



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors/Coordinators
Exceptional Children Programs

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director *WJH* Carol Ann M. Hudgens, Section Chief *CAH*
Exceptional Children Division Policy, Monitoring and Audit
Exceptional Children Division

RE: **Guidance for Homebound and Modified Day Placements**

In the fall of 2016, Disability Rights NC approached the NC DPI Exceptional Children Division with concerns about homebound placements of students with disabilities in NC. Concerns about the placements included lack of legal justification, length, frequency, lack of appropriate academic instruction, effects on educational outcomes, hardship on working parents, and use with other forms of exclusion, including suspension and modified day schedules. In response, DPI reviewed internal data about homebound placements and proposed that Disability Rights and DPI partner to facilitate a stakeholder group to attempt to address these concerns.

Professionals from schools, advocacy organizations, community disability and mental health providers, and others met to establish the stakeholder group. The focus was to create an open, thoughtful dialogue about the challenges of serving students with significant behavior support and/or intensive education needs, and offer guidance for improved solutions for addressing those needs.

This guidance document is the product of this stakeholder collaboration. It is designed to guide IEP teams that are considering a homebound or modified day placement for a child and represents the collective thoughts of the stakeholder group on best practices to be followed by IEP teams. This document should be used in conjunction with the *North Carolina Policies Governing Children with Disabilities*, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the federal regulations. It reinforces the basic legal requirement that every child is entitled to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment; and it supports teams in their efforts to implement that requirement.

The document is attached and will be posted on the EC Division website under the “Training Materials” tab. Please also look for a session on this topic at the November Conference on Exceptional Children.

WJH/CAH/cah

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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