

April 6, 2020



Dear Early Childhood Colleagues,

We want to thank you for contacting the ADE Early Childhood (EC) Unit about ongoing progress monitoring of young children with disabilities. It is the goal of our Unit to support schools and all educators as they work to provide meaningful educational opportunities to children during these challenging circumstances. After careful review of all federal guidance and considering IDEA data reporting requirements, ADE/ESS and ADE/ECE will not require further data collection for Child Outcomes during the school closure. Since Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) is the measurement tool for Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)-required data, not progress reporting related to individualized education programs (IEPs), it has been determined that additional collection of data into TSG is not required after March 15, 2020. Progress reporting, as it relates to IEP goals, should still be done to the greatest extent possible during school closure.

The Spring Checkpoint will include progress data collected between the Winter Checkpoint ending February 7<sup>th</sup> and the school closing date of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please ensure that any documentation collected necessary to finalize the Spring Checkpoint is recorded in the Teaching Strategies Gold program. This documentation could include observations, notes and/or work samples collected during that period. Gathering ongoing progress monitoring data is a valuable process in the life of a young child, providing a glimpse of their growth due to the programs they attend. Changing the date of the collection does not change its importance.

We wish to recognize the innovative work you are doing to offer early childhood educational programming for your preschool aged children with and without disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak. This work is so valued, and your efforts to engage families and gather their input acknowledges the importance of family engagement in the process. Thank you for this. Please contact us if there is anything that we can do for you.

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