



Monday Message

To be released on Wednesday, May 20th

Use of ECATS

It has been brought to our attention that some LEAs have continued to use paper and pencil to develop IEPs rather than utilize the ECATS platform. Please be reminded that ECATS is the authoritative source for developing and maintaining EC Processes. All federal reporting data is generated through the completion of EC processes. There is no longer an option to be a “reporting only” district. Failure to maintain accurate records in ECATS adversely impacts an LEA’s ability to receive funding through child count and will create findings of noncompliance in the event of a desk audit.

If an LEA is not using ECATS, please contact your assigned monitoring consultant so that a plan of action can be created for the immediate transition to the new system.

Transportation as a Related Service

Transportation was an option that could be selected as a related service and edited to specify the amount of time provided. Transportation also could be addressed in the separate question under “Additional Services Information” on the Services page of the IEP Process.

While transportation is a related service and it may be appropriate to itemize the amount of time provided, concerns were expressed about whether or not transportation impacted the LRE calculation. Therefore, to reduce concerns and to standardize documentation, “Transportation” was removed from the related service drop-down menu. Going forward, details regarding special transportation should be documented in the space provided under “Additional Services Information”.

This change went into effect during the week of May 12, 2020. Users do not need to amend any current IEPs to accommodate this change. This can be corrected at the time the current IEP is either amended or an annual review is conducted.

State Mandated Assessments for Rising 9th Graders

Users have submitted tickets regarding the inability to select Biology and English II assessments for IEPs developed in 8th grade for rising 9th graders. These assessments are now available for selection, if appropriate, and went into effect on May 14, 2020.

**Please note: The EC Division works closely with Accountability to ensure that we have both grade-associated and subject-related assessments available as appropriate for selection in ECATS. We hope that this change has resolved any remaining outliers. If this is not the case, please submit the missing assessment via a ZenDesk ticket.*

Typographical Correction

The appropriate abbreviation for Autism Spectrum Disorder is “ASD”. A typo, “ASU” was identified in the Assessment/Behavior Rating Tool description. This has been corrected.

Progress Reports

Goals from previous annual IEPs were populating into the current IEP Progress Report. This was creating an error with accurate progress reporting on current IEP goals.

On May 14, 2020, a fix was pushed into the system to resolve this issue. The fix will prevent this behavior from occurring at the time a new IEP is developed going forward.

For IEPs currently in effect, the old goals will still display on the progress report. Users submitting these type of errors through ZenDesk tickets have been advised by PCG to enter “N/A: Goal from Previous IEP” in the progress notes section for the old IEP goals prior to finalizing the progress report. A second option, provided by the Policy, Monitoring and Audit section, is to continue completing progress reporting on the template provided by the EC Division in the Fall of 2019 until a new IEP is developed.

ECATS Enhancements

As a reminder, the EC Division has been collecting and periodically reviewing requests for enhancements submitted through a previously provided bitly link. There are plans to coordinate the delivery of any approved enhancements over the summer in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year. This work is in progress – any updates to the system will be communicated through the Monday Message.

For previous issues of the ECATS Monday Message, please visit https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/ecats/monday_messages.