



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

October 9, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS,
MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) AND EDUCATIONAL STABILITY
CONFERENCE**

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: TO NOTIFY COUNTY DSS OF UPCOMING CONFERENCE

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Immediate

In 2015, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law, reinforcing support for disadvantaged and high-need students, including those in foster care. ESSA provisions complement the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, together promoting collaboration between education and child welfare agencies to ensure school stability and academic success. To meet ESSA requirements, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) enhanced protections for these students and began tracking their academic performance. DPI partnered with the SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro to support local education agencies and ensure compliance with ESSA through technical guidance and implementation support. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) and NC DPI will be hosting a joint conference in November 2025 for child welfare agencies and local education agencies to have the opportunity to learn directly from state partners, a peer panel, and guest speakers with lived experience. After completing the workshop survey, attendees will earn a certificate for 8 contact hours and gain access to electronic tools and printable resources to support their work.

Registration Details

Who: We ask that each county identify **2 individuals** to attend as space is limited. There will be future virtual opportunities for others to receive training.

Where: University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Elliott University Center
507 Stirling St, Greensboro, NC 27412
Parking is free for attendees in the Walker Parking Deck

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2406
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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When:

- **Regions 1 through 4:** 11/19 from 9:00am-4:00pm (registration begins at 8:30am)
 - **Registration link:** https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e5YrYtQYAEFEYKy
- **Regions 5 through 7:** 11/20 from 9:00am-4:00pm (registration begins at 8:30am)
 - **Registration link:** https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e5QrFC9nIGXGKR0

If you are unable to attend on your assigned date and would like to attend the other date offered, please notify Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov to confirm space availability before registering.

Thank you for your interest in supporting the educational needs of children and youth in North Carolina's foster care system. For questions, please contact the NCDHHS DSS Foster Care Coordinator, Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW

Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

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