



Exceptional Student Services (ESS) / Data Management

SPED School Concurrency and Federal Primary Need Indicator

What's the difference?

To address questions from the field and improve data reporting with regard to the **SPED School Concurrency** 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 of these data elements are required when submitting your special education (SPED) participation data to SAIS.

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

- ➔ *Primary {P}* – This school is responsible for determining and case managing the student's special education needs and curriculum.
- ➔ *Secondary {S}* – This school provides some services to the student but is not responsible for determining or case managing the student's special education needs and 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 the SPED student's need/disability is the federal primary need or not. 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 is identified as the federal primary need.
- ➔ *No* – The need 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.

The federal primary need displays "Y" (for "yes") in the FPNI column on the SPED71 report series and the SPED07 report. All needs that are not the federal primary need display "N" (for "no"). Note that when special education participation transaction data is submitted to SAIS, the FPNI field will contain "1" for yes and "0" for no, which can be seen in the transaction details area of the Student Detail Transaction History.