



State of Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services



Date: November 15, 2019
To: Special Education Directors
From: Exceptional Student Services Operations Unit
Subject: Tuition Payer Code Updates for Preschool Students with Disabilities

Exceptional Student Services (ESS) worked with School Finance in order to provide more validation on appropriate student reporting for students in preschool not currently on an individualized education program (IEP). This is part of a systematic clean up in order to have accurate information for anyone who consumes data from the Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS) system.

The Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) provide a definition for preschool students with disabilities that can be found under A.R.S. § 15-901 & A.R.S. § 15-771. Statute supports these students primarily being reported with one of two different tuition payer codes while on an IEP. The two relevant tuition payer codes are as follows:

1. *The “normal” setting for Arizona school students who generate state funding.*
 - a. *This includes students attending school in their own district of residence, as well as tuitioned-in students (students attending school outside their district of residence as defined in Arizona statute, but whose tuition is paid by the district or ADE) and students with a special enrollment situation.*
7. *Other State-funded formula*
 - a. *Special education students who are receiving services from a state institution or an approved residential facility and are funded through the voucher system.*

Preschool students not on an IEP are not defined as a full-time student or a fractional student in statute. As such, these students are considered parentally privately placed students with a tuition payer of 2. This tuition payer code is as follows:

2. *Privately paid tuition, no tuition charged.*

This includes students:

 - a. *Not eligible for state funding as defined in Arizona statute (e.g., students age 22 and older, students less than 3 years old, and preschool children without disabilities);*
 - b. *With private-paid tuition (e.g., tuition is paid by parents or guardian);*



The AzEDS information technology team has now implemented validation for the accurate reporting of codes for preschool students with and without disabilities. This is to ensure that valid data are submitted before consumption by any other unit within the agency, which includes ESS.

The AzEDS team will be working over the next few weeks to ensure the rules validate accordingly and fix any bugs that might arise. For reference and information on special education AzEDS codes, please refer to the data management AzEDS webpage at <http://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/data-management/azeds-sped-reporting/>.

For data reporting questions, please feel free to contact ESS Data Management at essdatamgmt@azed.gov.