



North Carolina ECATS Newsletter

JULY 2018

Welcome to this month's **special edition of the ECATS Newsletter**. We want to use this month's edition to give you as much information as we can about the delay and its impact.

ECATS Implementation: Delay Decision & Impact

As publicized by DPI in a memo on Tuesday, July 10th, the Blackout Period and ECATS Go Live have been delayed. More information, including revised dates, will be released as it becomes available. In the meantime, please continue to use your current system of record whether that is EasyIEP, GoalView, or CECAS. New forms should be used when the ECATS system goes live. Use your current forms in your system until that time. If you have questions about how to do that, logistically or financially, please reach out to Bill Hussey (Bill.Hussey@dpi.nc.gov) or Sherry Thomas (Sherry.Thomas@dpi.nc.gov) with questions.

Many of you know the data-integration concerns that have been discussed. In addition, we are still working on a plan to automate the ongoing data transfer requirements with PowerSchool, and vendor delays have pushed the project timeline too close to the start of the new school year. Along with other factors, we have made the decision to delay the ECATS rollout until this winter or spring to allow time to resolve these issues. We want to release a product that is complete and fully tested. We want to spend the time needed up front to address anticipated issues rather than release a system which causes issues upon roll out.

This delay is difficult for LEAs, and we understand the last-minute announcement caused significant issues locally with training plans and resource planning. As a project team, we apologize for the inconvenience we know this caused. The ECATS team is in the process of revamping the project timeline and determining its impact, such as on training dates and associated structures.

Your ongoing support of this initiative is appreciated, and we will continue to communicate as much as we possibly can as decisions are made.

Special Education Module: Current Focus

The EC team has been hard at work this summer making sure everything is ready for release. Even with the announcement of the delay in roll out, the team has continued to work on preparing training materials and videos, validating system readiness, and supporting data integration efforts. Additionally, we are taking time to determine what additional tools and functions can be added to our Go Live target.

MTSS Module: Current Focus

The MTSS team is recording screencast videos that will be used during training and made available to educators as they use the platform. There will be videos covering broad topics including the early warning system (EWS), plan creation, plan tools and features, and reporting. Additionally, we are recording several "micro-videos" that will focus on more specific items or actions in the ECATS MTSS module. We hope these training tools will assist with the ECATS implementation.

Service Documentation (Medicaid) Module: Current Focus

The Service Documentation team has been working to prepare training materials and videos for the Go Live target. The team continues to work on testing and site preparation this summer.



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: Will you pull in users and permissions for existing EasyIEP users? Or will the district input these manually after the migration?

A: User information including UID and other demographics will be pulled from the State ODS. Using job code as the basis for access, there will be a local LEA process at roll out to align users to appropriate roles since districts sometimes use job codes in different ways and therefore permissions cannot be set on a statewide basis. LEA staff responsible for role assignment will need to complete that activity prior to LEA users having access to processes and student records.

Q: When will training be provided for districts not in the pilot?

A: Districts will be largely trained upon go live; some catered training may be provided in early summer for data managers for data entry. We acknowledge that DAC requested training for directors at their next quarterly Regional Directors meeting. We are attempting to provide information or demonstration which can be shared at those meetings in some form.

Q: Can multiple people still work on one student at the same time within the system? Will we still be notified if there is another person working on the child's record?

A: The system will still support multiple users in the same student record and include an on-page warning that another user is working on a student's record.