



**Public Schools of North Carolina**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

---

# **Report to the North Carolina General Assembly**

---

Schools for Students with Visual and  
Hearing Impairments

*SL 2016-94 (HB 1030)*

---

**Date Due: January 15, 2020**

Report # 034

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2019-2020

**Submitted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
and/or State Board of Education, in conjunction with North Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services**

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION: Every public-school student in North Carolina will be empowered to accept academic challenges, prepared to pursue their chosen path after graduating high school, and encouraged to become lifelong learners with the capacity to engage in a globally-collaborative society.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION: The mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is to use its constitutional authority to guard and maintain the right of a sound, basic education for every child in North Carolina Public Schools.

### **ERIC DAVIS**

Chair: Charlotte – At-Large

### **JILL CAMNITZ**

Greenville – Northeast Region

### **TODD CHASTEEN**

Blowing Rock – Northwest Region

### **ALAN DUNCAN**

Vice Chair: Greensboro – Piedmont-Triad Region

### **REGINALD KENAN**

Rose Hill – Southeast Region

### **DONNA TIPTON-ROGERS**

Western Region

### **DAN FOREST**

Lieutenant Governor: Raleigh – Ex Officio

### **AMY WHITE**

Garner – North Central Region

### **J. WENDELL HALL**

At-Large

### **DALE FOLWELL**

State Treasurer: Raleigh – Ex Officio

### **OLIVIA OXENDINE**

Lumberton – Sandhills Region

### **J.B. BUXTON**

Raleigh – At-Large

### **MARK JOHNSON**

Secretary to the Board: Raleigh

### **JAMES FORD**

Charlotte – Southwest Region

## NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**Mark Johnson, State Superintendent :: 301 N. Wilmington Street :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825**

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

### **Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to:**

Joe Maimone, Chief of Staff

6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6307 / Phone: (919) 807-3431 / Fax: (919) 807-3445

Visit us on the Web: [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org)

## NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH:** Secretary

**Mark T. Benton,** Deputy Secretary for Health Services

**Kody H. Kinsley,** Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and IDD

**Mark Payne,** Director, Division of Health Service Regulation

**UPDATED 12.12.19**  
**SL 2016-94 (HB 1030)**  
**Schools for Students with Visual and Hearing Impairments**

Each August since 2016, a memo has been distributed to local superintendents, Exceptional Children Directors, Directors of State Operated Programs, and Exceptional Children Coordinators in Charter Schools informing them of the legislative requirement under SL 2016-94 HB 1030. This law requires that school systems provide parents of students with a primary disabling condition of deafness, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, vision impairment, or multiple disabilities with a hearing and/or vision loss with a consent for release of contact information to receive information about the Education Services for the Deaf and Blind Schools. The consent forms are required to be distributed to parents by October 1 of each school year and yes consents must be reported to the NC DPI and the Education Services for the Deaf and Blind schools by November 30 of each school year. Barbria Bacon, ESDB Superintendent, and Sherri Vernelson, Section Chief in the Exceptional Children Division, serve as the primary contacts for school districts.

The NCDPI and the ESDB schools continue to implement a Memorandum of Agreement to comply with FERPA requirements for the effective transfer and management of data. Additionally, since parents are required to give their consent annually, consent form data from the previous year must be destroyed by March 15 of each year and is also a part of the MOA.

The Exceptional Children Division serves as the lead to assist in the dissemination and organization of the required information annually. LEAs and State Operated Programs are provided with a consent for release of information form in English and Spanish. These forms are provided as attachments to the annual memo and are on the EC Division website for ease of access. In addition to the memo distributed each August, the EC Division provides reminders to LEAs at the September regional meetings for EC Directors and EC Coordinators for Charter Schools; September, October, and November monthly newsletter updates; NC CASE Conference; and through the Director's Advisory Council meetings in July and October.

To assist the ESDB schools with extracting the data in an efficient manner, an electronic submission continues to be utilized. This allows for more uniform and accurate reporting of the information required by law. A data specialist in the EC Division extracts the information on a weekly basis and provides it to Sherri Vernelson, the DPI EC Division contact. Mrs. Vernelson provides that information to the Directors of the ESDB schools also on a weekly basis. This allows the ESDB schools to provide parents with the information they requested in a timely manner.

The following information shows the number of yes consents provided by parents of children with a primary disabling eligibility of deaf, deaf-blind, hearing impaired, vision impairment including blindness, or multiply disabled with a vision and/or hearing loss since 2016.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Yes Consents</b>
2016	300
2017	600
2018	550
2019	191 as of 12.12.19

Table 1.1

<b>Region</b>	<b>Deaf (DF)</b>	<b>Deaf-blind (DB)</b>	<b>Hearing Impaired (HI)</b>	<b>Multiple Disabilities in addition to VI, HI or both (MU)</b>	<b>Visual Impairment including Blindness (VI)</b>	<b>Other (Another primary disability with VI, HI, or both)</b>	<b>No. of LEAs with parents requesting ESDB Info.</b>
<b>Region 1</b>			2	1	1	1	4
<b>Region 2</b>	2		14	5	7	7	9
<b>Region 3</b>		1	15	11	8	3	7
<b>Region 4</b>	1		4	3	5		7
<b>Region 5</b>			10	3	3	3	11
<b>Region 6</b>	3		11	5	13	3	10
<b>Region 7</b>	1		1	4	8		10
<b>Region 8</b>			16	7	11		11
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>69</b>