Important OSEP Updates Concerning AEPSi Cut Scores and OSEP Child Outcomes Reporting
February 7, 2011

Brookes Publishing Co. has worked with the Early Childhood Outcomes Center (ECO) and the AEPS author group to refine and improve the AEPSi cut scores that are used to produce the OSEP categories for the three OSEP Child Outcomes. The new cut scores are now available and are automatically reflected in the online OSEP reports.

Additional details, including the rationale behind the changes, the process used to develop the new cut scores, and what it means for you are provided below.

The AEPS authors and Brookes continue to cooperate with the ECO Center to examine refinements in the ongoing development of the OSEP child outcomes reporting process and measurement system. Parties using AEPSi who would be interested in participating in this process are welcome to inquire with Brookes Publishing.

Why are the AEPSi cut scores changing for OSEP Reporting?

After having the opportunity to study the child outcomes data submitted by the states to OSEP, and based on feedback from AEPSi users, the Early Childhood Outcomes Center (ECO) recommended that Brookes Publishing Co. review and re-analyze the data and procedures used to produce the OSEP categories for the three child outcomes. Overall, and across all online publishers' tools, far more children were being reported as falling in category e (% of children who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers) than had been expected for children receiving services through Part B, Section 619, and Part C.

ECO further offered to work with the publishers to assist in these re-analyses. Brookes Publishing began this process in the summer of 2009, when ECO, the AEPS authors, and Brookes entered into a mutual nondisclosure agreement to protect the confidentiality and privacy of the data and the online programming. In July, 2010, ECO provided Brookes and the AEPS authors with its report, "Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children Algorithm, Analysis Final Report." This analysis, while similar to the one conducted in 2007 to arrive at the original cut scores, used newer data and was able to be drawn from a larger population of typically developing children than the data available 2 years earlier.

How will these changes affect my OSEP outcome data?

The size of the effect of the changes in the AEPSi algorithm on your outcomes data will depend on the percent of the children you are reporting who were measured on the AEPS. For children measured on the AEPS, you should expect the percent exiting at the level of same-aged peers to decrease, although the size of this decrease will depend on the functioning of the children in your population.

What do I need to do in order to run reports with the new cut scores?

The new cut scores have been programmed into AEPSi and all current OSEP tests will be automatically run with the new cut scores. These reports include the Entry Data Only (Aggregate Percentages), Entry Data Only (Categories for Each Child), Progress Data (Aggregate Percentages), Progress Data (Categories for Each Child), Entry Data Only (Ratings for Each Child), and Progress Data (Ratings for Each Child) reports. There are no additional steps you will need to take in order to access the new cut scores.

How do I explain these changes in my APR or to other stakeholders?

It is important to emphasize that although the numbers are different, they are a more accurate representation of the status of your population. If the revised conversion process results in a change in your summary statement calculations compared to last year, the changes may not indicate a change in the performance of your population but instead a change in the measurement of the population.

Where can I find additional information about the new AEPSi Cut Scores?

Below you will find a list of additional documentation and resources that explain in more detail the process for creating the new AEPSi cut scores and the changes that were involved. This documentation is available in the Docouments and Downloads section under the **My Toolkit** tab of AEPSi.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the OSEP changes, please contact Monica Belle, AEPSi Implementation Manager, at mbelle@brookepublishing.com.

- **Description of the changes to the conversion process for AEPS®**

  This document from the Early Childhood Outcomes Center describes the changes to the conversion process for the AEPS benchmarks and cut scores.

- **Webinar: Update on Use of On-Line Reporting for OSEP**

  Download the PowerPoint slides from Cornelia Taylor Bruckner's webinar on the AEPSi data conversion process that was modified to address the higher than expected percentages of children identified as typically developing based on online OSEP reports. This webinar was presented on November 15, 2010. The anticipated changes based on modified benchmarks and its implications for reporting child outcomes and meeting targets are discussed.

- **Updated AEPS Crosswalk**

  Download the most up to date AEPS crosswalk for Birth to Three and Three to Six. Five items were removed from the Birth to Three crosswalk. There were no changes to the Three to Six crosswalk.

- **Cut Scores Development for OSEP Child Outcomes Reporting in AEPSi: A Technical Report**

  This technical report provides detailed information on the rationale and process for developing the new cut scores for OSEP Child Outcomes Reporting in AEPSi.