



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: December 4, 2020**

To join i2i’s mailing list and receive our News Briefs and other information directly to your inbox, contact [Jean@i2icenter.org](mailto:Jean@i2icenter.org), let her know you are with NCCCYF and ask to be added to our circulation.

**Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

**Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee:**

The JLEOC adopted their [final report](#) to the NC General Assembly. As a part of the final report, they included draft legislation that creates mechanisms for tracking certain aspects of digital learning. The digital learning dashboard will track: 1) digital devices available to students within the school of a public school unit; 2) out-of-school internet connectivity for students within a public school unit; 3) digital devices available to students outside of the school by public school unit. We can expect to see this legislation introduced in the long session of the NC General Assembly that will begin on January 13, 2021.

The JLOEOC heard [a presentation](#) from the Department of Public Instruction Deputy Secretary for Innovation, Dr. David Stegall. They reported that, in a survey of 115 LEAs, 82% of respondents are using some combination of face-to-face and remote learning. 18% continue to be fully remote. The Average Daily Attendance is down .39% as compared to this quarter last year and less than 1% of students are unaccounted for. It was noted that, on average, 53% of students who typically qualify for free and/or reduced lunch regularly receive meals. The report stated that every county in North Carolina is having some issue with connectivity at this point in time. DPI has a regional support structure with a care manager. This care manager assists public school units with support in areas such as exceptional children, multi-tiered systems of support and accountability.

**Opportunities for Feedback:**

- School Mental Health Initiative will hold a statewide meeting on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Use [this link](#) for the meeting information.

Taken from the ECAC newsletter of 11/18/20:

Attention Parents:

To help describe how COVID-19 has affected NC students with disabilities and their families, the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Exceptional Children Division will be conducting a parent's of students with disabilities focus group to gather stories and experiences. NCDPI is required to describe how COVID-19 has impacted our data on students with disabilities as part of our 2021 reporting to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

The facilitated online parent focus group will have a maximum of 10 participants and last no more than one hour. Notes will be taken to capture themes and main ideas; the names of participants will not be included in the data output and sessions will not be recorded. Participants will be provided the focus group questions ahead of time and they will also receive a copy of the final focus group data analysis/report by December 31, 2020. No remuneration will be offered for participation.

The parent focus group will be held on December 9, 2020, at 7 pm (this will be conducted in English, but we are hoping to schedule a Spanish-speaking session soon).

If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Lauren Holahan, NC DPI SSIP Coordinator, at [lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lauren.holahan@dpi.nc.gov) no later than December 4.

- [Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force](#) is seeking feedback in 5 core areas:
  1. Access to Healthcare
  2. Economic Opportunity and Business Development
  3. Educational Opportunity
  4. Patient Engagement
  5. Environmental Justice and Inclusion

This Task Force was established by Governor Cooper over the summer and they just completed two listening sessions that can be heard via the above link. There is a [feedback form](#) that can be used to submit your comments on one or more of the five areas. The Task Force subcommittees have already developed initial focal points for each of the core areas with the goal to improve disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

#### **Resources:**

- NC DHHS [announced today](#) that the Medicaid Beneficiary portal is launched.
- NC Health News published an [article](#) on school-based health centers in North Carolina that provide integrated care onsite for students, parents and staff.
- NC ECAC has a number of [upcoming free webinars](#), including one on identifying specific learning disabilities in North Carolina on December 15<sup>th</sup>.