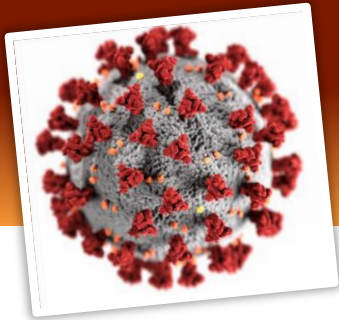


# SPECIAL UPDATE: COVID-19



## EC DIVISION

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MARCH 15, 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

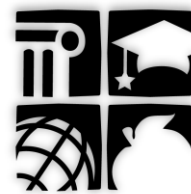
We are all living in unprecedented times with our current state of emergency and mandatory closing of schools, by order of Governor Cooper, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The Exceptional Children's Division is working diligently to provide guidance to local EC Directors/Coordinators as they navigate this emergency and create a plan of service for students in the next few weeks.

Please know your districts are working to develop plans and problem-solve solutions for continued instruction once schools are no longer closed. However, it is my hope that you will follow the guidelines provided by the CDC to ensure each and everyone of you and your students are safe during this pandemic. While we always want to ensure the provision of FAPE to our students with disabilities, the priority now is safety. Below, you will find some resources we hope are helpful during this most unsettling time.

Take care,

*Sherry*

Sherry H. Thomas, Director  
Exceptional Children Division



**Public Schools of North Carolina**

State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction



## USDOE

The US Department of Education has made available several resources to assist families and school personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic. The link can be found [here](#).

## OSEP

The Office of Special Education Programs has provided an FAQ to respond to questions regarding the delivery of special education and related services during the national pandemic.

Follow this [link](#) for a copy.



## NC Department of Public Instruction

Get the latest information on COVID-19 in North Carolina by visiting the NCDPI [homepage](#). Additionally, an update from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mark Johnson, was provided for Educators, Parents and Caretakers. A copy of this press release can be found [here](#).