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Exceptional Children

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



1/20/26

Visual Impairment



Information For Educators

American Printing House Legally Blind Registration for the 26 Census is due by 2/13/26 !

The OEC is providing this reminder regarding the APH Legally Blind Registry. While there is no longer a specific registration window for submissions, the deadline for student eligibility for the next APH ordering period is coming soon. APH documents created and finalized in ECATS between February 17, 2025, and February 13, 2026, will be reviewed for eligibility for the 2026-2027 cycle. A [technical assistance document](#) has been created to aid in the understanding of the APH process, ordering period, and eligibility criteria. For more information, visit the [APH on the OEC website](#). If you have questions or require technical assistance reach out to Terri Terrell at ncaph@dpi.nc.gov

DeafBlind Census

The annual DeafBlind Census will begin on January 1, 2026, and continue through February 13, 2026. The DeafBlind Census data collection will continue to occur through ECATS submissions. *Remember, the DeafBlind Census is an annual submission.* Students must be included on the DeafBlind Census in order

for parents and professionals to access the free support and technical assistance from the NC DeafBlind Project. This [ECATS Tipsheet](#) and [video](#) will walk users through each step of the process. You may also review this [recorded technical assistance webinar](#). If you have specific questions or need any support, please reach out to [Dr. Alan Chase](#).

ATIA 2026 free Virtual Event bundle

Package includes the Prentke Lecture, all free member live stream sessions, recordings, Exhibitor Product Demo Center (PDC) sessions, and highlights session, including all sessions listed below. CEUs for most of these sessions are also included! All live streamed and recorded content is captioned. Once registered you may begin to view content as it becomes available.

- January 29-30: Roughly ten live stream sessions PLUS five AssistiveWare sponsored pre-recorded sessions available.
- Mid-February: All 40+ free recorded sessions available for viewing.
- April 30: Deadline to watch all Virtual Event content and claim CEUs.

NCADEMI Accessibility Basics

Nominations for the Exceptional Children Distinguished Service Awards

As part of the Spring EC Administrator's Institute scheduled for March 9-12, 2026, the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) will host a Distinguished Service Award luncheon. This luncheon celebrates individuals who have significantly contributed to the positive outcomes of students with disabilities in North Carolina. An Exceptional Children Distinguished Service recipient is one whose outstanding contributions have significantly advanced the success and well-being of students with disabilities by demonstrating excellence in at least one of the core [Pillars for Excellence](#) as defined by the NCDPI Strategic Plan: Achieving Educational Excellence. Through their exceptional service, unwavering dedication, and meaningful impact, this individual exemplifies the highest standards of commitment to students, families, and the mission of public education. Please review this [official memo](#) outlining the nomination process and the [link for nomination submissions](#). All nominations must be submitted by 5:00 pm on **Friday, January 23, 2026**. Contact Traci Royal (traci.royal@dpi.nc.gov) with any questions regarding the nomination process for the EC Distinguished Service Awards.

NCCVIB

North Carolina Conference on Visual Impairment and Blindness will be on March 12-13, 2026 at Camp Dogwood in Sherrills Ford, NC this year. The committee is putting out a [Call For Presentations](#) and [Vendor Registration](#). The deadline for Call for Presentations has been extended to **January 20th, 2026**. The NCCVIB Planning Committee is pleased to offer all lead presenters free admission to the conference in lieu of regular registration fees.

Lunch and Learn 2026 Post Secondary Transitions & OCS

Please share these technical assistance opportunities as appropriate. Participants should register for the upcoming sessions listed below through the [EC Calendar of Events](#) for the session they plan to attend. If you have questions, please contact [Beverly Colwell](#).



Information to Prepare Students

Braille Challenge 2026 deadlines are fast approaching

Here is more detailed information and registration information for both of North Carolina's Braille Challenges for 2026. Please share with students, families and teams !!

[Student Registration forms are due by Thursday, January 22, 2026 for the Western Challenge](#)

DeafBlind Resources

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)

Please read and share information in English and Spanish for the [2026 SAVVY Summer program](#) hosted by Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)

DSB and ECAC Webinar

Mission statement of the Division of Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation: To enable North Carolinians who are visually impaired, blind or deafblind to reach their goals of independence and employment. [Register](#) now for the webinar on Thursday, January 29th from 12:00 noon- 1:00pm

Helen Keller National Center Summer Youth Vocational Program - 2026

Empowering Youth Through STEAM, Surfing, and Self-Discovery

Dates: July 6 to July 31, 2026 | Location: Helen Keller National Center, New York

Contact your [Regional Representative](#) or [View Downloadable Flier](#) if you are interested in learning more!

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