

Welcome Back!

We would like to welcome everyone to the new school year. This year brings us all kinds of new and exciting things. Check out **“Coming Events”** in this edition, page 2. Thank you to all our clients for your feedback on what enhancements you would like to see in *IEP PlaNET-Next generation™*. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to your ideas in the coming year. Thank you all for your continued support!

It was a quiet summer for the staff at **Vision Management Consulting**. We were able to catch up and clean up on those things we set aside during the year. Look at what we’ve been working on under “Coming Events.”

In this Newsletter we are featuring the following articles:

1. **An update from our “Technology Department”**
2. **What is “NJSmart”**
3. **“Coming Events”**
4. **Getting ready for the “ASSA Report”**

From our Technology Department

IEP PlaNET - Next Generation™ is a web based program which means there are certain technical aspects you must be aware of before using the program to its fullest potential. Questions you need to ask of your technology department..

1. Is your hardware compatible? You need to have a Pentium II or higher, 500mg HD or higher, 128mg Memory or higher (The more memory the better performance on the computer).
2. Is your Internet software compatible and/or up to date? Make sure you have Internet Explorer (IE) 5.0 or higher on your machine. (The recommended software is IE 6.x)- ***We are not compatible with Netscape.***
3. Do you need anything specific to print? Our printing of documents requires Adobe Acrobat 5.0 or higher. We strongly suggest using 5.0 until Adobe fixes the known PDF issues in 6.0.
4. Do you need specific printers to print? No, you can have any type of printer, the drivers for you printer should always be updated if the Windows system has been updated on your computer. Post script drivers are usually the better choice to have. You can typically update drivers for free through the Internet!
5. Is your network ready? Make sure you network is running at 100mb speed or better.
6. What type of internet line do you need? You should be using at the minimum a T1 line or higher, DSL or Cable Modem line. ***WE DO NOT SUPPORT PHONE LINE ACCESS ANY LONGER.***
7. Do you have any type of Firewalls in place? We are trying to work with various companies who provide protection to schools. Please contact us if you would like us to work with your vendors in order to confirm the connection is functioning properly.

Being up-to-date on these specifications confirms you will be utilizing the *IEP PlaNET-Next Generation™* to its full potential.

Visit our Website
(www.visionplanet.com)

We have lots more information about *IEP PlaNET™* and you can look at sample reports or request a free trial use of the system.

Even if you are not interested right now, we have a great resource of reference sites to visit on subjects related to Special Education.

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What is NJSmart?

By now you have probably heard some chatter about the project the State Department of Education is implementing called, “**NJ Smart.**” This is the technology **IEP PlaNET - Next Generation™** was designed to accommodate.

NJ Smart stands for New Jersey Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (**NJ Smart**). As described on the State Department Website: *“NJ SMART is the Department of Education’s (DOE) solution to improve the monitoring of student and school performance in New Jersey’s public education system. Educators and policymakers would be able to improve educational programs and target resources more effectively based on the information provided by NJ SMART. As opposed to the snapshot methods of determining effectiveness of programs today, NJ SMART is a student-level system that monitors longitudinal statewide performance of students, programs, schools and districts that enables more valid and reliable methods to determine where students are learning and where they are not. NJ SMART is the foundation for evaluating whether students across the state are meeting the high academic standards as detailed in the Core Curriculum Content Standards.”*

It is our hope that this project will eliminate some of the cumbersome reports required by districts for both the regular education population as well as the special education population. Reports such as the ASSA, End of Year, and the December 1st should be easily administered at the State level instead of at the district level. Provided the information is transmitted properly, you may never have to prepare these reports again.

Highlights of the program include:

1. A unique state identifier number for each student enrolled in New Jersey Schools. This identifier will follow the student no matter what school they attend during their PreK - Graduation period.
2. All transmittals to the state will be via the Internet with verification reports to confirm the accuracy of the data. No more need to handle tons and tons of paperwork.
3. The staff and team of NJ Smart are easy to contact and communicate with at all times.

We are excited about being a part of this project!

Getting ready for the ASSA Report!

The most important aspect of the ASSA report within the **IEP PlaNET** programs is to make sure that the current IEP and Classification for each student is placed **In-Force.** All reports within the **IEP PlaNET** programs is based on “**In-Force**” documents.

For the ASSA report the program looks for “**In-Force**” IEP’s and then it looks at the dates of the “**Program**” and also the dates of the “**Related Services.**” If these programs encumber October 15th of the current school year the student will be counted in the appropriate location on the ASSA reports.

Other fields required to be completed include:

- **Demographics Section:**
 - Status (Active or Inactive)
 - Birth Date
 - Current Grade
 - If “Low Income” click on radio button
 - Resident status
- **Classification Summary:**
 - Current document tagged “In-Force”
- **IEP:**
 - Program Screen**; Annual Reporting Tab;
 - *Tier
 - *Full Time/Shared Time

Please refer to cheat sheet in User’s Manual for detailed information on other requirements!

Coming Events...

- **Mac capatibility** - We are in the process of designing the program to be compatible with Mac OS X.
- **Progress Reporting** - We are reviewing the option to provide users the ability to enter “Progress Report” grades on-line to print to send home to parent.
- **Exemptions Report** - We are still looking for feedback on what you would like to see in an “**Exemptions Report**”; please submit any thoughts or ideas to info@visionplanet.com.
- **Tier Calculation** - In the past we used to calculate the tiers for students for the ASSA report. We eliminated this due to the issues we ran into with the State Dept. of Education changing the requirements with minimal notice. We are however re-looking at this option however we don’t believe it will be available for the current ASSA report dated October 15, 2004.
- **User Group** - We hope to start soon on our website

Look for updates in our next issue of the “PlaNET”