



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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**TO** District Superintendents  
Charter School Directors  
EC Directors  
Chief Academic Officers

**FROM** Mark Johnson  
  
Maria Pitre-Martin  
  
Bill Hussey

## ECATS

We know that response and recovery efforts for Hurricane Florence are most important right now, but many of you have contacted the Department of Public Instruction at various levels to inquire about the status of the ECATS platform launch. We hope this memorandum will serve as a uniform update that will dispel misinformation and give a true picture of the status of the project.

First, you should know that all of us at DPI support ECATS and want it to be successful. However, if we try to launch it now, it will not work as designed and will not be a success. While we apologize for the delay, we would have left districts in an even worse position if we launched this fall.

We have spent many hours this summer trying to work through the technical difficulties we have encountered with the product vendor. Those discussions are ongoing, but we made the decision to delay the implementation while we work to ensure the product is functional and valuable.

As you may know, North Carolina is not alone in facing these difficulties. The Mississippi Department of Education just abandoned their Mississippi IEP Data Accountability System (MIDAS) effort, also due to data integration issues. Unlike Mississippi, we are not abandoning our effort, but we do need more time to ensure the plan will work.

**Again, please know that there is not a plan to discontinue the construction of ECATS. We are all committed to making it work. Also, we currently do not plan to pursue another vendor for the project. We are working hard with the product vendor to deliver ECATS.**

We hope this answers your questions, and again, we apologize for this delay but assure you we are committed to the future of the ECATS project.

## OFFICE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPERINTENDENT

Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction* | mark.johnson@dpi.nc.gov  
6301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6301 | (919) 807-3430 | Fax (919) 807-3445  
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