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Combine the Membership, Special Education, and Language Minority Collections

Purpose of the Collection

The purpose of the Membership (ME) collection is to obtain the Average Daily Membership (ADM) from each school. The ME includes count of Choice voucher students (DOE—MV) and Adult Learner Charter schools (DOE—MA). The ADM is used in the calculation of state tuition support funding for public, charter and choice voucher schools. The purpose of the Special Education (SE) collection is to obtain data on students that are receiving Special Education services. The data obtained through the SE collection are used for state tuition special education funding and for federal and state reporting and monitoring. The purpose of the English Learners and Immigrant Students (LM) collection is to obtain student information on English learners and immigrant students in order to provide a count of limited English proficient students to calculate funding for the Federal Title III program and the State Non-English Speaking Program. Furthermore, the data from the LM collection is used for providing a count of students for the Title III Significant Immigrant Influx Grant.

Current Deadline

Period 1

Collection	Count Day	Deadline	Signoff Deadline
Membership	September 18, 2015	September 30, 2015	October 14, 2015
Special Education	December 1, 2015	December 11, 2015	January 6, 2016
Language Minority	November 2, 2015	November 20, 2015	December 11, 2015

Period 2

Collection	Count Day	Deadline	Signoff Deadline
Membership	February 1, 2016	February 11, 2016	February 25, 2016
Special Education	April 1, 2016	April 18, 2016	April 25, 2016
Language Minority	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Recommendation

The DOE is recommending a two phased approach.

Phase 1 would be to move the Count Days for all 3 collections to the same day for Period 1, October 1 and the same day for Period 2, the first Monday in February. The Federal Pupil Enrollment date is October 1, so it would be best to either create similar language or refer to the Federal Law creating the Pupil Enrollment Date. By Federal Law, the Count Day for Special

Education must be between October 1 and December 1. Pushing the Membership Count Day back causes a delay with when the reconciliation tuition support payment can be made to the schools, therefore, pushing the unified Count Day back any further is not feasible. Currently, the Period 2 collection for Special Education is an informational count only.

Phase 2 would be to combine the collections into a single collection that collects the data needed by all three collections.

Legislative Action Necessary

Amend Indiana Code 20-43-4-2 to provide that the fall ADM count day is October 1. Amend 20-43-7-1(a) to provide that the amount of special education is based on the count of eligible pupils enrolled in special education programs on the fall and spring ADM counts per IC 20-43-4-3. Amend IC 20-43-4-9 to allow the Department to make adjustments in the same manner tuition support is adjusted.

The State Board of Education would also need to amend 511 IAC 1-3-1(h), which establishes the fall and spring counts for tuition support and special education.

Implementation Date of Change

If the General Assembly acts to make these changes, Phase 1 could be implemented for the 2016-2017 school year and Phase 2 could be implemented for the 2017-2018 school year.