DIVISION OF DATA, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

To: DC Local Education Agency Leaders and LEA Special Education Points of Contact
From: OSSE Division of Data, Accountability, and Research
Date: September 9, 2015
RE: School Year 2015-2016 SEDS Release

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview and rationale for the changes that will occur to the Special Education Database System (SEDS or *EasyIEP*) on September21, 2015. The scope of the changes to SEDS is narrow and will only affect the Classroom Accommodations and Testing Participation page, the Eligibility Process, the Service Logging Wizard, the Comparable Services Page, Service Trackers, and the Student/Parent Information Page.

Rationale
OSSE seeks to establish a list of statewide testing accommodations in SEDS that applies to the full range of DC statewide assessments (e.g., PARCC ELA/Literacy, PARCC Mathematics, DC Science Assessment, DC Alternate Assessment), and is not just tailored to any specific assessment. OSSE also seeks to reduce the administrative burden on LEAs by simplifying and/or combining substantially similar accommodations, and by using clear language in the title of each accommodation.

Additionally, a new feature in SEDS will allow the user to select testing accommodations independent of classroom accommodations, which will ensure IEP teams are fully able to designate appropriate accommodations for each student environment.

Additional small changes to SEDS are being deployed based on feedback from LEAs and due to updates in state-level special education policies and procedures.

Changes to SEDS
OSSE will make the following changes to the Classroom Accommodations and Testing Participation page of the IEP Process:

- The user will be able to select testing accommodations independent of classroom accommodations.

- The user will be able to select testing accommodations for students participating in alternate assessments. Previously this feature was not available, as historically alternate assessments were portfolio-based and did not require testing accommodations distinct from classroom accommodations. DC statewide alternate assessments now include assessment formats that require accommodations for some students.

- The list of available accommodations, and accompanying titles, will be modified to reflect all DC statewide assessments, and to provide further clarity on the intended use of each accommodation.

OSSE will make the following small changes to other areas of SEDS:

Process	Summary of Changes

Eligibility Process	• **Eligibility Determination:** Question added to Eligibility Determination Page to determine if user accepts out-of-state Eligibility and populate date field to correspond with that out- of-state Eligibility. • **Referral Acknowledgement Page:** A new Referral Source will appear in the drop down on the referral acknowledgment page to include out-of-state referrals and private school Individual Service Plans • **Referral Acknowledgement Page:** A reminder will appear at the bottom of bottom of page informing users to complete Comparable Service tab.
IEP Process	• **Classroom Accommodations and Testing Participation:** The selection of Classroom and state-wide assessment accommodations will be decoupled so that users will be allowed to select separate classroom accommodations and state-wide assessment accommodations.
Other	• **Service Trackers:** The Service Time and Date Range field information from the Service Logging wizards are now viewable on the Service tracker document title. • **Student/Parent Information Page**: The disability category is now viewable at the bottom of the Student/Parent Information Page for quick reference. • **Comparable Services:** Upload capabilities have been added to the Intake Checklist step of Comparable Services to account for IFSP documents**.** • **Service Logging Wizard**: An additional category "Not Delivered" will be added to the dropdown menu to the Service Delivery Field.

Action Required by LEAs
No immediate action is required by LEAs at this time. Accommodations listed on current IEPs will continue to be valid and in effect after the updates to SEDS, even if the title of the accommodation has changed, or if the existing accommodation was merged with another accommodation. No IEP amendment will be necessary unless the IEP team feels that an accommodation should be added or removed from the current IEP due to a change in the needs of the student.

LEA Special Education Points of Contact (LEA SE POCs) are responsible for disseminating information on SEDS updates to relevant LEA staff and providing training and technical assistance when needed.

Resources Available to LEAs
OSSE has prepared a number of resources to assist LEAs in understanding and preparing for the changes to SEDS:

- **SY15-16 SEDS Testing Accommodations Crosswalk:** This chart provides a comparison of all accommodations listed in the previous version of SEDS with the new version of SEDS, and crosswalks each accommodation to its equivalent accommodation or accessibility feature for each individual DC statewide assessment.
- **School Year 2015-2016 SEDS Release Training Video:** This short video module highlights each change that will occur in the SEDS database.
- **School Year 2015-2016 SEDS Release Summary of Items:** This chart summarizes the SEDS changes that will occur.
- **Preparing for the School Year 2015-2016 SEDS Release:** This document explains what impact the SEDS release may have on users who are in the middle of completing an IEP or IEP amendment when the updates occur.
- **OSSE Testing Accommodations Manual:** In the fall of 2015, OSSE will release a comprehensive guidance document for LEAs. This manual will define each available accommodation, its intended usage, and eligibility requirements.

In addition to the above named resources, OSSE plans to offer a variety of training and technical assistance opportunities throughout the school year to assist LEAs with understanding and selecting appropriate accommodations on the IEP, and ensuring students receive the correct accommodations on each statewide assessment.

For questions about the changes to SEDS, please contact the OSSE Division of Data, Research and Accountability Data Team at osse.ideadata@dc.gov. For questions about statewide assessments and accommodations, please contact the OSSE Division of Data, Research and Accountability Assessment Team at osse.assessment@dc.gov.