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Bureau of Special Education FY'21 Memo #8

Date: August 13, 2020

To: Superintendents of Schools
Administrators of Special Education

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Learner Support
Bureau of Student Support

RE: Anticipated New Features in NHSEIS (New Hampshire Special Education Information System)

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Student Support (Bureau), is anticipating updates and new features in NHSEIS designed to enhance the Individual Education Program (IEP) Process, IEP finalization, and parent/guardian response options. To develop these changes in NHSEIS, input was solicited from current users, the NHSEIS Stakeholder Group, and the Public Consulting Group, the vendor for NHSEIS.

The new developments were sparked by many discussions throughout the state from NHSEIS users at schools with Bureau staff. The reasons why services were written incorrectly in IEPs became apparent. In response, users will now have the ability to properly enter the information for all types of services, aids, and supports with newly added dropdown menus.

Another improvement is in regards to accommodations and/or modifications. NHSEIS users stated concerns of limited or lack of year-long exposure and practice to accommodations and/or modifications selected to use on district-wide and state assessments. Realizing this was aided in NHSEIS having one section established for needs in the classroom and another reserved for district-wide and state assessments. Both areas are now combined into one section.

The most recent enhancement was the launch of *NHSEIS Connect* through the Parent Portal as an option for SAU NHSEIS sites to virtually obtain parent/guardian responses and signature(s) to the currently proposed IEP, removing the need for postal mail for paper correspondence.

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Additional improvements to NHSEIS will be available on or after August 10, 2020. Below is a list describing the upgraded areas in the IEP:

- IEP Process - Accommodations and/or Modifications (tab label change)
 - All accommodations and/or modifications for both Classroom and District-wide & State Assessments are now combined into this section for:
 - NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS)
 - SAT
 - District-Wide Assessments
 - Classroom (academic and non-academic)
- IEP Process – Removal of the State & District Assessments tab label, as stated above
- IEP Process – Services, Aides, and Support
 - All services, including supplementary services and support for personnel will have features using NHSEIS dropdown menus for type of service, number, frequency, and duration of sessions, and setting.

A change to make note of is in regards to the begin date of the IEP, if the parent provides written consent to the IEP after the begin date on the proposed IEP. In this situation, NHSEIS will change the IEP begin date, based on the signature date entered in response to the proposed IEP, in the student history, but not on the IEP document.

For further information, please contact Terry Hersh at Terry.L.Hersh@doe.nh.gov or 603-271-3775.

Enclosure:

Overview of New Features in NHSEIS