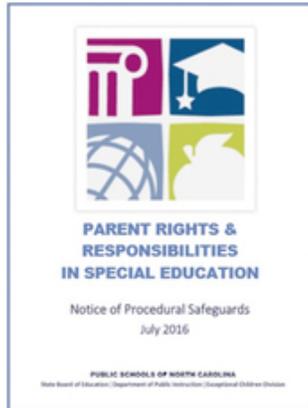


AUGUST 12, 2016

## Revised Exceptional Children Parent Handbook Contains New Section and More Resources



The Exceptional Children handbook, *Parents Rights & Responsibilities in Special Education*, has been updated and is available on the [Exceptional Children website](#). A new section of the handbook summarizes the rights and responsibilities of parents in a way that is easy to understand. Acronyms and terms often used in special education, and other resources are also available.

In addition, The handbook provides an overview of 13 parental special education rights, sometimes called procedural safeguards. These same procedural safeguards are also available for students with disabilities who have reached the age of 18.

*Parents Rights & Responsibilities in Special Education* is available in English and Spanish.

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## EC Funding Application Packets for 2016-17 Now Online

A number of district and charter school Exceptional Children funding application packets for the 2016-17 school year have been added to the Exceptional Children website:

[Special State Reserve Funds](#)

[Risk Pool Program](#)

[Out of District Placement Program](#)

[Group/Foster Home Program](#)

[Developmental Day Care Center Program](#)

[Community Residential Center Program](#)

To view the complete list of funding application packets, please visit the [Applications page](#) on the Exceptional Children website.

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## School Improvement Planning and Implementation Guide for 2016-17 on the Web

An updated version of *The School Improvement Planning and Implementation Guide* for the 2016-17 school year is now available on the [School Improvement Planning website](#). The guide offers a one-stop resource for guidance on conducting school improvement planning. Sections include: a legal overview, best practices guiding principles, and a step-by-step process for planning.



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## New School Nurses Page on the NC Healthy Schools Website

A page that provides contact information for regional school nurse consultants is now available on the [NC Healthy Schools website](#). School nurses are an integral part of education and work to reduce and eliminate health-related barriers to the education process for students. School nurses promote health and safety, intervene with health problems, provide case management services, and coordinate communication with family, school staff and medical personnel.

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## High School Accreditation Website Highlights Accreditation Process for State's High Schools



In July 2012, the North Carolina General Assembly empowered the State Board of Education to accredit high schools in North Carolina. State accreditation is not required, but schools that submit to the accreditation process undergo a quality assurance external review of school performance indicators. To learn more about the high school accreditation process, and view a list of accredited high schools, please visit the [High School Accreditation website](#).

[website](#).

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## Directory of Approved Teacher Education Programs Now Online

A directory of approved teacher education programs at North Carolina's public and private colleges is available on the [Institutions of Higher Education Educator Preparation Programs website](#). The directory includes school and leadership contact information and a website address for each school.

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## Student Voices Blogger Shares her Freshman Experience at Haywood Early College

Want to get a jumpstart on college, save some money, take intriguing classes and learn from inspiring teachers? Consider enrolling in an early college high school. Meet our latest Student



Voices blogger, Melanie Hagan, a sophomore at Haywood Early College. Melanie shares her story about her first year at Haywood Early College where “wonderful staff, small classes, thoughtful mentors and a passionate principal,” made her high school

freshman year a positive and memorable one. To read this and blog posts from other student bloggers, please visit the [Student Voices website](#).

If you know a student who would be interested in contributing to our Student Voices blog please email [todd.silberman@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:todd.silberman@dpi.nc.gov). We love to read these inspiring stories!

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## Cumberland County Educator Flips Instruction and Improves Learning for Students

What makes a flipped classroom effective? Learn how one Cumberland County teacher has changed the education experience for her students with the help of technology and a little creativity in this month’s NC Celebrate Schools feature. Check out the [NC Celebrate Schools website](#) to read recent and past stories about exciting programs happening in schools and districts across the state.



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