



**ANNOUNCEMENT: EI-2011 #02**  
**OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & EARLY LEARNING**  
**BUREAU OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

**ISSUE DATE:** August 1, 2011  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately  
**SUNSET DATE:** End of 2012-2013 School Year

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Act 24 of 2011 Implementation – PELICAN Data Moratorium
<b>TO:</b>	Early Intervention Leadership
<b>FROM:</b>	Barbara G. Minzenberg, Ph.D. Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development & Early Learning 

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this announcement is to inform all Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) program participants of the data moratorium established in Act 24 of 2011 and to provide the data elements which are required to be submitted into Pennsylvania's Enterprise to Link Information for Children Across Networks (PELICAN) during the moratorium period. This announcement is effective immediately and sunsets at the end of the 2012-2013 school/fiscal year.

The following attachment is included with this announcement: PELICAN EI Required Data Elements.

**BACKGROUND:**

Act 24 was signed into law on June 30, 2011. The law establishes a moratorium on the collection of certain data in PELICAN for the school years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. The law allows the Departments of Public Welfare and Education to collect data in PELICAN during the moratorium period to:

- Meet federal requirements and eligibility rules for federal funding.
- Supervise, license or register a child care provider.
- Ensure child care personnel and family child care home residents meet background check requirements under law.
- Issue Commonwealth payments and reimbursements.

Act 24 requires that all impacted program participants be notified by August 1, 2011 of the data elements which are required to be submitted into PELICAN during the moratorium period. In addition, the Departments must provide a report on data collection and systems to certain legislative committees by February 1, 2012 under the law.

**DISCUSSION:**

In order to issue this announcement, OCDEL staff completed a careful and thorough review of the data dictionaries for the PELICAN system. The review involved comparing each existing data element and determining whether or not it is required to be collected during the moratorium period. This included a review of data in the Early Learning Network, which is a part of PELICAN.

This announcement is being issued to meet the August 1, 2011 notification requirement and includes a listing of the data you are required to enter under the law during the moratorium period. Data outside the scope of the law may not be collected. This announcement should be used as a guideline for your program as you enter data into PELICAN Early Intervention.

OCDEL is still researching the system implications as a result of this act. For instance, if a data field is required in PELICAN, the system will not allow the end user to save and continue until the information is provided. Some PELICAN EI required data fields will be suspended during the moratorium. Therefore, OCDEL will need to work with our vendor to review options and determine solutions. This may cause data entry issues until we have system changes in place. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please be assured that OCDEL has been diligent in protecting and maintaining the information that will continue to be entered in the PELICAN system. PELICAN data is protected by the same security protocols as other programs such as Medical Assistance and Income Maintenance. These protocols require secure and encrypted servers that are tested for vulnerabilities, unique user names with strong passwords, and user roles that are assigned specific security levels and access. In addition, publicly released data will only be reported at an aggregate level so that families and children can never be recognized. OCDEL is eager to comply with the requirements established in Act 24 and is maintaining a list of suspended PELICAN data elements in accordance with the Act.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. Review the attachment and share with your staff to ensure there is an understanding of the data required to be entered in PELICAN EI during the moratorium period.
2. During fiscal years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 continue online reporting of child assessments per you program's standard.
3. Bureau of Early Intervention Services will communicate with you prior to the end of the 2012-2013 school/fiscal year to provide an update.

Comments and questions regarding this announcement should be directed to the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Bureau of Early Intervention Services EI Advisors or to the [ra-ocdintervention@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-ocdintervention@state.pa.us).