Retiring Delay Code 61 – “COVID-19 School Closure” effective with the 2022-2023 SY

CDE’s response to the unprecedented circumstances and challenges presented by the Pandemic included the addition of Delay Code 61 “COVID-19 School Closure” for SY2019-2020 and SY2020-2021. This code was used to report delays caused by school closures in Initial Evaluations and Part C to Part B Transition in the Special Education End-of-Year (SPED EOY) data submission. This data is used to determine an AU’s compliance with Indicator 11: Initial Evaluations (I 11), and Indicator 12: Part C to Part B Transition (I 12). While this code was used by AUs to accurately report invalid delays caused by school closures, it is now contributing to inaccurate reporting that results in unnecessary findings of noncompliance.

Delay Code 61 is not a valid reason to delay an initial evaluation or C to B transition, so the use of this code results in an AU’s noncompliance for I 11 and I 12. Over the past two years, we have noticed that this code was often being selected incorrectly when a valid delay code was the reason for the delay. Because a valid delay code does not result in noncompliance, selecting Delay Code 61 when it was not an accurate reason for the delay has resulted in unnecessary and labor-intensive work by AUs to demonstrate compliance.

CDE is therefore eliminating Delay Code 61 from the options for the SPED EOY report effective with SY2022-2023 for the following reasons:

1. To improve reporting accuracy

2. To reduce the burden on AUs having to investigate and verify the reporting accuracy of every student record that was reported delayed due to COVID school closure

For rare cases of school closure due to COVID, AUs should use Delay Code 59 “Other (provide explanation in exception request)”. The [2022-2023 Special Education Participation File Layout and Definitions](https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_sped-iep) document is published on the CDE website. Please share this important change with your staff involved in this work.

For questions about Indicators 11 and 12, contact [Gloria Durosko](mailto:durosko_g@cde.state.co.us)

For questions about Data Pipeline reporting and the Special Education Participation File, contact [Lindsey Heitman](mailto:heitman_l@cde.state.co.us).