



NC SIP Connect

Program Improvement & Professional Development

Dyslexia Information for Parents



ECAC, in collaboration with the Exceptional Children Division, has created two **new** tools to provide information to families about Dyslexia. You will be able to access these resources at ECAC's website at www.ecac-parentcenter/Dyslexia

Educators of Excellence!

Congratulations to Tonya Blevins, Ashe County's Foundations of Math Instructor and Megan Bowles, Catawba County's Foundation of Math Instructor! They were selected to receive the Educator of Excellence Award for their counties. The Educator of Excellence recipients were recognized at a reception held at the EC Conference that honors outstanding special educators.

(1). Questions Parents Can Ask.... About Reading Improvement and Dyslexia. This tool helps parents gather specific information about their child's progress in reading and what it means to have Dyslexia. A Spanish version is available.

(2). Dyslexia Videos. These 6 - 8 minute videos are a perfect companion to the Questions Parents Can Ask.... About Reading Improvement and Dyslexia tool. The first video, "What is Dyslexia?" and the second, "Dyslexia in North Carolina Schools" are both helpful for building parent understanding of dyslexia. These videos are also available with Spanish translation and closed captioning.

ECAC is currently recruiting two districts/schools in regions 5 – 8 to facilitate focus groups for families and/or students. This is a partnership between ECAC and the Exceptional Children Division to offer additional resources that promote best practices in family engagement. Why do a focus group? Most schools/districts use surveys, which will tell you the "what" about your families and students. However, focus groups often help you learn the "why" and provide insight into what families think. This data can be used to determine needs, provide self-assessment data for State Systemic Improvement Plan/Indicator 8, and to develop a strategic action plan for continuous improvement. For more information contact Beverly Roberts at 1-800-962-6817 ext. 323 or broberts@ecacmail.org.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction



NC SIP Project Director's Exceptional Service Award

The NC SIP Project Director's Exceptional Service Award recipient will be announced at the NC SIP Spring Network Conference in March. The full selection criteria is located on the last page of this newsletter and is posted on the [NC SIP website](#). Nominations for 2019 candidates are open now. Please consider who you would like to be recognized with this award. To nominate a candidate, submit the 1-2 page (maximum) nomination describing how the individual meets each of the required elements listed. Use normal margins, 12 point font, and double space. Numbered articles of evidence may also be submitted if they are described and referred to within the nomination description. Along with the nominator's name, email, and phone number, submit the nomination by the deadline of **midnight January 31st**. **Only emailed nominations which follow the format described that are submitted to paula.crawford@dpi.nc.gov by the deadline will be considered.**

**The deadline for submitting your nomination
is midnight on January 31st!**

NC State Improvement Project to Accept Applications



In the Spring, the North Carolina State Improvement Project will invite new LEAs to apply as grant partners! Watch for an email from the EC Division for additional details regarding the application process. You may also check our website, https://www.ncsip.org/about_us, or contact your regional consultants if you have additional questions.

NC SIP Data: Number of Instructional Sessions

In 2017-2018, 458 students received 150+ instructional sessions in an evidence-based math or reading program for a total of 72,642 lessons. These lessons were instructed by a teacher that had completed either Foundations of Math or Reading Research to Classroom Practice and professional development in an evidence-based program. Kudos to 58 teachers in 18 LEAs for providing this intense instruction! Now that's impressive!



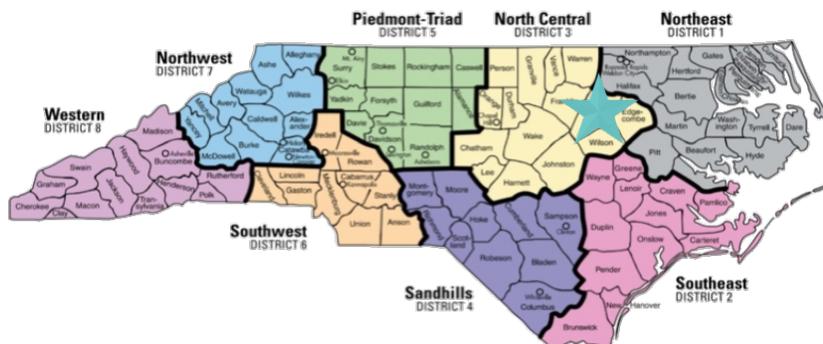
Spotlighting our Best Practice Site

Nash-Rocky Mount Public School System (NRMPS) is focused on preparing ALL students for a bright and prosperous future by intentionally providing Rigorous and Relevant instruction in every classroom, every day. We believe that an engaged community, positive school environment, along with effective teaching and leadership are essential for student achievement.

Our district commitment as a North Carolina State Improvement Project Grant Best Practice site has provided additional professional development resources to strengthen instructional practices, increase fidelity monitoring systems and provide effective coaching support. Nashville Elementary and Nash Central Middle schools were identified as our Best Practice site focus schools during the 2017-2018 school year. The autonomous nature of both schools presented great problem-solving opportunities for both district and school-based teams. As part of this commitment, Reading Research to Classroom Practice and Foundations of Math courses are provided throughout the year with a strategic focus of improving evidence-based practices in the classroom.

As part of a multi-year plan to provide Reading research to Classroom Practice (RRtCP) training to all NRMPS elementary teachers, we delivered the professional development to first grade teachers during the summer of 2017-18. During our 2017-2018 Summer Scholars Academy (Read to Achieve camp) we took advantage of the opportunity to provide a lab setting for early literacy observation in conjunction with RRtCP professional development. We were delighted to have eight assistant principals engage in this authentic opportunity for instructional leadership growth by participating in a summer course of Reading Research to Classroom Practice alongside our first-grade teachers. When the APs were not in RRtCP sessions, they were in classrooms observing evidence-based practices in real time. The feedback from this “Go & See” PD was overwhelmingly positive. The assistant principals, from elementary, middle, and even high school, found true value in connecting RRtCP with immediate classroom observations as it helped solidify their understanding of reading instruction terminology, the purposes of reading assessments, and the importance of explicit, multisensory, and systematic instruction.

In math news, NRMPS is working to ensure that our teachers K-12 are equipped to help students develop a strong conceptual understanding of Mathematics while also developing procedural fluency. The Foundations of Math (FoM) course provides the perfect opportunity for us to bring together educators from all across the K-12 spectrum and take a deep dive into what it means to have a strong conceptual understanding of Mathematics. Our current cohort has regular classroom teachers from elementary, middle and high school as well as EC teachers, an AIG facilitator, and a school psychologist. The feedback from past participants has been overwhelmingly positive and we plan to continue to use the FoM course to increase the instructional capacity of our teachers.





Literacy Regional Coach - Cynde Gilmore

What LEA do you serve? Newton Conover City Schools

What is your role in your LEA? I have been with NCCS for six years and my current role is EC Program Specialist. This role has many hats including being the NCSIP Coordinator and an instructor for Reading Research to Classroom Practice. I am also involved in MTSS for the district, the district Letterland coach and contact, the district Master Literacy Trainer for K-3, and I conduct the fidelity observations and coaching for our reading initiatives throughout the district K-12. I am also a dyslexia delegate for Region 7.

How many years have you been involved with NC SIP? I have been involved with NCSIP since 2003 and have been the NCSIP Coordinator in two school districts. Over these past fifteen years, I have gone through multiple revisions of Reading Research and seen the impact the course and evidence based practices have on the success of students at all grade levels grades K-12.

What is something in your professional development in coaching that has influenced you and how has it impacted your interactions with the support you provide to the NC SIP grant work? When I first started with observations and coaching, I didn't realize that it was much more than just watching a classroom teacher and completing a form. Through our work with coaching with Dr. Rock and additional professional development, I have learned and experienced that with coaching, we are able to make a difference for classrooms and students that we weren't able to do before!

What made you want to become a regional coach? Since the first time I took Reading Foundations and realized that I knew nothing about teaching reading to students until that course, I have been a strong advocate for all teachers in North Carolina to participate. I also have seen first-hand what NCSIP can do for school districts, teachers, and student progress in reading and math. I wanted to be a regional coach so I could continue learning about literacy and to be a part of student success across the region.

Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting? I have three kids, three dogs and two cats! I've also started to learn the hammered dulcimer about a year and half ago.



Math Regional Coach - Anita Cole

What LEA do you serve? What is your role in your LEA? I serve Harnett County Schools as both an Instructional Coach and as an MTSS Math Coach. As an Instructional Coach, I work with one elementary site to support the teachers and administration. My work involves leading PLCs, group coaching, one-on-one coaching, planning with teachers, leading professional development, and much more. In my work as an MTSS Math Coach, I serve on the District MTSS Implementation Team and also support the elementary sites in the district. This coaching often takes the form of working closely with a site-based coach in coaching teachers as they meet in PLCs, collaborate to plan lessons, and review data.

How many years have you been involved with NC SIP? I have been involved with NCSIP for seven years as a Foundations of Math instructor.

What is something in your professional development in coaching that has influenced you and how has it impacted your interactions with the support you provide to the NC SIP grant work? Most recently, the Coaching Basics session at the EC Pre-Conference caused me to once again self-reflect on the various types of coaching. I began asking myself, "What would it look like if I used peer coaching in this situation?" or "What would be the result if I used Critical Friends Group coaching in this other situation?" My wheels have been turning constantly since the Coaching Basics session, and I find that I came away from that training with an even greater desire to enhance my coaching effectiveness.

What made you want to become a regional coach? I have a passion for math and the Foundations of Math course. I want that passion to carry over to others who are instructors so that the work we do becomes a passion for our participants, and positively impacts the students in our LEAs.

Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting? When I participated in the Foundations of Math training as a level one participant, I was so excited about the beauty in the math that I went home and taught my husband and children all about the String Around the Earth. However, my level of enthusiasm was met with eye rolls, and "That's nice." They were not nearly as excited as I was about the relationship of the circumference to the diameter. :)

Professional Learning by the Numbers

With help from our LEA Partners, FoM and RRtCP Instructors, we are able to generate very impressive professional learning data! The data below *represent a small set* of those. The data were *collected from July – September 2018*.

Thank you to everyone for your timely submission of inputting events on the [NC SIP Events Calendar](#) and uploading your participants' list!

Course	Number of Participants
Foundations of Math	40
Reading Research to Classroom Practice	211
Math Model Training	103
Reading Model Training	425
Other (All Leaders & Co-Teaching)	127
GRAND TOTAL	906

Attention RRtCP Instructors!!!

A new folder has been created for our RRtCP Instructor Materials booster sessions. Housed there, you will find the presentation titled “The Critical Role of Advanced Phonemic Awareness and Orthographic Mapping for Adolescent Readers” which was instructed by Beth and Bridget during the 2018 Spring Network Conference. To locate this presentation, go to the NC SIP website and log in to the Instructor materials. Find the folder labeled, “Additional Resources and Important Information for Trainers” where you will find a subfolder for booster sessions. We hope to add additional resources in this folder after our 2019 SNC Content Knowledge Development Sessions. If you have any questions about the presentation (“The Critical Role...”), you may contact either Beth or Bridget.

REMINDER: PowerPoint slides and instructor notes may not be distributed to FoM or RRtCP course participants or Institution of Higher Education students attending courses that are delivering the RRtCP content. The materials are copyright protected and can only be distributed after obtaining permission through request to the NC SIP Project Director.



Save the Date!

The **Southeast Regional Update for SIM Professional Developers** will be held in Concord on March 19th and 20th. Below is a link to the SIM registration page which should be live soon. The link will provide you with more information about the opportunities available during the regional update. If the registration isn't there yet, check back periodically.

<http://sim.kucrl.org/classes/details/southeast-update-for-sim-professional-developers-charlotte-concord-north-ca>

NC SIP Grant Efforts are Paying Off!

One of the key differences between this current grant cycle and the last, is the focused attention to particular schools in our Best Practice and Demonstration sites. These LEAs are required to identify a two-school feeder pattern with school improvement plan goals that align with NC SIP goals. Within this framework, implementation plans are developed to provide concentrated professional learning opportunities and follow up coaching to all the teachers in the identified schools.

For Duplin County, a Demonstration site in the southeast region of the state, this change allowing for focused attention has paid off tremendously. Cary Powers, the EC Director in Duplin County, shared this information with us recently about their school Beulaville Elementary, a K-8th grade school...

“Beulaville Elementary's growth index for SWD was twice as much as the county average. Their index was 2.65 (Exceeded) with a growth score of 86.6. The next highest index was 1.69. While their achievement level was only 15.4, this is still a big improvement and the school is clearly making significant gains. We believe that the school wide training and implementation of RRtCP and Foundations of Math have been a huge component of that growth. We are proud of the leadership and staff at the school as well as our district support staff. We are also thankful for the tremendous support we have received from the DPI consultants in the EC Division. We are also excited to share that all schools in Duplin County met growth for SWD's this year.”

Hard work pays off. Please share your success stories with us as often as possible!

WEBSITE UPDATES

Check out these NEW items on the NC SIP website under Evidence Based Practices:

- New tabs on the instructor sites (RRtCP and FoM) for uploading licensure participants homework.
- RRtCP Certificate of Completion on the Instructor Resources Site for your Level 1 Participants.
- Updated Homework Document for Level 1 RRtCP Participants.

Have an idea for the NC SIP Connect?

Share it on our survey and maybe you will see your suggestion in the next edition!

[NC SIP Connect Survey](#)



★ ★ ★ ★ CHARTING A COURSE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS ★ ★ ★ ★

Stronger Together



NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SPRING NETWORK CONFERENCE 2019

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY • MARCH 26

Welcome & Special Recognition

Dr. Peter Dewitt
Leadership Keynote

Updates from ECAC, Our Evaluators,
and Institutes of Higher Education

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 27

Welcome & Special Recognition

Dr. David Kilpatrick
Literacy Keynote

THURSDAY • MARCH 28

Welcome & Special Recognition

Ann Miller
Mathematics Keynote



EMBASSY SUITES
GREENSBORO, NC



TUESDAY • MARCH 26 LEADERSHIP KEYNOTE



PETER DEWITT (Ed.D.) is a former school principal in Upstate, NY, and he is now a Visible Learning trainer. Before becoming a principal he taught elementary school for eleven years. His syndicated blog *Finding Common Ground* is published by *Education Week* and he is a freelance writer for *Vanguard Magazine*.

Peter has presented at state and national conferences around the U.S. including several years in a row for the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and ASCD's National Conference. Peter has presented keynotes and run workshops across North America, the UK and Australia. His presentations focus on school leadership, school climate, as well as safeguarding LGBT students and other social justice topics.

Peter did his doctoral dissertation on the subject of safeguarding LGBT students at Sage College of Albany. His book *Dignity for All: Safeguarding LGBT Students* was published by Corwin Press in March of 2012. He is a consulting editor and visionary for the Connected Educator Series (Corwin Press, Fall 2014). He wrote *Flipping Leadership Doesn't Mean Reinventing the Wheel* (Corwin Press, Connected Educator Series) and *Climate Change: How Do I Foster a More Inclusive School Climate* (ASCD, Fall 2014), and *Collaborative Leadership: 6 Influences That Matter Most* (Corwin Press & Learning Forward, 2016).

His articles have appeared in education journals at the state, national and international level. He has written for *Principal Magazine*, *Education Week*, *Educational Leadership*, *The Huffington Post*, *ASCD Whole Child*, *PBS* and *ASCD Express*. He has been interviewed by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the National Education Association (NEA), the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), *PBS* and *ABCnews.com* and was a guest panelist on the 2013 Education Nation (NBC), where he sat on a school safety panel with Goldie Hawn.

The three-day conference focus will include speakers and information addressing the grant goals pertaining to reading and math instructional practices, leadership support of evidence-based instruction, coaching, co-teaching, and adolescent literacy. Other topics of interest will include data collection, parent involvement, and information shared from Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) partners.

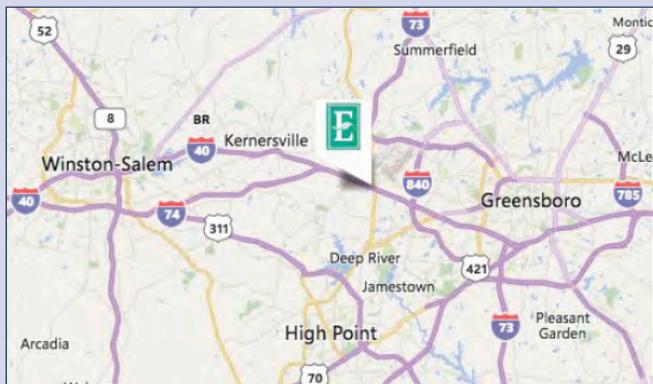
Tuesday, March 26 will focus on building a deeper knowledge of leadership including support of the grant expectations and site implementation plans, as well as grant updates. Wednesday, March 27 we will focus on literacy content for our certified RRtCP Instructors and NCSIP Coordinators. Thursday, March 28, will focus on building deeper knowledge of mathematical content for our FoM instructors and NCSIP Coordinators. All certified instructors are invited to attend.

REGISTRATION

The conference will take place from 8:00-5:00 each day. Watch your email after January 16, 2019 for a link to register and additional details. Registration is on a first come first serve basis and the registration fee is \$100 per day. Join us for one day or come for all three! LEAs are not limited on the number of participants they may bring.

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON, GREENSBORO AIRPORT

204 Centreport Drive,
Greensboro, North Carolina, 27409
TEL: +1-336-668-4535



WEDNESDAY • MARCH 27 LITERACY KEYNOTE



DAVID A. KILPATRICK, PhD is a professor of psychology for the State University of New York College at Cortland. He is a New York State certified school psychologist with 28 years' experience in schools. He has been teaching courses in learning disabilities and educational psychology since 1994. David is a reading researcher and the author of two books on reading, *Essentials of Assessing, Preventing, and Overcoming Reading Difficulties*, and *Equipped for Reading Success*, and is a co-editor of a third, *The Science of Reading Development and Reading Difficulties: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice* (Spring 2019).

THURSDAY • MARCH 28 MATHEMATICS KEYNOTE



ANN M. MILLER has had the privilege of working as an educator and staff developer for many years. She is currently the Coordinator of Elementary Instruction and Professional Development K-12 for Waynesboro Public Schools. Ann began her career teaching Special Education focused on emotionally disturbed students before making a successful transition to the position of Instructional Specialist. Ann became a member of an elite team of staff development leaders where her enthusiasm, knowledge and approachable style helped to develop strong productive learning communities. Her extensive knowledge about teaching, student engagement and how children learn provided the foundation for the two books she has coauthored with John Almarode. Ann truly loves her career but she would be the first to tell you how truly blessed she is to have a loving and supportive husband, three caring children, and four terrific grandchildren. Everyone should be so lucky.

CONFERENCE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL CONSULTANT



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

NC State Improvement Project
Project Director's Exceptional Service Award
Selection Criteria

To be considered for this award

This individual exhibits, through service, a deep understanding and leadership in:

- ✓ supporting the goals of NC SIP through modeling and encouraging best practices in providing high quality professional development, or teacher preparation;
- ✓ promoting and supporting the development and use of K-12 education evidence-based practices in Literacy, Math, Co-teaching, Coaching (instructional or system coaching); and
- ✓ advancing the critical elements of implementation science to build capacity and sustainability.

Essential criteria (candidates meet this criteria to be considered)

1. Distinguished record of educating (**two or more type groups**):
 - Students with disabilities
 - Adult Learners
 - Undergraduate or graduate teacher candidates
2. Record of service:
Five or more years in one state, local education agency, or institution

Additionally,

This individual is an **Influencer** and has demonstrated, in **addition to the checked items described here, two or more** of the following numbered items:

- ✓ Visionary leadership (e.g., leading others in a long term project, curriculum revision and execution, initiative implementation).
- ✓ Scaling of NC SIP evidence-based practices with fidelity through the state, or a local education agency, or institution's educational programming.
 1. Communicated effectively with teams and groups (i.e., furthering the understanding and support of NC SIP to various audiences, serve as torch-bearer and public promoter of NC SIP Goals and Objectives, presentations about the project sharing purposes, goals, and best practices)
 2. Developed and distributed written communication such as articles and newsletters about NC SIP's efforts
 3. Assisted groups in using data to make decisions that improve programming (e.g., data from students, professional development, parents, fidelity checks)
 4. Used research and evidence-based practices with students or adults

To nominate

Submit the 1-2 page (maximum) nomination of an individual for the **NC SIP Project Director's Exceptional Service Award**. In your written nomination, describe how the individual meets each of the required elements listed above. Use normal margins, 12 point font, and double space. Numbered articles of evidence may also be submitted if they are described and referred to within the nomination description. Along with the nominator's name, email, and phone number, submit the nomination by the deadline of **midnight January 31st**. **Only emailed nominations which follow the format described that are submitted to paula.crawford@dpi.nc.gov by the deadline will be considered.** The NC SIP Project Director's Exceptional Service Award recipient will be announced at the NC SIP Spring Network Conference.