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Governor

January 12, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local Education Agency Special Education Directors, Regional Education Cooperative Directors, and Charter School Special Education Coordinators

**FROM:** Denise Koscielniak, State Director Special Education

**RE:** **CLARIFICATION ON STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN INDICATOR 7 (EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSESSMENT)**

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The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) Special Education Bureau (SEB) has received numerous questions regarding reporting data for the State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicator 7, early childhood outcomes. Attached you will find a Question and Answer sheet.

Thank you for communicating your questions to us. I hope you find this information helpful. If you need any further assistance please contact the Special Education Bureau at (505) 827-1457 and ask to speak with the Education Administrator assigned to your district.

Thank you.

DK/cr

Enclosures

cc: Catherine Cross Maple, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary, Learning and Accountability  
District Superintendents  
Charter School Administrators

**Question and Answer Sheet**  
**State Performance Plan**  
**Indicator 7 – Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO)**

Entering Data in the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS):

**1. How do I report Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) data into the STARS?**

Response:

Data is reported in STARS using the Assessment Fact Template. Program entry data is required to be entered into STARS on the 80<sup>th</sup> or 120<sup>th</sup> day. Progress data on all students enrolled for at least six months or more in a preschool program is required between the 120<sup>th</sup> or End of Year (EOY) reporting periods.

**2. How often do I enter data in STARS?**

Response:

Every student in program will have data submitted on them two times per year (entry and progress). This will be the yearly entry data and yearly progress data on every student who has been enrolled in a preschool program for at least six months or more during a school year.

**3. Whom do I report data on?**

Response:

Reporting is required for all 619 preschool students ages two – five. Students must be assessed within 30 days of commencing the program, but no later than 30 days or less from the end of the school year. Students who enroll in the program less than 30 days from the end of the school year do not require data to be entered.

**4. Why is a district required to report a second set of ECO data in the spring, and does a child's time in service need to be consecutive?**

Response:

In order for progress data to be measured consecutively, a second data point must be collected annually. Six months of preschool service is generally considered six months of consecutive service. However, if a child is in a program for two months, leaves and takes a month to move with his family, and shows up in another program across the state where he receives services for another four months this would be considered equivalent to six months of consecutive service.

**5. Why are Local Education Agencies (LEAs) required to submit entry data for every returning student? I thought that only progress data was done annually.**

Response:

There are two separate programs, one for three year olds and one for four year olds. In order to obtain valid and reliable progress samples, separate entry data

and progress data are required on each program each school year.

**6. Can I use last year's progress data as this year's beginning of the year data?**

Response:

No, because they are two separate programs and the time period between the two data points does not meet the Office of Special Education Program's (OSEP) requirements for data collection.

**7. Which students should have progress data reported?**

Response:

Students who have been in program at least six months or more of consecutive and receiving services are required to have progress data entered on them. The reporting period for entering progress data will be from March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, annually.

**8. What assessment must LEAs administer to their students to collect entry and progress data?**

Response:

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) enrolled in Section 619 Part B preschool programs must be administered one of the state approved assessments listed below within 30 days of commencing the program, regardless if they were enrolled in the program last school year:

- Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Early Development II-2004
- Creative Curriculum for Preschool, fourth edition
- Work Sampling System by Pearson

Results from assessments are to be entered into the STARS System using the Child Outcome Summary Form (COSF) as a crosswalk for reporting categories. LEAs desiring to use an instrument other than a state approved instrument are required to submit a written request to the SEB. Prior to the utilization of the instrument, the LEA must receive written permission.

**9. Do I have to assess typically developing peers?**

Response:

No

**10. What is progress data?**

Response:

Progress data is the measurement of the student's regression, maintenance, or progress of skills in the areas of positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and the use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs that the students has made over one school year. These data are submitted as an aggregate to OSEP annually as the State's measure of the three year old and four year old preschool program.