

Ensure that Students with IEPs are Fully and Accurately Programmed in STARS

By **September 13**, all students, including students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) recommending Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) or Special Class must be fully programmed in STARS. As in previous school years you began receiving a weekly Program Services Report (SEGIS/STARS linkage), via SEGIS messaging on August 23, to support you in programming students with IEPs for special education services for the 2021–22 school year. You must log into SEGIS, download the Program Services Report, and share it with relevant staff members (e.g., school programmer/STARS Administrator, special education liaison, and others) to ensure that student schedules in STARS match their IEP recommendations. It is best practice to create a shared folder where relevant staff members can access the report and ensure that these staff members have time to meet to review the report and resolve issues.

During the 2020–21 school year, NYSED allowed several special education programming flexibilities. This included allowing students recommended for ICT to be split into two groups taught in physically separate spaces, with teachers alternating between the groups. These flexibilities have not been approved for the 2021–22 school year and should not be implemented without an announcement from NYSED.

For more information and resources see the SEGIS/STARS Program Services section of the [Individualized Education Program Guides, Processes, and Resources](#) page on the InfoHub and the [STARS wiki](#).

For questions about special education, contact your Borough/Citywide Office (BCO) [administrator of special education](#); for questions on academic policy, email your [academic policy and systems lead](#). Note that if you are the principal of a school in District 75, you should contact your data specialist, [Cristina Navarrete](#).

Updates on COVID Testing Consent and Rosters

Random COVID-19 testing will resume the first week of school on a biweekly basis. Every school will randomly test unvaccinated students, who have submitted testing consent forms, at a threshold of ten percent of unvaccinated students per school population. Students must submit a new COVID-19 testing consent form for the 2021–22 school year to participate in the testing program. Families, while strongly encouraged to, are not required to consent to COVID-19 testing this school year. As you prepare for students returning to school buildings, please encourage your families to submit consent for