



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

Office of Charter Schools

GUIDANCE for QUALITY

Volume 1, Article 8

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OCCUPATIONAL COURSE OF STUDY

Each year, the Office of Charter Schools is queried by both parents and schools as to whether or not charter schools that offer high school grades are required to utilize the Occupational Course of Study track for graduation. The Division of Exceptional Children has reviewed the guiding policies for services to children with disabilities. Regardless of tracks of study outlined in the charter application or availability of funding and resources, charter schools are required to provide the specially designed instruction detailed in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Schools may not alter IEPs to avoid providing these services and may not deny enrollment to a child requiring these services. If a school has questions regarding provision of specialized instruction, including the Occupational Course of Study, the school's administrator or Exceptional Children's Coordinator should contact the school's assigned EC monitor for further guidance. Please see map on page 2.

GUIDANCE RESOURCES

[Policies Governing Children With Disabilities, July 2014](#)

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POLICIES GOVERNING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

"According to the [Policies Governing Children with Disabilities](#), children with disabilities who attend public charter school and their parents retain all rights under this Policies. Public charter schools are LEAs consistent with NC 1500-2.20, and receive funding under NC 1506-1.6; therefore, charter schools are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the Policies are met. [NC 1502-10(a)(b)] Therefore, if a student has specially designed instruction related to the occupational course of study, the charter has a requirement to implement the individualized education program (IEP).

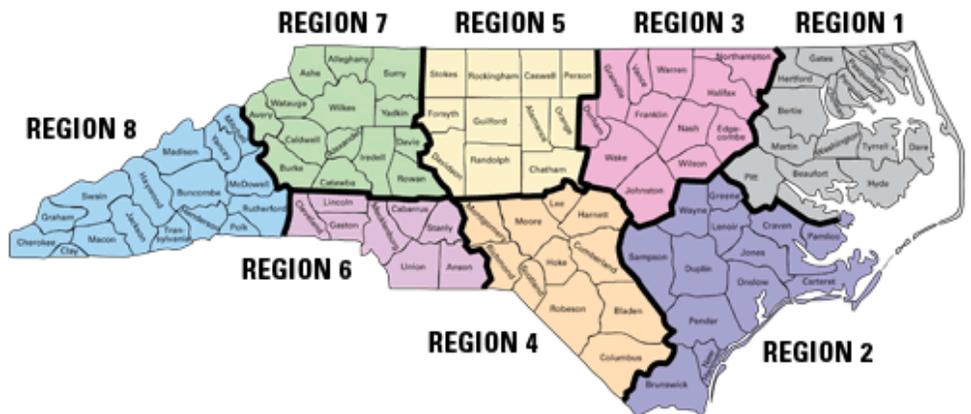
The Policies clarify this requirement for IEPs for children who transfer public agencies in the same State. [NC 1503-4.4(e)(1)(i)(ii)]

If a child with a disability (who has a current IEP that was in effect in a previous LEA in the State) transfers to a new LEA in the State, and enrolls in a new school, the new LEA, in consultation with the parents, must provide FAPE to the child (including services comparable to those described in the child's IEP from the previous LEA), until the new LEA either --

- Adopts the child's IEP from the previous LEA; or
- Develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP that meets the applicable requirements in NC 1503-4.1 through NC 1503-5.1."

Please note that the regional map is scheduled for revision on April 1. Refer to <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/> for the more information.

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