FAQs for Child Outcome Summary (COS) Process

Question 1: What is the difference between the Battelle Developmental Inventory 2nd Edition Normative Update (BDI-2 NU) and the Battelle Developmental Inventory 3rd Edition (BDI-3)?

Answer 1: The BDI-3 is the most recent version of this assessment and is the one that was submitted and approved as an anchor assessment for the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) process. BDI-2 NU should not be used for Indicator 7 purposes going forward.

Question 2: Will we upload data into the BDI online data system if we choose that assessment?

Answer 2: The BDI-3 has a new platform for inputting data. This will not be required by MDE, as data will not be pulled from this platform for Indicator 7. Rather, the anchor assessment is one piece of data the IEP committee will use to determine each student's COS ratings.

Question 3: Are we using the full assessment for the anchor assessment or is it just the screener?

Answer 3: The specific approved anchor assessment, which varies between assessments, will be used for COS purposes.

Question 4: Is there a grace period for obtaining one of these assessments?

Answer 4: While including the anchor assessment as part of the initial evaluation will be the most convenient, we understand that may not be possible every time, especially at the beginning of this new process. Districts should administer an anchor assessment within the first 30 days of the child receiving services if they are unable to include in initial assessment. Capturing the student's functioning levels when services begin, will allow the maximum amount of growth from entry to exit to be measured.

Question 5: Where can I find/purchase one of the anchor assessments for the COS process?

Answer 5: Riverside Insights and Renaissance Learning are the two companies who publish the approved assessments. The contact information for sales representatives is included below:

Riverside Insights
Van Mabie, Van.mabie@riversideinsights.com, 415-728-3720

Renaissance Learning
Charlotte Wilson, Renaissance Field Account Executive
Charlotte.Wilson@renaissance.com
Cell 662-813-3934

Ryan Bladorn, Renaissance Inside Account Executive II
ryan.bladorn@renaissance.com
800-338-4204 ext. 2335

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Question 6: Will this anchor assessment be used for BOTH entry and exit?

Answer 6: Yes, the anchor assessment is given at both entry and exit. Ideally, the same assessment should be used for both, but since students may be assessed at a different district at exit than they were at entry, this is not always possible. However, since the anchor assessment is just one of the many pieces of data used by the IEP committee to determine COS ratings for the child, using a different anchor assessment will not invalidate the ratings.

Question 7: How do we know which assessment we need to purchase?

Answer 7: Districts can choose from the approved list of anchor assessments. Sales representatives from each company can inform districts of specific items that need to be purchased to complete the assessment. If funding allows, districts can purchase both assessments and decide on a case-by-case basis which is most appropriate for individual children. This is not a requirement, but an option for districts.

Question 8: What do we do for students that have already completed an entry screener?

Answer 8: Nothing. We cannot combine the BDI-2 NU for entry and the COS process for exit, so those students who were assessed using the BDI-2 NU screener for entry but have not had an exit will not be included in our Indicator 7 data.

Question 9: Where can I find the MSIS 2.0 manual?

Answer 9: At present, MSIS 2.0 and its accompanying manual are still in process. Districts should receive notification when MSIS 2.0 goes live.

Question 10: What do I do with my COS data since MSIS 2.0 is currently not live?

Answer 10: Districts will need to keep the COS forms that are completed for each child until MSIS is updated and this information can be entered. In the meantime, COS forms will need to be scanned and uploaded into SharePoint Navigator under District Data in the COS Data folder. This will help MDE OSE determine which districts are implementing this new process correctly. This will also ensure that entry ratings are accounted for in the event a child moves to another district before this information can be entered into MSIS.

Question 11: Do we need to get written parent permission to do the exit assessment before a child's sixth birthday?

Answer 11: Since every preschool student who receives special education services for at least six months participates in this data collection, you will not need specific permission for the exit assessment. However, if you include this assessment as part of a reevaluation, follow the procedures for reevaluation, which includes parent permission.

Question 12: Do we need to go back and do the Entry COS process with students who were ruled eligible last year?

Answer 12: This process will only be used with preschool students who have been ruled eligible on or after July 1, 2021.

Question 13: If a student moves from out of state with entry ratings, can we use those or do we have to determine our own?

Answer 13: Even though the majority of states use the COS process, Federal reporting requires us to show how much progress the student makes from the beginning of preschool services in Mississippi until the end (just before their sixth birthday). That said, the IEP committee should determine entry ratings within 30 days of the student beginning services in MS.

Question 14: Can a bachelor's level speech therapist give the Battelle Developmental Inventory – 3 (BDI-3) as part of the COS process?

Answer 14: According to information provided by Riverside Insights (the company that produces the BDI-3), the BDI-3 can be administered by trained staff with a bachelor's degree (BA, BS) in psychology, school counseling, occupational therapy, speech/language pathology, social work, education, special education, or related field. However, if your district is using this assessment for other purposes, such as part of a comprehensive evaluation, there may be procedures in place that would require another specific staff member to administer the assessment. In that case, follow your district procedures.

Question 15: When uploading a COS Form into SharePoint, what naming convention do we use to save the file?

Answer 15: MSISchildslastname.pdf
For example: 001234567Taylor.pdf (Note that all nine digits of the MSIS number are included.)

Question 16: What does the district do with COS forms once they have been completed?

Answer 16: Once MSIS has been updated, COS entry and exit data will be entered there. Until then, districts should use the following process for submitting COS forms:

1. Scan and save each COS rating form using the following naming convention: MSISchildslastname.pdf For example: 001234567Taylor.pdf (Note that all nine digits of the MSIS number are included.)
2. Go to SharePoint Navigator.
3. Go to your District Data folder.
4. Go to your COS Data folder.
5. Upload each COS rating form into the COS Data folder.
6. Email Candice Taylor at cataylor@mdek12.org to let her know information has been uploaded.