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NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: July 31, 2020

Joint Legislative Oversight Committees to Meet

Joint committees are made up of both House and Senate members. They typically only meet when the NC General Assembly (NCGA) is not in session. Their purpose is to track on and educate members on particular issues of interest to the NCGA, e.g. Medicaid, and to prepare for the upcoming session. Many times they will formulate recommendations that will be turned into legislation when the NCGA goes into session. Because their recommendations are developed by a non-partisan group of legislators, the resulting legislation often carries more weight.

Upcoming Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) Meetings:

| Committee | Date and Time | Location, Video and Audio |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| <u>JLOC on Health and Human Services</u> | August 11, 10:00 a.m. | 643 LOB, <u>Video</u> , <u>Audio</u> |
| <u>JLOC on Medicaid and Health Choice</u> | August 11, 1:00 p.m. | 643 LOB, <u>Video</u> , <u>Audio</u> |
| <u>JLOC on Education</u> | September 1, 10:00 a.m. | 643 LOB, <u>Video</u> , <u>Audio</u> |

Federal Government Extends Public Health Emergency

The US Department of Health and Human Services has extended the public health emergency that allows states to have waivers and flexibilities in place as the country continues to grapple with the pandemic. The deadline was on July 25th and has now been extended 90 days to October 23rd, 2020. These waivers have included the temporary change in regulations allowing for increased use of telehealth and other service approaches needed when individuals are quarantined.

Focus on Education

DPI Receives Federal Grant to Blend Remote and In-Person Teaching:

The NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) received a [\\$17.6 million grant](#) from the US Department of Education through the federal Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant. DPI will be using this grant to develop innovative instructional approaches to better meet student needs during disruptions to schooling such as COVID-19. The initiative will create a statewide “blended” instructional model that will combine both remote and in-person instruction. According to the state’s grant proposal, the effort is aimed at stabilizing or improving student achievement during disruptions to regular school, to

better prepare teachers for digital-age instruction and to strengthen preparedness by schools and communities for events that may interrupt student learning. The effort will focus primarily on 45 of the state's most rural and economically-disadvantaged communities. This is a nearly three-year initiative. By the end of that time, more than 50,000 teachers statewide – about half the state's teaching force -- are projected to have received specialized support in the blended learning model.

Broadband Internet Access Survey May Help with Education Access

The [NC Department of Information Technology](#) is conducting a [statewide survey](#) on broadband internet access. The survey is a collaboration between the N.C. Department of Information Technology's Broadband Infrastructure Office and [The Friday Institute for Education Innovation](#) at North Carolina State University.

Resources:

- [How to Improve Distance Learning for Students with IEPs](#): edutopia
- [Supplemental Fact Sheet Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Schools While Serving Children with Disabilities](#): US DOE
- [Academic Supports for Students with Disabilities](#): EdResearch for Recovery Project