ECATS
Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

Welcome to the very first ECATS Newsletter. This monthly communication will keep stakeholders informed and apprised with the latest up to date information! This month DPI and PCG co- presented at the DPI EC conference to packed presentation rooms – it was great to see the excitement start to build!

NC ECATS Implementation
The joint DPI-PCG ECATS team is hard at work on system programing and implementation planning. Current tasks include:

➢ Programming of all new state forms for the Special Education Module
➢ Gathering requirements for state and federal reporting
➢ Enhancing reporting and end user functionality for the Fee-for-Service (FFS) Documentation Module
➢ Finalizing state-wide data integration requirements for Special Ed/FFS and continuing work on state-wide data integrations requirements for MTSS
➢ Reviewing MTSS system requirements and development needs, and collaborating on implementation approach
➢ Coordinating training and pilot planning activities
➢ Communicating with DPI and Department of Information Technology (DIT) around project planning and technical oversight

Special Education Module
The Special Education Module team has been collaborating to prepare a solution that guides the user through essential questions regarding special education process when preparing for IEP Team meetings and completing special education documentation while maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations. An emphasis has been placed on streamlining data entry to reduce duplication of effort. For example, we are integrating progress monitoring with IEP goals, allowing for the pre-population of common data points and graphical results which can be provided to parents during progress reports. Ad-hoc reporting and pre-built report options are being constructed to assist District and State-level staff with the management student data, including Indicator data for the SPP/APR and aggregate data for the supervision of special education programs.

MTSS Module
The ECATS MTSS team has been working diligently to align the platform for MTSS with DPI's Problem-Solving Framework. ECATS MTSS complements the multi-tiered framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. ECATS MTSS uses an early warning system to assist educators in their data-based problem solving for decision making. The intervention planning page is designed to efficiently document interventions at both the supplemental and intensive levels. ECATS MTSS allows for progress monitoring and intervention effectiveness. Reports and summary dashboards also provide aggregate information for LEA, School and student level problem-solving.

Fee-for-Service Documentation (Medicaid) Module
This Fall, the ECATS FFS Documentation team has been hard at work preparing the ECATS Medicaid module! The ECATS Medicaid Module will feature integration with the other modules (MTSS and IEP) to have all student information in one place, and pull over relevant data for providers to log services. The Medicaid Module will make logging services easy through process-driven prompts, built-in error checking, and user-friendly terminology. The ability to create Plans of Care and approve supervisee services (Supervision Signoff) is also included!

PROJECT TIMELINE

February 19, 2018 – Pilot Training Begins (web and in person options)

February 26, 2018 – Pilot Start for Special Education and Fee-for-Service Documentation (Medicaid) Modules

April 11, 2018 – Pilot Start for MTSS Module

June 18, 2018 – July 11, 2018 TENTATIVE Blackout Period

July 2018 – Statewide Implementation – SpecialEd/FFS Go Live!

September 2018 – MTSS Go Live for First Implementers

RESOURCES

DPI ECATS Website:
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ecats/

DPI Contact: We welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and questions. Please send ECATS project related inquiries to
ECATS.INFO@DPI.NC.GOV

Click here for the FAQ section! This will be updated on an ongoing basis.

Q: Will I need to schedule IEP meetings before the "blackout period?"
A: Yes. Our recommendation is that for any IEPs or reevaluations coming due between June and September, the meetings be scheduled prior to the "Blackout Period." This creates a potential opportunity for LEAs to have all standard EC business current and included in the data migration while creating an expanded window for transition into the new system in the fall.
Q: In ECATS, will we have to pay a fee to submit claims to Medicaid?
A: LEAs are able to use the documentation portion of the Medicaid module for free. This means therapists can log their services and keep documentation in ECATS at no charge to the district. To submit those services to Medicaid, the LEA can either contract with PCG to submit the services in ECATS to Medicaid, contract with another billing vendor besides PCG, or bill the services on their own.
Q: How does my LEA find out about the ECATS MTSS module?
A: DPI will be communicating with LEAs in January to explain the MTSS module and implementation plans.