



Monday Message

March 30, 2020

April Head Count

With COVID-19 school closure, LEAs have been unable to complete annual IEP reviews, finalize new initial referrals or update eligibility that would potentially have been on their April 1 child count. Traditionally, the April 1 child count is greater than December 1, due to the length of time students have been in school. The North Carolina State Board of Education has approved the DPI data team and EC division to use a statistical calculation, using data from the December and April child counts over five years, to project a reasonable count increase for April 1, 2020. This information will then be used for budgeting purposes for DPI. More information concerning the statistical formula will be provided later in the week. No districts will see a reduction from last year's April child count. For the time being, please hold off on local work related to conducting the April child count.

Advanced Reporting Basics Training Videos Now Available

New Advanced Reporting Basics training videos are now available. These provide step-by-step tutorials on how to navigate and use basic functions within the Advanced Reporting system in ECATS. This reporting tool can pull both historical and current workspace data, allowing users with designated access to perform customized data analysis. The Advanced Reporting Basics training videos are available within the ECATS application under Resources and on the ECATS website at <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/ecats/special-education/training-videos>. These videos cover material included in the Advanced Reporting Basics (AR 101) manual found under Resources within the ECATS application and on the ECATS website at <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/ecats/special-education/training>.

Inactive Students

In response to Zen Desk requests to allow related service providers (Service Provider 2 role type in ECATS) to log services for inactive students, the following guidance is offered:

Inactivation of a student in an LEA's instance of ECATS should not occur until all student data, documentation, and procedural details are brought current across both IEP and Service Documentation modules. This means service documentation should be kept reasonably up-to-date so that few, if any, missing service logs can be entered prior to the student being inactivated. This also means IEP teams will need communication protocols to ensure all team members are aware of relevant timelines and tasks associated with inactivating students.

Given this, and to maintain consistency of practice across ECATS modules, Service Provider 2 users will not have access to inactive student records/be able to log services for inactive students.

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