# CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin

## CONNECTIONS Build: State Education Data Window and Updates to Progress Notes

**The next build to the CONNECTIONS application is tentatively scheduled for implementation on Friday, January 22, during the regularly scheduled 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. morning maintenance window and will include the new State Education Data window as well as updates to the recently modernized Progress Notes module of Family Services Stages.**

In an effort to support and improve the educational outcomes and performance of children in foster care, the new **State Education Data** window will provide a transfer of past educational information from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to CONNECTIONS for children who are currently in foster care. Educational information will include grade level, courses and grades, assessments, programs, attendance records, and standardized testing scores.

Historical education information will be transferred to CONNECTIONS according to the following schedule:

- *First Monday in September* — full load of all data from the *prior school year*

- *Third Monday in November and January 1st* — enrollment/grade level information for the current year

- *Bi-weekly* — information for children newly coming into care

The new window will be accessible via the *State Education Data* link, located on the left navigation pane of the **Education** window of a Family Services Stage (FSS) for children who have a Program Choice of "Placement." Workers with an assigned role in the FSS, access to the workload of someone with an assigned role to the FSS, or the "Maintain Education" business function, will have access to the new window, which will always be view-only.

The main Education window within the FSS will continue to be where caseworkers and support staff enter information concerning a child's educational status and plans.

A **Quick Start Guide** detailing the new State Education Data window, as well as a more precise implementation schedule, will be made available in the coming days.

Additionally, updates to **Progress Notes**, previously modernized in Fall 2015, are tentatively scheduled for implementation on January 22, and should improve the overall functionality of the Progress Notes module. Planned updates should accelerate the printing of progress notes by speeding up the creation of Print Reports in CONNECTIONS, and will also display print reports in Microsoft Word, as opposed to the PDF versions of notes displayed in the current Progress Notes module. The Microsoft Word display will enable users to easily copy progress notes from CONNECTIONS and paste into other stages or documents.