and 2 State Operated Programs) with established reading/writing sites/centers and forty-one LEAs with established math sites/centers. More information about NC SIP and the Best Practice Sites/Centers can be found on the web at <http://www.ncsip.org>.

Through this application procedure NC SIP seeks to expand the number of Best Practice Reading/Writing and Math sites. The new sites will be expected to apply research validated instructional strategies for teaching reading and writing and/or math to improve the basic skills performance of students with disabilities. A separate application must be submitted for LEAs applying for both a reading/writing and math grant.

Requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to:

1. Develop a 5 year strategic plan to support and expand Best Practices in reading/writing and/or math.
2. Meet annually with DPI staff to complete a Developmental Review.
3. Successfully complete the Reading/Writing and/or Math Foundations Training.
4. Implement, with fidelity, a research-based reading/writing and/or math program for identified students with disabilities and/or students who are having serious and persistent reading/writing and/or math difficulties. The number of implementing schools must increase yearly.
5. Participate in NC SIP network technical assistance and planning meetings.
6. Collect and report instructional quality control and student progress data.

Resources and Technical Assistance Available from NC SIP

Successful applicants will receive:

1. Research to practice staff development for participating staff;
2. Support for involvement in staff development activities including stipends, travel, and/or substitute support;
3. Support for instructional materials and supplies; and
4. Support for assessment and evaluation materials.

C: Angela Quick
Susan Davis
Lynn Bailey
Laura Britt
Angie Cloninger
Paula Crawford
Elizabeth Gibbs
Vickie Norris
Kristi Kamada

North Carolina State Personnel Development Grant (NC SIP) Reading/Writing and/or Math Site

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Please use the following format to submit your application

Goal Statement

What your district plans to achieve by being involved as a Best Practice Reading-Writing or Math Site in NC SIP.

Description of School(s), Teachers and Students to be involved in the Program and the Leadership Structure to support this initiative.

1. Describe the school(s) you are proposing to be involved in the project: student demographics, size, number of EC students.
2. Tell which teachers will be involved. Primarily, EC teachers should be involved although general education teachers working collaboratively with EC teachers and EC students are encouraged to participate. It is strongly recommended that all EC teachers at a school be identified for participation.
3. Describe the students to be involved in the reading-writing or math program. Primarily, EC students who have serious reading/writing or math difficulties should be involved in receiving the research to practice instruction.
4. Describe your proposed leadership structure for the project. Who will coordinate the effort and to what extent do you have the support of school principals and the superintendent's office? This component of your application is very important. The leadership structure and support must be clearly articulated.

Submit your application by July 8, 2011 to:

Susan Davis, Section Chief
NC Department of Public Instruction
Exceptional Children Division
6356 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6356