



Early Childhood Special Education Initial Assessments of Non-resident Students

Background:

MDE policy states resident districts must establish eligibility for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) before an “open enrolled” district may provide services to an ECSE student. MARSS will not accept assessment hours for a non-resident ECSE student and will place a MARSS warning on a first time non-resident ECSE student record even if there are no assessment hours attached.

WCED Recommendation:

- 1) If a parent, daycare provider, and/or foster care provider contacts a district requesting a special education evaluation and it is determined that the child is a non-resident of your district, you should refer that party back to the resident district for assessment purposes. Once the child has been assessed, and if the child is eligible for special education services, then the non-resident district may serve the ECSE student.
- 2) Each member district may choose to assess a non-resident student due to extenuating circumstances but ECSE staff should discuss circumstances with an Administrator to obtain approval and should then contact the resident district to discuss the assessment and request permission from the resident district to conduct the eval. Districts accept that they will not be able to report assessment hours in MARSS and the MARSS record will have a warning attached.
- 3) Our four member districts agree to: assess EC students from member districts using the following procedures: 1) Contact the non-resident district to inform them of the referral and obtain permission to move forward. 2) After completing the assessment, if the child is determined eligible for Special Education services the non-resident district will invite the resident district to the ER/IEP meeting.

MARSS Manual page 187: Early Childhood Evaluation Only Students

The resident district is responsible for providing evaluation to children who may be eligible for special education services under FAPE. The resident district can provide evaluation itself or purchase the service from another district. Because the resident district is responsible for assuring that the service is provided, the resident district must report these enrollments on MARSS using State Aid Category (SAC) 00. If a nonresident district or charter school provides evaluation services to a pre-kindergarten child, the enrollment record should have a SAC of 21; no state aid is generated and there is no bill back to the resident district. However, a cooperative that provides the early childhood special education program on behalf of its member districts can also provide the evaluation services and report those hours on MARSS using SAC 10 or 19. Note that a foster child without an IEP/IFSP/IIIP is a resident of the district in which the foster home is located.