



# Exceptional Student Services

## **SPED Concurrency/Primary Least Restrictive Environment and Federal Primary Need Indicator Reporting Guidance**

**Technical Assistance Manual**

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

# Contents

Introduction .....	3
SPED School Concurrency/Primary LRE.....	3
Federal Primary Need Indicator (FPNI).....	3
Updates for FY 2026.....	4
Reporting Concurrent Disability Needs at all Sites.....	4

## **Introduction**

To address questions from the field and improve data reporting with regard to the SPED School Concurrency/Primary Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and the Federal Primary Need Indicator (FPNI), ESS Data Management is providing this technical assistance document; the intent is to clarify the difference between these two data elements. Both data elements are required when submitting special education (SPED) data to AzEDS.

## **SPED School Concurrency/Primary LRE**

This data element identifies the school(s) a given student attends as either primary or secondary.

- Primary (P): This school is responsible for determining the student's special education needs and case managing the curriculum.
- Secondary (S): This school provides some services to the student but is not responsible for determining the student's special education needs or case managing the curriculum.

If a student attends only one school at a given time, that school should be reported as the primary school.

If a student attends multiple schools at a given time, only one school can be reported as the primary school, and the other school(s) should be reported as secondary, based on the aforementioned definitions.

## **Federal Primary Need Indicator (FPNI)**

This data element identifies whether or not the SPED student's need/disability is the federal primary need. The federal primary need is defined as "the need that has the greatest adverse impact on the student's ability to access and progress through the general curriculum."

- Yes: The need/disability is identified as the federal primary need.
- No: The need/disability is not identified as the federal primary need.

If a student has only one eligible need at a given time, that need should be reported as the federal primary need.

If a student has multiple needs at a given time, only one need can be reported as the federal primary need, and the other need(s) should be reported as not the federal primary need. Consult the student's IEP team to determine the federal primary need.

The federal primary need displays "Y" (for "yes") in the FPNI column on the SPED10, 72, and 73 reports in AzEDS and the SPED07 report in the ESS Census application. All needs that are not the federal primary need display "N" (for "no").

## **Updates for FY 2026**

### **Reporting Concurrent Disability Needs at all Sites**

Effective beginning in the 2025-2026 reporting year, PEAs will be required to ensure that all disability needs are reported concurrently across all sites attended by SPED students, regardless of whether services are provided for a given disability need. This means that any student enrolled at multiple school sites must have the same disability need categories identified on their IEP reported in AzEDS, regardless of how many disability needs are serviced at a given site.

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