



# North Carolina ECATS Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

Welcome to this month's ECATS Newsletter. This ongoing communication will keep stakeholders informed and apprised with the latest up to date information.

## NC ECATS Implementation

The joint DPI-PCG ECATS team is actively planning the many aspects of the pilot implementation and moving into system programming for rollout. Current tasks include:

- Performing quality assurance testing on all new state forms which are now programmed into the system
- Gathering requirements for state and federal reporting
- Refining training plans, both in terms of logistics and training content for the Special Education/FFS pilot
- Developing and testing state-wide data integration files for Special Education/FFS and continuing work on state-wide data integrations requirements for MTSS
- Discussing configuration options and user type set up for all modules
- Continuing communication and collaboration with DPI and Department of Information Technology (DIT) around project planning and technical oversight

## Special Education Module

Over the holidays and into January, the Special Education module team has been focusing on moving two key conversations forward:

- Addressing training for both pilot and rollout. The team is collaborating to advance the development of manuals, training documentation, answers to key policy and process questions, and training schedules
- Continuing development of the pilot system functionality. We are currently finalizing development around pilot processes, conducting testing, and configuring the pilot sites so that they are ready for participating LEAs

It is a busy time, but the ECATS platform is taking shape!

## MTSS Module

The Integrated Academic and Behaviors Systems Division has been working with PCG on:

- Identifying data configurations for the Early Warning System
- Determining reports to assist with robust problem-solving at various levels
- Drafting state level cut points for the indicators in the Early Warning System
- Constructing an implementation plan for statewide rollout
- Ensuring the platform complements NCDPI MTSS professional development

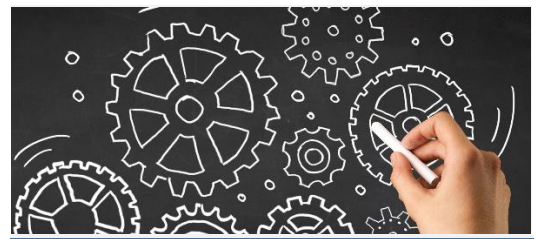
We will soon be sending out communication to explain the statewide rollout.

## Service Documentation (Medicaid) Module

*This module has previously been identified as Fee-For-Service. Because we want all services documented, not just those billed to Medicaid, we will now refer to this module as the Service Documentation module.*

The Service Documentation team has been working this month to prepare for the ECATS pilot in February. Our biggest tasks are:

- Configuring user types to ensure clinicians have access to student data necessary for documentation and administrators have access to oversight tools
- Executing quality assurance on functionality to ensure system fidelity
- Planning the training approach as we look forward to pilot
- Working on new system features and reports to analyze provider caseloads/workloads on a per-provider, per-school, and per-LEA level



## PROJECT TIME LINE

### February 19, 2018

Pilot training begins (web and in person options)

### February 26, 2018

Pilot start for Special Education and Service Documentation (Medicaid) modules

### April 11, 2018

Pilot start for MTSS module

### June 16, 2018 – July 11, 2018

TENTATIVE Blackout period

### July 2018

Statewide implementation – Sped/Service Documentation Go Live

### September 2018

MTSS Go Live for first implementers

## REOURCES

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](mailto:ECATS.INFO@DPI.NC.GOV)

## FAQ

Click [here](#) for the FAQ section. This will be updated on an ongoing basis.

**Q: During the blackout period, will we use current state forms or the new state forms?**

**A: Current state or locally developed forms should be used during the blackout period. You will then be able to back date the data from those forms into the new state forms once ECATS is live. Additional details about the blackout period will be forthcoming.**

Q: Can non-pilot participants attend the trainings for the pilot?

A: No. Spots in the pilot trainings are reserved for pilot attendees. DPI and PCG are evaluating the viability of recording one or more of these trainings and providing access.

Q: How will ECATS logins be maintained?

A: Logins into ECATS will be done through the IAM system. This is the same system used by PowerSchool to ensure secure access.