

## Child Count Reporting Topics (Part 2 of 3)

- Educational Environments
  - General Information
  - Ages 3 to 5
  - Ages 6 to 21
  - Common Issues
- EEE and Kindergarten Issues
- Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Information
- School/Educational Locations
- Alternative Facility Information



### Educational Environments General Information

- An educational environment represents the setting in which a child with disabilities has been placed for educational services by the IEP or ISP.
- The educational environment determination is made at the time the IEP/ISP is written.
- May also be referred to as “placements.”
- Educational environments are age-based not grade-based. The educational environment **MUST** match the age of the student at the time of Child Count (December 1). For example:
  - A kindergarten student who is 5-years-old on December 1, 2014 must be reported with an Ages 3 to 5 Educational Environment.
  - A kindergarten student who is 6-years-old on December 1, 2014 must be reported with an Ages 6 to 21 Educational Environment.
- Full definitions for educational environments are located in the Child Count Reporting Instructions.



## Educational Environments Ages 3 to 5

- Early Childhood educational environments apply to every 3-5 year old, not just EEE students. E.g., a five-year-old student in kindergarten must have an Ages 3 to 5 educational environment.
- **Ages 3 to 5 Regular Early Childhood Program:** The majority of Ages 3 to 5 students attend a regular early childhood program. A regular early childhood program is a program that includes a majority (at least 50 percent) of non-disabled children (i.e., children not on IEPs) and may include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Kindergarten (public or private/independent);
  - Preschools and preschool classes (public or private/independent);
  - Head Start; and
  - Group child development centers or group child care.
- There are four possible educational environments for a regular early childhood program:
  - Ages 3 to 5: Attends Reg EC Prog >10 hrs/wk and receives majority of service hrs in Reg EC Prog
  - Ages 3 to 5: Attends Reg EC Prog >10 hrs/wk and receives majority of service hrs in other location
  - Ages 3 to 5: Attends Reg EC Prog <10 hrs/wk and receives majority of service hrs in Reg EC Prog
  - Ages 3 to 5: Attends Reg EC Prog <10 hrs/wk and receives majority of service hrs in other location



## Educational Environments Ages 3 to 5 (cont.)

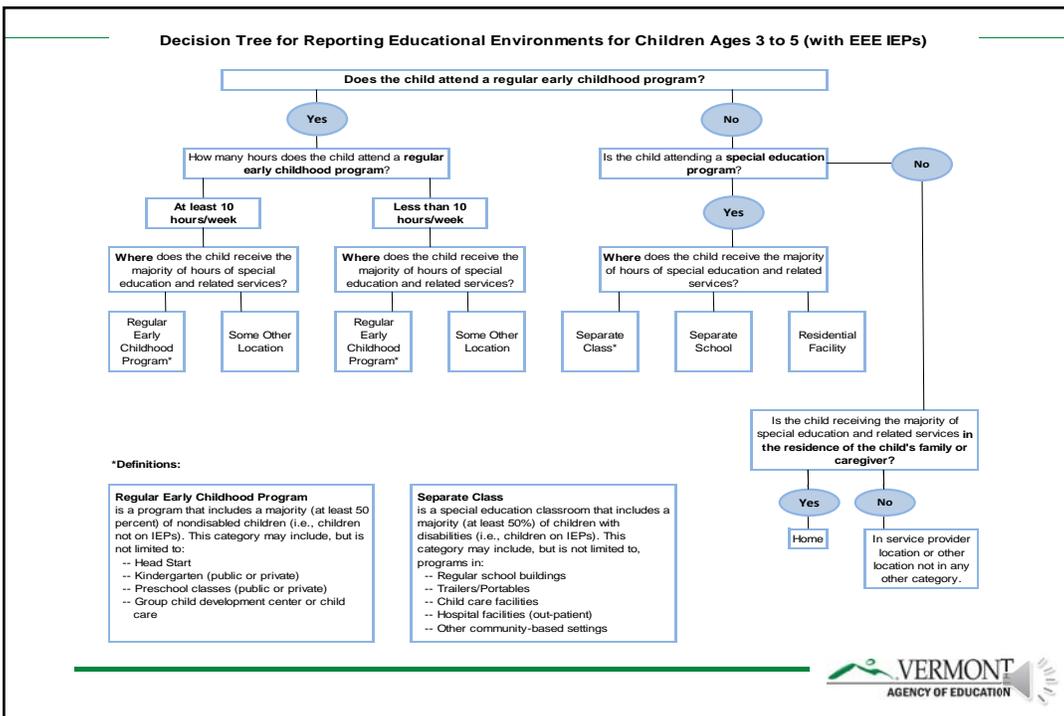
- **Ages 3 to 5 Special Education Program:** A special education program is a program that includes less than 50 percent non-disabled children (i.e., children not on IEPs). Educational environments for children in special education programs include:
- There are three possible educational environments for an early childhood special education program:
  - **Ages 3 to 5: In Special Ed. Program–Separate Class:** Attends a special education classroom with less than 50 percent non-disabled children (i.e., children not on IEPs). Separate classes may include, but are not limited to, classes in:
    - » Regular school buildings;
    - » Trailers or portables outside regular school buildings;
    - » Child care facilities;
    - » Hospital facilities on an outpatient basis; and
    - » Other community-based settings.
  - **Ages 3 to 5: In Special Ed. Program–Residential Facility:** Attends a special education program in a public or private/independent residential school or in a medical facility on an inpatient basis. Do not include students who also attend a regular early childhood program.
  - **Ages 3 to 5: In Special Ed. Program–Separate School:** Attends a special education program in a public or private/independent day school designed specifically for children with disabilities. Do not include students who also attend a regular early childhood program.



## Educational Environments Ages 3 to 5 (cont.)

- The remaining options for reporting educational environments for Ages 3 to 5 are:
  - **Ages 3 to 5: Not Attending Special Ed. Program–Services at Home:** Placement for students receiving all of their special education and related services in the principal residence of the child’s family or caregivers. Children who received special education services both at home and in a service provider location should be reported in the "Ages 3 to 5: Not Attending Special Ed. Program–Services at Home" category.
  - **Ages 3 to 5: Not Attending Special Ed. Program–Services at Service Provider or Other Location:** Placement for students receiving all of their special education and related services from a service provider and who did not attend an early childhood program or a special education program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility. For example, speech instruction provided in:
    - » Private clinicians’ offices;
    - » Clinicians’ offices located in school buildings;
    - » Hospital facilities on an outpatient basis; or
    - » Libraries and other public locations.
 Do not include children who also received special education services at home . Children who received special education services both at home and in a service provider location should be reported in the "Ages 3 to 5: Not Attending Special Ed. Program–Services at Home" category.





## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21

- **Ages 6 to 21. Regular Classroom Settings:**
  - **Ages 6 to 21: Inside Regular Classroom at least 80% of time:** Placement for students with disabilities receiving special education and related services inside the regular classroom for 80 percent or more of the school day. This may include students with disabilities placed in:
    - » Regular class with special education/related services provided within regular classes;
    - » Regular class with special education/related services provided outside regular classes; or
    - » Regular class with special education services provided in resource rooms.
  - **Ages 6 to 21: Inside Regular Classroom 40% to 79% of time:** Placement for students with disabilities receiving special education and related services inside the regular classroom no more than 79 percent of day and no less than 40 percent of the day. Do not include students who are reported as receiving education programs in public or private/independent separate day schools or residential facilities. This may include students placed in:
    - » Resource rooms with special education/related services provided within the resource room; or
    - » Resource rooms with part-time instruction in a regular class.
  - **Ages 6 to 21: Inside Regular Classroom < 40% of time:** Placement for students with disabilities receiving special education and related services inside the regular classroom less than 40 percent of the day. Do not include students who are reported as receiving education programs in public or private/independent separate day schools or residential facilities. This category may include students placed in:
    - » Self-contained special classrooms with part-time instruction in a regular class; or
    - » Self-contained special classrooms with full-time special education instruction on a regular school campus.



## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21 (Cont.)

- To calculate the percentage of time inside the regular classroom, divide the number of hours the student receives special education and related services inside the regular classroom by the total number of hours in the school day (including lunch, recess, and study periods) then multiply the result by 100.
- If a student does not attend school for a full school day, the calculation should only include the number of hours that the student attends school.
- Time spent outside the regular classroom receiving services unrelated to the student's disability (e.g., time receiving LEP services) should be considered time inside the regular classroom.



## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21 (Cont.)

- Situations that are also considered to be regular classroom settings include:
  - **Community-based settings:** Education time spent in age-appropriate, community-based settings that include individuals with and without disabilities, such as college campuses or vocational sites, should be counted as time spent inside the regular classroom.
  - **Home-schooled students:** The educational environment (the home) for home-schooled students is a result of parental choice, not the disability of the student. Therefore, the home is considered a regular class placement. For these students who receive special education and related services provided by the local educational agency (LEA), the number of hours outside the regular classroom is the number of hours the student spends in separate special education environments (e.g., resource rooms, self-contained special education classrooms, and separate schools).



## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21 (Cont.)

- **Ages 6 to 21 Separate School – Public or Private:**
  - Pursuant to federal guidance and clarification from the IDEA Data Center, we are modifying our definition of the Ages 6 to 21: Separate School–Public or Private educational environment to specify that, for Ages 6 to 21, a separate school refers to a day school that is **ONLY** for students with disabilities.
  - This is the updated definition of Ages 6 to 21: Separate School–Public or Private educational:
 

**Ages 6 to 21: Separate School–Public or Private:** Placement for students who receive education programs in public or private/independent day school facilities **where 100% of the student population receives special education services.** This includes children with disabilities receiving special education and related services, at public expense, for greater than 50% of the school day in public or private /independent separate schools. This may include students placed in:

    - » Day schools for students with disabilities;
    - » Day schools for students with disabilities for a portion of the school day (greater than 50 percent) and in regular school buildings for the remainder of the school day; or
    - » Residential facilities if the student does not live at the facility.
  - In the next IEP, please update the educational environment, if necessary, for each student who currently has an Ages 6 to 21: Separate School–Public or Private educational environment.



## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21 (Cont.)

- The remaining options for reporting educational environments for Ages 6 to 21 are:
  - **Ages 6 to 21: Residential Facility–Public or Private:** Placement for students who receive education programs and who live in public or private/independent residential facilities during the school week. This includes students with disabilities who receive special education and related services, at public expense, for greater than 50 percent of the school day in public or private/independent residential facilities. This may include students placed in:
    - » Residential schools for students with disabilities; or
    - » Residential schools for students with disabilities for a portion of the school day (greater than 50 percent) and in separate day schools or regular school buildings for the remainder of the school day.
    - » Do not include students who receive education programs at the facility but do not live there.
  - **Ages 6 to 21: Homebound/Hospital:** Placement for students placed in and receiving special education and related services in homebound programs or hospital programs. Do not include students with disabilities whose parents have opted to home-school them and who receive special education and/or related services at public expense.
  - **Ages 6 to 21: Correctional Facilities–Unduplicated:** Placement for students with disabilities receiving special education and related services in a correctional facility or a short-term detention facility (community-based or residential) such as Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center.



## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21 (Cont.)

- Additional considerations and guidance for determining educational environment:
  - 504 students are considered regular education students, not special education students. So, a school that includes 504 students and IEP students would be a regular classroom environment.
  - In determining whether or not to use an Ages 6 to 21 Separate School educational environment, if one student in the school is not receiving special education services at the time an IEP is written, then use one of the Regular Classroom educational environments.
  - Sometimes an Ages 6 to 21 Separate School educational environment is appropriate for a student reported with a Tutoring Services-Any Setting educational location.
    - » E.g., a student who receives 4 hours of tutorial services per day, attends no other educational programs, and has no interaction with regular education students during the student's school day.
  - A program exclusively for students receiving special education services within a high school where students have lunch, recess, study periods, etc. with the regular education population is considered to be a Regular Classroom setting, not a Separate School.
  - Report students in the School/Educational Location where they spend 50% or more of their school day. If a student attends two Schools/Educational Locations, each for exactly 50% of the student's school day, then count the student at the school in which the student receives general education rather than at the school where the student receives special education and related services.



## Educational Environments Ages 6 to 21 (Cont.)

### Reminder:

- There are separate educational environment definitions for Ages 3 to 5, including for Ages 3 to 5 separate school environments.
  - There are currently no changes to the Ages 3 to 5 Educational Environment definitions.
  - **Ages 3 to 5 Special Education Program:** A special education program is a program that includes less than 50 percent non-disabled children (i.e., children not on IEPs).
  - **Ages 3 to 5: In Special Ed. Program–Separate School Educational Environment:** Attends a special education program in a public or private/independent day school designed specifically for children with disabilities. Do not include students who also attend a regular early childhood program.



## Common Issues with Educational Environments

- A six-year-old kindergarten student needs to be reported with an Ages 6 to 21 category, not an Ages 3 to 5 category.
- Community-based activities (including paid work study) are considered to be a regular education environment if they are part of the school day.
- For home-schooled students: The educational environment (the home) is a result of parental choice, not the disability of the child, and the home is considered to be a regular classroom educational environment.
- The Residential Facility educational environments should not be used with a public school.



## EEE and Kindergarten Issues

- Educational Environment is age based and is independent of the student's grade.
  - If a kindergarten student is five years old on December 1, the student must have an Ages 3 to 5 Educational Environment.
  - If a kindergarten student is six years old on December 1, the student must have an Ages 6 to 21 Educational Environment.
- EEE students must be on a EEE IEP.
- EEE students will have an Ages 3 to 5 Educational Environment.
- By the time a child turns 6 years old, his or her School Age IEP must be in place, and the educational environment listed on the School Age IEP must reflect an Ages 6-21 Educational Environment.
  - The Essential Early Education IEP Options memo contains guidance on transitioning from EEE to School Age IEPs and educational environments. See Information Sources at the end of the presentation.



## Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Information

- Beginning with the December 1, 2012 Child Count collection, Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) information is now reported in Child Count for students with EEE IEPs dated 9/1/2012 and later.
- Clarifications have been added to some of the ECO-related definitions in the Data Fields Definitions section in the Child Count Reporting Instructions:
  - The EEE Progress Monitoring Method and EEE Outcome Entry Scores A, B, and C are required for a student within 30 days of the initial EEE IEP or within 30 days of entering a EEE program.
  - EEE Outcome Exit Scores A, B, and C and EEE Progress at Exit for Outcomes A, B, and C are required when a student exits a EEE program and has been in the EEE program for at least six months, even if the exit is unexpected. Also, exit scores should be completed by the time a student transitions to an Ages 6-21 IEP.
  - Additionally, database error checks have been modified to allow for:
    - » Blank Progress Monitoring Method and EEE Outcome Entry fields when the EEE Entry Date is less than 30 days before the data collection date.
    - » Blank EEE Outcomes at Exit and EEE Progress at Exit fields when the EEE exit date is less than six months after the EEE entry date.



## School/Educational Locations

- The School/Educational Location (usually referred to as "school") is the school, facility, program, or center that the student is attending, not the entity responsible for the student.
- Usually the School/Educational Location is where the student is registered, but not always:
  - Report students in the School/Educational Location where they spend 50% or more of their school day.
  - If a student attends two Schools/Educational Locations, each for exactly 50% of the student's school day, then count the student at the school in which the student receives general education rather than at the school where the student receives special education and related services.
- School/Educational Location codes that are available in Child Count include:
  - All Vermont public schools
  - All supervisory unions/districts
  - Approved/recognized independent schools, tutorials, and other facilities
  - Eight "Other" categories.
- If the School/Educational Location is included in the options listed in the drop-down School/ Educational Location field in the AOE Child Count Application, it should be selected even if you have a student attending an out-of-district school.
- Note: If you use a software system other than the AOE Child Count Application to maintain your Child Count records and a student's school is not listed in your system software, please check to see if the school is included in the School/Educational Locations in the AOE Child Count Application. If needed, ask your vendor how to add the school to your system.



## School/Educational Locations (cont.)

- If the School/Educational Location the student is attending is not included in the School/Educational Location list, you will select one of these "Other" categories:
  - **Day School or Other Non-Residential Program Outside of Vermont:** A day school is a public or private/independent non-residential school. The school may or may not be designed specifically for students with disabilities. Enter the name and address of the program/facility in the Alternative Facility Information section.
  - **Residential School or Program Outside of Vermont:** Enter the name and address of the program/facility in the Alternative Facility Information section.
  - **Vermont Residential School or Program:** Enter the name and address of the program/facility in the Alternative Facility Information section.
  - **Tutorial Services–Any Setting:** – If a student attends an approved tutorial program such as Beckley Day Program, Mountainside House, or Valley Vista, then select the tutorial program from the available options in the School/Educational Location field. For other tutoring services, select Tutorial Services–Any Setting and enter the name and address of the program/facility in the Alternative Facility Information section.

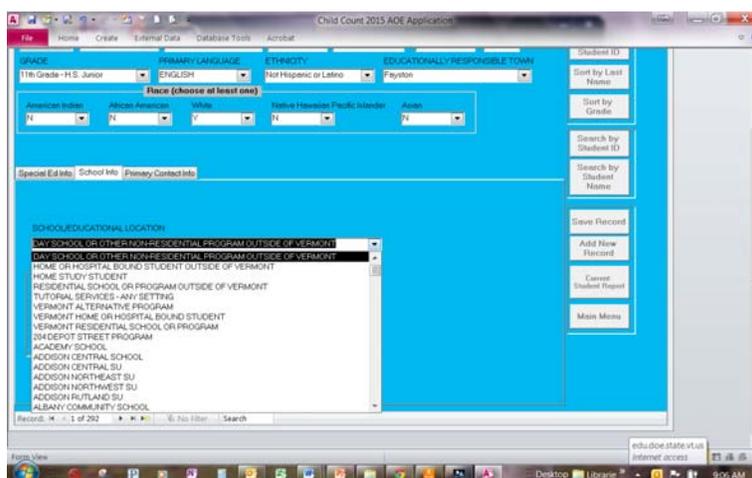


## School/Educational Locations (cont.)

- **Home Study Student:** This category is for those students who are at home for their education as the result of parental choice, not because of the student's disability. The home is considered to be a regular classroom educational environment for home study students. See Educational Environment Codes and Definitions for Ages 6 to 21 on page 19 for further discussion of home schooled students. Alternative Facility Information is not required.
- **Home or Hospital Bound Student Outside of Vermont:** This category is for students who are placed in and receiving special education and related services in homebound programs or hospital programs outside of Vermont. Do not include students with disabilities whose parents have opted to home-school them. Alternative Facility Information is optional.
- **Vermont Home or Hospital Bound Student:** This category is for students who are placed in and receiving special education and related services in homebound programs or hospital programs in Vermont. Do not include students with disabilities whose parents have opted to home-school them. Alternative Facility Information is optional.
- **Vermont Alternative Program:** Use this category for alternative programs that aren't listed in the School/Educational Location list OR if the program/facility does not fit any of the above categories. Enter the name and address of the program/facility in the Alternative Facility Information section.



## School/Educational Locations (cont.)



## School/Educational Locations (cont.)

- If you are the educationally responsible SU/SD for any students who attend an out-of-state School/Educational Location, you should use one of the following designations:
  - Day School or Other Non-Residential Program Outside Of Vermont,
  - Home or Hospital Bound Student Outside of Vermont,
  - Residential School or Program Outside of Vermont, or
  - Tutorial Services–Any Setting.
  - Do not use the SU/SD as the school for these students.
- For EEE students:
  - If services are received at a school, use the school as the School/Educational Location.
  - If services are provided in a community-based setting (e.g., a daycare provider) or at home, use the educationally responsible SU/SD as the School/Educational Location.



## Alternative Facility Information

- Report Alternative Facility Information, or name and address, for these School/Educational Locations:
  - Day School or Other Non-Residential Program Outside of Vermont,
  - Residential School or Program Outside of Vermont,
  - Vermont Residential School or Program,
  - Vermont Alternative Program, and
  - Tutorial Services-Any Setting.

