



North Carolina ECATS Newsletter

JANUARY 2019

Welcome to this month's edition of the ECATS Newsletter. We hope you are having a wonderful start to the new year!

ECATS Implementation

The ECATS team is actively testing functionality, data connectivity with other vendors and system configurations essential for system go-live.

Special Education Module: Current Focus

The DPI and PCG Special Education teams have been working through requirements for a Dispute Resolution component of the system. This will include key elements of the Mediation, Facilitation, Due Process, and State Complaint processes that will be available in the Comprehensive LEA Report (CLEAR).

Extensive effort has been placed on data migration activities. As these activities continue, please be certain to attend to NCDPI communication regarding reminders for data clean-up. It is essential that all records be updated/closed/verified in a timely fashion after meetings are held to ensure the transfer of complete student records.

A preview of the EC service names will be available the first week of February on the "Resources" link of the ECATS webpage located [here](#). This list is a baseline that will be available in ECATS. It is intended to assist users in thinking about how to describe and potentially crosswalk services from existing naming conventions at the local level. The list can be revised after implementation to accommodate the needs of the field.

MTSS Module: Current Focus

The DPI and PCG MTSS teams are working together to ensure that data from selected third party vendors can be integrated within the MTSS module. As a result, data from these vendors would be populated within the Early Warning System and triggered upon established thresholds.

Service Documentation (Medicaid) Module: Current Focus

The DPI and PCG Service Documentation teams have been undertaking additional rounds of testing for go-live readiness. The new Mandated vs. Delivered Service Documentation tool is being honed with further rounds of testing. This feature will allow providers to compare the frequency of mandated services to the number of services logged within common time frames. This functionality will be an integral component of a system designed to maximize efficiency and provide valuable data for service providers and administrators throughout North Carolina.

Transition Tips – Data Cleanup

Effective February 8, 2019 for CECAS users:

- The Support Description within the IEP and Plan for OT/PT/SLP can no longer be used.
- "Other Program Services (OTHS)" and "Other Program (OP)" codes will be inactivated.

Remember to run the "Timely Placement Progress Report" frequently. This will assist in ensuring that all fields are completed and that processes are closed/verified in a timely fashion. This directly impacts the accuracy and completeness of student records during the data transfer process.



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 we be able to search for students based on course of study? For example, searching for only students on NCEXTEND1

A: This is not available on the advanced student search, which is where we think this question is coming from, but there is an accommodations document as well as an accommodations report, which will allow testing coordinators to pull a list of students with these assessments and their accommodations.

Q: Is each LEA required to have a standard treatment protocol?

A: It is preferred that the LEA has a Standard Treatment Protocol; however, the module doesn't require that you have one.

Q: Will "sentence starters" be included in the comments section to ensure all billing required components are included?

A: No, the Auto Text feature is specifically for therapists writing the Service Note when documenting therapy sessions. The Auto-Text feature is available for purchase outside of the ECATS Service Documentation Module but not included in the free Service Documentation Module at this time.