



# Central Carolina Regional Educational Service Alliance

Serving School Districts in the Heart of North Carolina

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Neil Pedersen  
Executive Director

Lisa Sonricker  
CCTI Program Director

SUBJ: CCTI Update

DATE: March 13, 2019

At your February 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting, you voted in support of the CCRESA continuing to operate the Central Carolina Teaching Initiative (CCTI) for the 2019-20 school year and, presumably, beyond that year. Lisa Sonricker will continue to direct that program and looks forward to filling the Lead Instructor position that has been vacant since the departure of Tricia Hilliard last November. At that same Board meeting, I indicated that we could not make commitments to a new hire and to the consultants whom we plan to use next year unless we had a commitment from superintendents to support at least 80 teachers next year, and that we really needed these commitments by March 15<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting eight districts committed to 78 positions and, subsequent to the meeting, the HR Director in Halifax committed to 3, which would bring us up to required number of participants. After the Board meeting, we sent a brief MOU to each of the districts that had indicated that they would like to participate in the program next year. As of March 11<sup>th</sup>, the superintendents of four of the districts, Durham (25), Johnston (10), Person (6), and Wake (20), have returned signed MOUs, committing them to financially backing a total of 61 teachers. Hopefully, by the time of our March 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting we will have the remaining commitments.

Another important step in the process is to secure approval from DPI to transition our program from a lateral entry program to a residency program next year. Attached is a memorandum that we have sent to Tom Tomberlin and Andrew Sioberg summarizing our understanding of the communications that we've had with them over the past month. They have indicated that they believed that we would not need to apply as an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) until the end of the 2021-22 school year. We have requested that this be communicated back to us in writing so that there will be no misunderstandings regarding our status for the next three years.

Since the February 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, we've had productive meetings with Patrick Conetta and Beth Edwards from the NC New Teacher Support Program and with Morghan Bosch, an Assistant Professor at Barton College. They look forward to working with us as soon as we can make a commitment to them. Dr. Bosch has indicated that although she will conduct virtual PLC meetings with the EC teachers, she does not have the time to provide them with individual

coaching. Consequently, we will plan to have the NCNTSP program support all of the teachers in the program with the additional cost covered by the funds that we'll have to carry over into the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Another clarification that we'd like to make is that in the budget included in our proposal, we estimated that 20% (16 of 80) of the teachers would be Exceptional Education teachers. We are now thinking that we can take up to 24 EC teachers, although our preference is not to exceed 20 so that they won't dominate the program. EC teachers will be accepted on a first come – first served basis with a maximum of 5 EC teachers from any one district. Districts are asked to recommend “Exceptional Children General Curriculum” teachers who will be assigned to an inclusion or resource academic setting, and will be teaching academic content. SED (Social Emotional Disability) teachers who, primarily, assist students with their classwork in a separate setting, struggle with the focus we have on effective instructional design and presentation, as their positions do not allow them to design and implement required coursework assignments with a class of students.

Finally, we are encouraging districts to go ahead and submit names of applicants for next year's cohort. A preliminary process for doing this online has been established and communicated to the CCTI contacts in the participating districts. Lateral entry teachers who are employed this school year, whom you want to renew next year, and who are not yet affiliated with an EPP are prime candidates for next year's cohort.

We look forward to receiving the final necessary commitments from LEAs by March 15 so that we can continue to progress with implementation of the CCTI program for next year. Thank you for your continued confidence and support.