



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 27, 2020

The NDE Offices of Early Childhood and Special Education have received questions regarding the data collection process, utilizing our Early Childhood Assessment Tool, Teaching Strategies GOLD in light of school closures or the suspension of home visits due to COVID-19.

Currently, the NDE has not received information or guidance allowing relief from the May 31st data collection checkpoint requirement from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The federal requirement is to report on the progress children make when receiving early intervention services or special education services. In order to comply with this federal requirement, NDE must rely on finalized checkpoints by the district for each child receiving services but is suspending the requirement of documentation for the spring checkpoint period.

Therefore, the May 31st data checkpoint is still required for the following children:

- ***Preschoolers on IEP's, receiving Part B, special education services***
- ***Infants and toddlers, receiving Part C, early intervention services if the child is exiting due to being 3 years of age or no longer receiving services.***

Administrators are still required to 'exit' children from OSEP when the child turns 3 years of age, is no longer receiving services, or transitioning to kindergarten.

In line with the suspension of the administration of the NSCAS this spring, the Office of Early Childhood has suspended the May 31st data collection checkpoint requirement for ***general education students only***.

The NDE, Office of Special Education, will be providing an End-of-Year Program Clean Up Guide for Teaching Strategies GOLD administrators. Also, please keep in mind the data collection period extends until May 31st.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Amy Rhone in blue ink.

Amy Rhone

Handwritten signature of Melody Hobson in blue ink.

Melody Hobson