



North Carolina ECATS Newsletter

MARCH 2019

Welcome to this month's edition of the ECATS Newsletter.

ECATS Implementation

From the perspective of the entire system, the ECATS team is performing a number of project activities in preparation for go-live. System wide testing is currently being performed. Final data migration testing and timing efforts have also begun.

Special Education Module: Current Focus

The ECATS Special Education team continues to refine the module processes. One area of note is the auto-population feature across various pages and documents, such as in the Assessment Summary. This page appears in the Referral, Eligibility, IEP, and Reevaluation processes. Here, users enter assessment data from a list of preloaded assessments or create custom assessments, and the student's assessment history is then available to view and edit across multiple processes. This type of time-saving feature minimizes repetitive data entry so that users have more time to focus on developing measurable goals for progress monitoring.

MTSS Module: Current Focus

The DPI team has been reviewing training videos produced by PCG, aligning features to accessible tools and documents, and prioritizing professional learning content.

Service Documentation Module: Current Focus

The Service Documentation team continues in testing and configuring the new Mandated vs. Delivered Service Documentation tool. This feature allows providers to compare the frequency of mandated services to the number of services logged within common time frames. We are excited to release this tool to the field with the launch of ECATS. As you prepare for ECATS roll out, please thoughtfully consider who will represent your LEA for the training sessions focused on the Service Documentation module (e.g., related service providers, varied disciplines, varied experience/comfort with technology, contracted or hired staff) to ensure a transition that is as smooth as possible.

Transition Tips – Data Cleanup

In preparation for system implementation, it is not too early to perform data cleanup related to User Records from an administrative perspective. For example, you should deactivate User Account access to those no longer affiliated with your LEA, Charter or SOP. If any duplicate User Accounts are found, you should also deactivate access to those that are still associated to your LEA.

Note: There is a two-step process to deactivate a user.

Step 1: Enter a date in the Inactive Date field.

Step 2: Remove the attachment to your LEA from the user's record.

* If the user is currently associated with another LEA, you will be unable to enter an Inactive date, however, the LEA can be removed.



PROJECT TIME LINE

TBD – TBD

Blackout Period

TBD 2019

Statewide Implementation – Special Education/Service Documentation Go Live

TBD 2019

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: Are there set Usertypes that can be sent to LEAs in order to plan for who falls into each category for system access?

A: Yes, standardized Usertypes have been established for the ECATS modules. LEAs will be provided with guidance on those Usertypes so that planning can occur to determine how these should be assigned to LEA staff.

Q: Will data in ECATS be populated and/or will information be entered manually?

A: The data in ECATS will be a mix, defined by the authoritative source. For instance, grades and demographic information will be imported from PowerSchool, and eligibility determination assessments and other EC Process data will be entered directly into ECATS.

Q: How many LEA representatives will be able to attend regional trainings?

A: LEAs will have the opportunity to send multiple representatives to regional training sessions for each module. DPI will communicate the number of spots allotted to each LEA, based upon LEA size.

Q: Will LEAs be required only to complete IEP documents in ECATS as they come due after go-live?

A: Yes, LEAs will be required to complete IEPs in ECATS only as they come due during the upcoming school year.