



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

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Schools for Students with Visual and  
Hearing Impairments

*SL 2016-94 (HB 1030)*

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**Date Due: November 15, 2022**  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2022-2023

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Thomas Tomberlin, Director of Educator Recruitment and Support, NCDPI

6301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6301 / Phone: (984) 236-2114 / Fax: (984) 236-2099

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**SL 2016-94 (HB 1030)**  
**Schools for Students with Visual and Hearing Impairments**

Each August since 2016, a memo has been distributed to local superintendents, Exceptional Children Directors, Directors of State Operated Programs, and Exceptional Children Coordinators in Charter Schools informing them of the legislative requirement under SL 2016-94 HB 1030. This law requires that school systems provide parents of students with a primary disabling condition of deafness, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, vision impairment, or multiple disabilities with a hearing and/or vision loss with a consent for release of contact information to receive information about the Education Services for the Deaf and Blind Schools (ESDB). The consent forms are required to be distributed to parents by October 1 of each school year and yes consents must be reported to the NC DPI and the Education Services for the Deaf and Blind schools by November 30 of each school year. Sherri Vernelson, Section Chief in the Office of Exceptional Children, serves as the primary contact for school districts for this reporting. Mrs. Vernelson retrieves the data from Qualtrics and provides it to the ESDB school Directors, who coordinate sending information to the parents who requested it.

The NCDPI and the ESDB schools continue to implement a Memorandum of Agreement to comply with FERPA requirements for the effective transfer and management of data. Additionally, since parents are required to give their consent annually, consent form data from the previous year must be destroyed by March 15 of each year and is also a part of the MOA.

The Office of Exceptional Children serves as the lead to assist in the dissemination and organization of the required information annually. LEAs and State Operated Programs are provided with a consent for release of information form in English and Spanish. These forms are provided as attachments to the annual memo and are on the Office of Exceptional Children website for ease of access. In addition to the memo distributed each August, the Office of Exceptional Children provides multiple reminders to LEAs between August and November. Since August 2022, these reminders were provided in multiple weekly communication to Exceptional Children Directors and Coordinators, monthly webinars, Director's Advisory Council meetings, and EC Director/Charter School Coordinator regional meetings.

**SL 2016-94 HB 1030 requires districts to submit all yes consents by November 30 of each school year. Because this update is submitted prior to the required deadline, NCDPI was unable to provide a complete data set until now. NCDPI would like to recommend that moving forward the date for this annual report be moved to January 15 of each year, so a complete data set is available for the General Assembly to review upon receipt of the report.**

The tables that follow are the 2022 HB 1030 data collection information submitted to NC DPI.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Yes Consents</b>
2016	300
2017	600
2018	550
2019	191
2020	483
2021	408
2022	708

<b>Region</b>	<b>Deaf-blind (DB)</b>	<b>Deaf (DF)</b>	<b>Hearing Impaired (HI)</b>	<b>Multiple Disabilities in addition to VI, HI or both (MU)</b>	<b>Visual Impairment including Blindness (VI)</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	2	1	9	4	10	26
<b>Southeast</b>	2	4	48	28	32	114
<b>North Central</b>	4	8	57	41	21	131
<b>Sandhills</b>	1	6	32	18	19	76
<b>Piedmont Triad</b>	1	6	55	14	31	107
<b>Southwest</b>	2	6	35	44	25	112
<b>Northwest</b>	0	3	17	17	18	55
<b>Western</b>	0	2	20	21	10	53
<b>Charters</b>	0	0	13	4	17	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>708</b>