16 NCAC 06K .0104 is proposed for adoption as follows:

**16 NCAC 06K .0104  PLACEMENT PROCEDURES**

(a) Consistent with federal regulations, the Education Services for the Deaf and Blind (ESDB) shall establish uniform procedures for referral, screening, and placement of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Deaf-Blind and Visually Impaired students in the state operated residential programs in ESDB.

(b) Each ESDB school shall name a school representative who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of the child. The individual must hold a current license as a special education teacher, administrator in North Carolina, or speech/language pathologist. In addition, the individual shall be knowledgeable about the North Carolina Standard Course of Study; Occupational Course of Study (OCS) and Extended Content Standards (ECS); and knowledgeable of the available resources of the school. It is important that the school representative has the authority to commit school resources and ensure that whatever services are described in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be provided.

(c) The school representative will contact the local special education director, (not a particular school, unless directed by the local Exceptional Children director) and arrange to observe the student referred in multiple settings, including the student’s classroom, cafeteria and a non-structured setting. All contact concerning possible admission to a residential school must be initiated by the LEA. Inquiries from parents and others shall be directed to the appropriate LEA.

(d) The school representative will review forms and consider information used in making the recommendation for placement. (Schools should consider the present status and needs of the student, reason for referral, and services presently and previously provided, and results of screening and assessment.) All state-adopted forms must be completed and signed.

(e) The school representative will participate in discussions about the least restrictive environment for student.

(f) If the IEP team decides that residential school placement is the least restrictive environment for the referred student, the ESDB school representative should take a copy of properly completed and signed forms back to the appropriate ESDB school, discuss with staff and plan for the student’s transition.

(g) The ESDB superintendent shall be notified of all student placements and transitions back to an LEA.

_History Note:_ Authority G.S. 115C-12; 115C-150.13;

*Interim Rule status conferred Eff. June 27, 2018, pursuant to S.L. 2018-114, sec. 27.(b)*;