

# FY2021 GNETS Program Frequently Asked Questions

Georgia Department of Education (GADOE)  
Office of Technology Services - Technology Management



## **DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING GNETS Programs - Frequently Asked Questions**

Each student served in a Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) program must have been through due process procedures and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) documenting GNETS as the student's location of services.

The student data reporting requirements for students receiving services in a GNETS program are the same as the requirements for all other students. GNETS students must be enrolled in an LEA (Local Education Agency) and have an assigned **GTID** (Georgia Test Identifier). LEAs must coordinate with their GNETS program to develop a data exchange system to provide the information required for input in the local student information system. To facilitate the transfer of data, IEPs for GNETS students should be written in the IEP platform of their LEA of residence.

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

**1. Who reports the GNETS students for all state level data collections?**

The resident system of the student even if the student attends non-GNETS classes in a school in the system where the GNETS program is located.

**2. What is the system of residence for students who attend a GNETS program located in another system?**

For students who attend a GNETS program located in another system their system of residence would be the system they would attend if they were not enrolled in a GNETS program. This also applies to students who attend non-GNETS classes (general education or special education) in the system where the GNETS program is located when it is not their system of residence.

**3. Are GNETS programs considered "schools"?**

No. GNETS programs do not meet the definition of a "school" as defined in State Board Rule 160-5-1-.03 Identification and Reporting of Schools. GNETS programs are defined as special entities. A special entity is defined as an educational facility other than a school that houses students for all or part of the instructional day and does not report students for the purpose of earning FTE-based QBE funds. GNETS programs do not claim students' GTID (GA Test Identification).

## FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) CYCLES 1 AND 3

### State Level Data Reporting

Each annual FTE cycle has a count date for the reporting of data by the school systems. Data collected for state reporting on the count day during cycles 1 and 3 can be thought of as a “snapshot” or “point in time” of the scheduled instructional services provided for the students on that specific date. FTE provides an enrollment count of students as well as an indication of program participation based on the instructional services received during the six segments. The Federal Child Count is also collected in the October FTE 1 Count. The Federal Child Count is unrelated to state funding and is required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The Federal Child Count is one factor used in calculating IDEA grants and therefore influences IDEA funds allotted to the districts.

### QUESTIONS RELATED TO FTE CYCLE 1 AND CYCLE 3

1. **How is FTE for a special entity reported?**

Georgia Board Rule 160-5-1-.03 Identification and Reporting of Schools (d) states that FTE for special entities shall be reported at the student's home school or the school where the student would be assigned if the student being served is a nonresident student of the school system where the special entity is located.

2. **Are GNETS students reported in FTE cycle 1 and cycle 3?**

Students must be reported by the LEA of residence (home school) in the October (FTE 1) and March (FTE 3) counts.

3. **What FTE program code is used to report segments of GNETS services?**

Students served for segments in GNETS should be coded with FTE PROGRAM CODE = '4' in the appropriate segments on the day of the count for FTE 1 and 3, regardless of the funding source for the GNETS teacher.

4. **What FTE program code is used to report segments of services that are not provided by GNETS?**

Students receiving segments of services from a non-GNETS program should be reported with the PROGRAM CODES specific to the other program for the segments served by that program.

Example: If the student receives three (3) segments of emotional and behavioral disorder instruction (PROGRAM CODE = 'T') on the FTE count day and attended a GNETS class for the other three (3) segments, only the three (3) segments in the GNETS class would be coded with PROGRAM CODE = '4'. The other three (3) segments would be coded with PROGRAM CODE = 'T'.

5. **Is there an FTE funding weight program code assigned to GNETS?**

There is not an FTE weight assigned to the GNETS FTE program code. GNETS programs are funded through a separate grant appropriated from the Georgia General Assembly.

6. **Where are segments reported when a GNETS student is served in a GNETS program located in another system?**

All segments for students, who are placed by the system of residence by *IEP determination*, must be reported for FTE by the resident district.

7. **Where are segments reported when a GNETS student is served in non-GNETS classes in a system where the GNETS program is located when it is not the system of residence for the students?**

ALL segments for students, who are placed by the system of residence by *IEP determination*, are reported for FTE by the resident district.

**8. How are GNETS students on tracking and monitoring (no longer attending GNETS classes) reported?**

Unless the GNETS service meets the definition of “consultative” services, the service is not reported in FTE 1 and 3. For funding, consultative services are defined as the student receiving regularly scheduled direct instruction in the regular education setting from the GNETS from the program for at least one segment per month AND direct instruction for the majority of a segment on the day of the FTE count.

If the service meets the definition of “consultative” services, the segment is reported with Program Code ‘4’ resulting in no funding for the school district.

**GNETS QUESTIONS RELATED TO FTE CYCLE 1 - FEDERAL REPORTING**

**1. How are environment codes reported?**

Special education environments indicate the type of educational setting in which the student receives special education services. For information on determining the correct environment, or about calculating time in an environment, see the school age environment code documents on the Data Collection FTE website. The guidance for reporting environment code for GNETS is the same as for any other student with a disability.

**2. What environment code is used to report GNETS students who are served in a “center-based” separate facility for greater than 50% of the day?**

A separate facility is defined as a standalone program that does not afford students the opportunity to access age-appropriate non-disabled peers during the school day. If the GNETS program is in a separate facility and the student is served at this location for greater than 50% of the day, the student is reported with either:

**3. What environment code is used to report GNETS students who are served in a GNETS program located in a facility that allows the student access to age appropriate non-disabled peers?**

When GNETS students *age of 6 and above* attend classes in a building that allows access to age-appropriate non-disabled peers and a specific student is served in the generalized setting, the student would be reported with Environments 1-3 based on the percentage of time the student spends in a generalized setting. A generalized setting is defined as the *total number of hours in the school day*, including lunch, recess, and study periods, when a student has access to non-disabled peers.

- **Environment ‘1’** – In a generalized setting at least 80% of the school day
- **Environment ‘2’** – In a generalized setting at least 40% of the school day but no more than 79% of the school day
- **Environment ‘3’** – In a generalized setting less than 40% of the school day

**4. How is the percentage of time in a general education setting calculated?**

An Environment Calculator is available on the FTE Data Collection website. To manually calculate the amount of time a student is in a generalized setting, divide the number of hours the student spends inside the general classroom (*the time spent outside the general classroom receiving services unrelated to the student’s disability is considered time inside the general classroom*) by the total number of hours in the school day (*including lunch, recess and study periods*). Now, multiply this number by 100 to obtain the percentage of time (An Environment Calculator is available on the FTE Data Collections Website).

## STUDENT RECORD DATA COLLECTION

Student Record (SR) is a year-end, cumulative record of student activity that occurred throughout the school year. Unlike the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) collection, which is a “point-in-time” collection of scheduled instructional services, Student Record provides information on services the student received at any point during the school year. All Student Record layouts, including enrollment and student safety, must be reported for all GNETS students in the student’s LEA of residence. Each student enrolled in GNETS at any point during the school year must also report a Program level record.

### GNETS – Student Record Program Level Record

Information specific to GNETS is reported during the Student Record Data Collection on the Program Level Record.

1. **What is the GNETS PROGRAM TYPE code?**

The **PROGRAM TYPE** data element identifies the type of program being reported for each record’s activity. The **PROGRAM TYPE** for GNETS is ‘02’.

2. **What are the PROGRAM CODES for GNETS programs?**

When the **PROGRAM TYPE** = GNETS ‘02’, the code for **PROGRAM CODE** must equal one of the following codes:

‘02A’ = GNETS – Center-Based

‘02B’ = GNETS – School-Based

- **GNETS - Center Based** (‘02A’) is defined as a separate program that operates as a standalone and does not afford students the opportunity to access age appropriate non-disabled peers during the school day.
- **GNETS - School Based** (‘02B’) is defined as a program that allows student access to non-disabled peers during the school day. If a student attends both **PROGRAM TYPEs** during the school year but has continuous enrollment in the same GNETS program, report the **PROGRAM TYPE** status associated with **ENDING DATE**.

3. **What SCHOOL CODE is used for GNETS students?**

Two “school” codes are reported for GNETS students attending a GNETS program. The **SCHOOL CODE** is the school where the student is enrolled (home school). The **ALTERNATE SCHOOL NUMBER** is the GNETS Program Code (in the facilities database) assigned to the GNETS program the student attends.

4. **What system code is used for GNETS students?**

The system where the student is enrolled (reporting system) is reported for the **SYSTEM CODE** and the **ALTERNATE SYSTEM CODE**. For example, if the student is being reported by Fulton County, the **SYSTEM CODE** = ‘660’ and the **ALTERNATE SYSTEM CODE** = ‘660’.

5. **How is duration of enrollment in a GNETS program determined?**

The duration of services for a student enrolled in a GNETS program is calculated using the **BEGINNING DATE** and **ENDING DATE**. For students with continuous enrollment, the **BEGINNING DATE** would be the first day of school and the **ENDING DATE** would be the last day of school. If a student enters and exits a GNETS program multiple times during the school year a new Program Level Record must be created for each entry.

6. **What should be reported if a student moves but does not change GNETS programs or moves and changes GNETS programs?**

- If a student changes school system, but not GNETS programs, both systems should report a Program Level Record for the student reflecting the appropriate **BEGINNING DATE** and **ENDING DATE** (Element ID PGM010). The **SYSTEM CODE** used to report the system and the **SCHOOL CODE** used to report the home school the student would attend if not enrolled in a GNETS program will be different in the Program Level records but the **ALTERNATE SCHOOL NUMBER**, the GNETS program code assigned to the GNETS program the student attends, would not change.

If a student changes school system, and GNETS programs, both systems should report a Program Level Record for the student reflecting the appropriate **BEGINNING DATE** and **ENDING DATE** (Element ID PGM010). The **SYSTEM CODE** used to report the system, the **SCHOOL CODE** used to report the home school the student would attend if not enrolled in a GNETS program, and the **ALTERNATE SCHOOL NUMBER**, the program code assigned to the GNETS program the student attends, will all change in the Program Level Records.

7. **How is frequency of GNETS services determined?**

The **NUMBER OF DAILY GNETS SEGMENTS** identifies the highest number of daily segments (1-6) a student received in a GNETS program during the school year.

8. **Are students monitored or tracked by GNETS reported with Program Level Record?**

No, unless they meet the definition for consultative services - which states the student receives regularly scheduled direct instruction in the regular education classroom from the GNETS program.

9. **Can students have multiple GNETS Program Level Records?**

Yes, multiple GNETS program records are required if the student receives services from GNETS multiple times during the school year. This applies to students who receive services in GNETS, are removed from GNETS, and then subsequently return to GNETS.

10. **Are students served by GNETS in a summer program reported with a GNETS Program Level Record?**

No, only students served by GNETS during the school year are reported with a GNETS Program Level Record. Students receiving Extended Year Services (ESY) beyond the normal school year, in accordance with the student's IEP, should be reported in Student Record Data Element ID: STU046 with a 'Y' - Special Education ESY received.

## **QUESTIONS RELATED TO OTHER STUDENT RECORD LAYOUTS -- NON-GNETS SPECIFIC DATA**

1. **Should Student Safety events for GNETS students be reported in the LEA Student Record?**

Yes, all Student Safety events for GNETS students must be reported to the LEA and included in the LEA's Student Safety Level File. This includes, but is not limited to, all incidences of in-school and out-of-school suspensions, continuation of services for students suspended for 10 or more days, and incidences of serious bodily injury. Serious bodily injury is defined as a "bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ of faculty" (18 U.S.C. Section 1365(3) (h)). Student safety incidences of bullying and adult actions of restraint must be reported in the Student Safety Level File.

2. **Should enrollment and attendance events for GNETS students be reported in the LEA Student Record?**

Yes, attendance and enrollment data for GNETS students must be reported in the Enrollment Level File by the LEA.

## **STUDENT CLASS DATA COLLECTION**

1. **What is Student Class?**

The Student-Class layout is a format for collecting student schedules. School districts will use this layout to report data Student Class, and also for the Student Course Profile (SCP), which is used to feed SLDS. Unlike Student Record, which is a year-end collection, Student Class is a collection of class roster data which links students and teachers to a class.

2. **How should GNETS data be reported in Student Class?**

Report the student class schedule the same as you would for any other student. Also, include the following additional data elements on the Student Class record: **TEACHER LAST NAME, TEACHER FIRST NAME, PRIMARY AREA, ALTERNATE SYSTEM CODE, and ALTERNATE SCHOOL CODE.**

3. **How are courses reported in Student Class if the teacher of record is not an employee of the system where the student resides?**

The Course Teacher ID should be reported with SSN. The GNETS facility must provide the district with the SSN. All Student Class information should be provided by the GNETS program to the student's home *system in a timely manner.*

4. **What is the difference between the data elements for # of Paraprofessionals and Inclusion Code '4' – Paraprofessional?**

Report the # of Paraprofessionals when the paraprofessional provides support to the entire class. **INCLUSION CODE '4'** is used when a student with disabilities is in a **general education class** taught by a general education teacher, and the student's IEP includes additional supportive services provided by a paraprofessional.

The data field for reporting the # of paraprofessionals is used to determine class size. Do not count an inclusion paraprofessional providing IEP driven services when reporting the data element for # of paraprofessionals.

## CERTIFIED/CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL INFORMATION (CPI)

**1. Is the funding source for a GNETS teacher reflected in their job code in CPI?**

Yes, the job code for a GNETS teacher funded by the GNETS grant is '153'; the job code for a GNETS teacher funded by the local school system is '152'.

**2. Does reporting students served in a GNETS program located in another system, or GNETS students served in non-GNETS classes - in the system where the GNETS program is located, when it is not system of residence for the student, affect the resident system's CPI?**

No, services provided to students, by other school systems, does not affect the resident system's CPI. The resident system would not report CPI data for staff at a GNETS program, or in a school located in another school system.

**3. What combinations of job code and fund code are valid for reporting CPI data?**

| JOB CODE                                                                                                                                                             | SECONDARY FUND CODE                                        | EXPLANATION / ACTION |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 152 GNETS Teacher – Locally Funded                                                                                                                                   | 50 – LEA Federal Grant                                     | Warning – No T&E     |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | 00 – State or Local Funds                                  |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | Other fund codes are not valid for this job code           |                      |
| 153 - GNETS Teacher – Grant Funded                                                                                                                                   | 56 IDEA – GNETS Federal Grant                              | Warning – No T&E     |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | 74 - GNETS State Grant                                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | Other fund codes are not valid for this job code           |                      |
| 158 - Teacher of EBD Students                                                                                                                                        | 50 – LEA Federal Grant                                     | Warning – No T&E     |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | 00 – State or Local Funds                                  |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | Other fund codes are not valid for this job code           |                      |
| 306 – GNETS Counselor,<br>404 - GNETS School Psychologist.<br>412 - GNETS Social Worker,<br>439 - GNETS Paraprofessional<br>469 - GNETS Special Education Specialist | 00 – State or Local Funds or<br>74 - GNETS State Grant     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | 50 – LEA Federal Grant or<br>56 IDEA – GNETS Federal Grant | Warning – No T&E     |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | Other fund codes are not valid for this job code           |                      |
| 650 - (GNETS Director)                                                                                                                                               | 74 - GNETS State Grant                                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                      | Other fund codes are not valid for this job code           |                      |