



## Arizona Department of Education

### Exceptional Student Services

## Memorandum

**To:** Special Education Administrators and Preschool Program Coordinators

**From:** ESS Early Childhood Special Education and Operations Units

**Date:** April 27, 2021

**Re:** Reporting of "Not Observed-School Closure" in Progress Monitoring Using Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG)

The Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS) has identified a change in the results of the Child Outcomes data collected by the progress monitoring tool Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG). To help support unique circumstances during this school year (SY 2021), TSG created additional options for reporting checkpoint scores. One option created was "Not Observed" for the reason of "School Closure." Upon review of data submitted into TSG, ESS has observed a significant increase in the reporting of "Not Observed" with a "School Closure" rationale. Although Arizona schools may have understood these new options as viable submission choices, unfortunately the selection of these fields is inconsistent with the expectations for service set forth by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Although the pandemic presented significant challenges in SY 2021, Arizona schools were required to provide educational services regardless of the mode of instruction. Additionally, ADE/ESS provided extensive guidance, originating from OSEP, that services to children with disabilities should be ongoing, including activities of progress monitoring. As a result, the "Not Observed Due to School Closure" option should not have been reported for any checkpoint scores during the SY 2021. If a student's scores were reported as "Not Observed due to School Closure" for any objective during any checkpoint this school year, the public education agency (PEA) must reenter TSG and change the data to submit a score for the child's portfolio. Failing to modify this data will impact the accuracy of your PEA's data submission as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



**Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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Revisions to “Not Observed due to School Closure” submissions are due by June 30, 2021. If revisions do not occur by the deadline, ESS may withhold federal funds until the PEA comes into compliance with providing accurate information for preschool outcomes.

For additional information or questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Early Childhood Special Education Unit at [ECSEInbox@azed.gov](mailto:ECSEInbox@azed.gov).