ECATS

North Carolina ECATS Newsletter

Welcome to this month's ECATS Newsletter. This ongoing communication keeps stakeholders apprised of the latest information.

ECATS Implementation
As publicized by DPI in a memo on Friday June 15th, the blackout period has been delayed. Also, as publicized by DPI in a memo on Thursday June 21st, the ECATS Go Live date of July 11, 2018 has been delayed. As more information is available with revised dates, this information will be released. In the meantime, please continue to use your current system of record, whether that is EasyIEP, GoalView, or CECAS.

This past month the combined project team has completed significant work on the data integration and migration efforts including testing of additional data files and beginning testing of intended migration.

As we move towards rollout, the full production environment is being built out and undergoing necessary testing. The training site is being finalized to match the production environment but scaled down for use by LEAs and will contain simulated student data which may be accessed for conducting trainings.

Thank you for bearing with us as we work through this delay. We all want to roll out a system that is ready and that will be a success for all users.

Special Education Module
The ECATS EC team is working hard to prepare the EC module for rollout, and training materials are being finalized. Recently, downloadable versions of forms were made available on DPI's EC Forms page, and a review of EC data management needs for the dark period was conducted with EC data managers. As we focus on data migration and putting the final touches on the ECATS system, we look forward to the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

MTSS Module
The MTSS module is gearing up for rollout by putting on the finishing touches for reporting CEIS and creating a Cost Benefit Analysis on interventions. The module complements DPI MTSS Framework by using not only the Early Warning System, but also intervention planning and analysis. We look forward to assisting LEAs in how they interact with their own problem-solving models and documenting interventions and progress monitoring. In addition, the module can set up standard treatment protocols for interventions by area of need and grade levels at the school level.
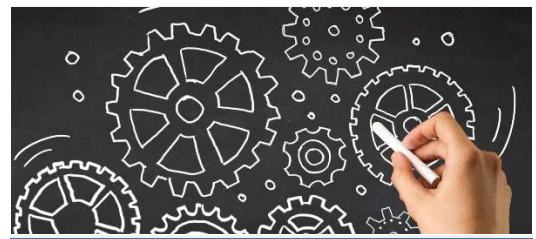
Service Documentation (Medicaid) Module
The Service Documentation Module is gearing up for the Blackout Period and rollout of the ECATS system. To facilitate seamless and compliant translation of paper-to-ECATS service documentation for services recorded during the Blackout Period, DPI has issued 3 discipline-specific documentation templates for therapists providing services during this period. Use of the templates is not required, but is strongly encouraged. The templates will closely mirror the ECATS Logging Wizards and will allow therapists to easily translate paper documentation to ECATS when the system goes live. Questions or comments about the templates may be directed towards the relevant consultant below:
Laurie Ray, PT Consultant, at 919-636-1827 or laurie_ray@med.unc.edu
Lauren Holahan, OT Consultant, at 919-428-7201 or lauren_holahan@med.unc.edu
Perry Flynn, SLP Consultant at 336-256-2005 or pfflynn@uncg.edu

PROJECT TIME LINE

TBD, 2018 – TBD, 2018
Blackout Period

TBD 2018
Statewide Implementation – Special Education/Service Documentation Go Live

TARGET: 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

FAQ

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

Q: Have technical requirements been released yet?
A: The system is accessed via the EdCloud/IAM portal. The only technical requirements are to have a strong internet connection available to users and that a current version of their browser is installed.
Q: Is there consideration for LEAs to provide access for contract providers that are not employed by the LEA?
A: All staff will need a UID number and all staff information should be entered into the LEA/charter school payroll system as a contractor. LEA payroll systems update the state Staff UID system such that the user will then gain a UID. Once the contractor has a UID and is listed as active in Staff UID, their account will be automatically sent to IAM and will be ready for claiming the following day.
Q: Will a student's English learner status be imported from PowerSchool?
A: Yes, we will be receiving a flag from PowerSchool that identifies the student as an English learner.
Q: Will EOG/EOC data and student grades be available in ECATS?
A: Yes, EOG/EOC data and grades will be uploaded from PowerSchool for use in the appropriate ECATS modules.
Q: Will there be a training site with a sample school to use for training?
A: Yes, there will be a Training LEA available to all users with sample schools and simulated student data set up for training and "play."