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Comments Received :

USED is proposing the following changes to the IDEA EDFacts files for the next three years.

1.   Personnel – change aggregation by Age Groups
The Department collects the FTEs of special education teachers and paraprofessionals who are employed or contracted to work with children with disabilities.
The Department is proposing separating the FTE of special education teachers and paraprofessionals further by age. This proposed change would align the age groups reported in the IDEA Section 618 Part B Personnel data with the age groups reported in the IDEA Section 618 Part B Child Count and Educational Environments public release file.
Questions
a)   What challenges are anticipated in reporting these data? NH collects staff data in aggregate from schools. It would not be possible for schools to determine the FTE counts by age as some teachers may teach students that span across the age groups. NH can request the data, but has no way to validate whether the FTE calculations by each school are accurate.
b)   What steps can be taken to address these challenges? It would be easier and more accurate to collect data by headcount and have rules such as always reporting for the highest grade taught.

2.   IDEA Part B
The questions in this section relate to data collected for the IDEA Part B Program.
Children with Disabilities Child Count and Environments – expand to military connected
Questions
a)   What challenges are anticipated in reporting these data? NH currently collects military connected status at the student level. This data can be connected to the IDEA data from the NH statewide student information system. Multiple feeds will need to be updated from the NH SIS to NHSEIS and the feed from NHSEIS to CEDS and Generate will need to be updated. Changing and testing all the feeds and the reports will be time-consuming. It could take more than a year to add the new subgroup.
What steps can be taken to address these challenges? Giving states resources to do the testing would be helpful.
3.   Discipline – change aggregation by Removal Length
Questions
For FS006 Children with Disabilities (IDEA) Suspensions/Expulsions
b)   What challenges are anticipated in reporting the discipline data for these more detailed day ranges? NH is able to report on this data.
For FS088 Children with Disabilities (IDEA) Disciplinary Removals
What challenges are anticipated in reporting the discipline data for these more detailed day ranges? NH has the number of days of removal length per student. Once Generate is updated, NH will be able to validate the data and report on it.