EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
NC Department of Public Instruction

TIP SHEET: CHILD COUNT AND ELIGIBILITY

Essential Questions	Initial
When do I initiate the process?	• Suspect Disability OR • Out of State Transfer
Must I complete evaluations (testing)?	**YES** ➡ If there are no current relevant, and existing data for the NC required screening/evaluations for each suspected disability. **NO** ➡ If there is current, relevant, and existing data for the required screening/evaluations for each suspected disability needed to establish eligibility and develop the IEP.
What happens to eligibility?	Eligibility is determined once the IEP Team reviews all the required evaluation data.
May I count on Child Count?	Yes, if there is a current eligibility <u>and</u> IEP on December 1 and April 1.
Essential Questions	**Reevaluation**
When do I initiate the process?	• Suspect a change in eligibility OR • Information needed for programming
Must I complete evaluations?	**YES** ➡ If the IEP Team suspects the eligibility category has changed OR the IEP Team requires formal evaluation data for programming.
What happens to eligibility?	• No change to eligibility if the purpose of the reevaluation is programming only. • If the IEP Team suspects the disability has changed, then evaluations must be completed. Once completed, the IEP Team must convene for the purposes of eligibility.
May I count on Child Count?	Yes, if there is a current IEP on December 1 and April 1.
Essential Questions	**Triennial**
When do I initiate the process?	• Required every three years to review eligibility **AND** programming
Must I complete evaluations?	**YES** ➡ If the IEP Team suspects the eligibility category has changed **OR** the IEP Team requires formal evaluation data for programming. **NO** ➡ If there is current, relevant, and existing data for all required screening/evaluations to establish eligibility and develop the IEP.
What happens to eligibility?	• Evaluations must be completed, and eligibility determined before current eligibility expires. • If there is current, relevant, and existing data for all required screening/evaluations at the time of the triennial and the IEP Team agrees that the eligibility category remains appropriate, eligibility can be determined, and the three-year clock is restarted.
May I count on Child Count?	Yes, if there is a current IEP on December 1 and April 1.

ECATS Rules of Completion

EC Process-A new IEP cannot be finalized if the eligibility has expired

Federal Reporting-A student may be counted on Child Count if there is a current IEP on December 1 and April 1

Eligibility EXPIRED
IEP EXPIRED

Trouble spot ➡ ***when these two separate rules of completion intersect,*** a student cannot be counted on Child Count if these two events exist on December 1 or April 1.

Troubleshooting

Review Local Practices That May Be Problematic

- Is testing required locally for all required screenings/evaluations at initial, reevaluation, and/or triennial, regardless of existing data?
    - We test every other triennial?
    - We test for all required evaluations even if we have existing data that may be current and relevant?
    - We test all *out-of-state* transfers?
    - We test all *in-state* transfers?
- Do we address eligibility at EVERY reevaluation if it is only for programming?
- Do we schedule the triennial reevaluation too close to the eligibility expiration date?