



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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September 3, 2013

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director   
Exceptional Children Division

RE: Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Temporary Waiver for the 2013-2014 SY

The State Board of Education has approved the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study (FR-OCS) Temporary Waiver of Paid Employment Graduation Requirement for the 2013-2014 SY. This means students in the FR-OCS will still be required to complete a total of 900 hours of vocational training and/or employment to receive the North Carolina Diploma. The substitution waiver allows participating students to substitute 360 hours of additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internships, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours if unable to secure paid employment in an integrated employment setting. All paid employment, unpaid vocational training hours, internship hours, volunteer and/or community service hours will be conducted in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and applicable state and federal child labor laws.

In addition, LEAs will be required to maintain documentation of their attempts to help the student secure paid employment through referrals to the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for the Blind, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), funded youth employment programs, and other appropriate adult employment service agencies. Evidence of interagency collaboration and referrals must be documented in the transition component of the student's IEP. Due to continued issues within NC's economy, this waiver will continue in effect until the unemployment in NC reaches six percent (6%) or less.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [beverly.colwell@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:beverly.colwell@dpi.nc.gov).

WJH/DM/BC/ms

### EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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