



SPOTLIGHT ON ILLUMINATE

APRIL 2015

ILLUMINATE ADJUSTS FOR LEAP YEAR

Please be advised that 2016 is a Leap Year so for any IEPs completed after March 1, 2015 Illuminate has automatically factored in Leap Year when calculating the end date of the IEP. Annual IEPs are to be held within 365 days of each other so in a Leap Year (366 days) we need to be even more cautious about going beyond annual IEP deadlines. For example: An IEP that was published on 1/27/15 has an IEP end date of 1/26/16 because the added calendar date of 2/29/16 does not occur during that IEP. However an IEP that was recently published on 4/2/15 has an IEP end date of 3/31/16 because the added calendar date of 2/29/16 occurs during that IEP.

Previously Illuminate users were advised that IEP due dates were one year minus one day from the FAPE (publish) date. For IEPs that will take place during a Leap year that is actually one year minus two days. As always, it is best practice to schedule IEPs well in advance of the actual due date to allow room for rescheduling if needed.

ILLUMINATE RELEASES - CURRENT & UPCOMING

The Illuminate REED will be undergoing a couple of small changes. The first change will be in the determination options on the evaluation plan page. The first determination option is currently worded: *"Data to determine whether the student continues to have a disability or has an additional disability and/or needs special education and related services"* This option will be re-worded to: *"Data to determine whether the student has a disability or has an additional disability and needs special education and related services"*. This new wording will more accurately capture both the initial and the reevaluation scenario. Please keep in mind that checking this box (both now and in the future) is what triggers Illuminate to generate a MET cover sheet so this box should be checked only in situations where the evaluation data is needed to determine whether or not the student is eligible (initial), continues to be eligible (reevaluation), or is eligible in a new area (additional disability).

Another change will be happening in the signature area. The parent signature area will remain the same but the district representative signature will be under the heading "for office use only". The wording will be changed to: "_____ (Date District Received Signed Parent Consent) by: _____ (Administrator/Designee Signature)". The 30 school day timeline for completion of evaluations starts on the day that the district receives the signed consent from parents, not the date that the administrator signs. Once this change is made, staff receiving the signed REED from parents should note the date that it is received in this area so that the 30 school day timeline can be accurately calculated.

When completing an IEP for a transition aged student you are now asked to enter the student's anticipated exit date. This date will be used to populate a new widget on the dashboard for those working with transition aged students. The widget is titled SOP (Summary of Performance) Status and will provide Illuminate users with the deadlines for completing the Summary of Performance. The actual SOP process will become available in Illuminate next school year.

ILLUMINATE REFRESHER SESSIONS

With M-STEP taking place from now until nearly the end of the school year, it was determined that it would be best to hold off on any additional Illuminate refresher sessions. Sessions will be planned for next school year. The first topic of priority will be in the area of goals and benchmarks but additional topics will be planned to meet the needs expressed by staff in the survey last fall. Watch for more news on this to come in the spring/summer.