

PSC Solution: TIP0004

Date: 5/5/2010

Application: ESS

School Year:

File Specifications:

Solution Type: Technical Tip

Title: Understanding the Inactive Watermark on ESS File Specifications

Issue Description:

ED initially releases each new file specification to the www.ed.gov/edfacts website with an Inactive watermark displayed on each page throughout the document. This article explains the meaning of this designation for ESS submitters.

The Inactive watermark means that the files under that specification are not yet accepted for submission to ESS because it has not yet been programmed accordingly. The file specification does represent firm requirements for a future ESS release. States should begin preparing their data sources and systems based on these requirements. ED releases the Inactive file specifications to states as early as possible to allow lead time for states to modify their systems and processes.

Once a version of the file specification is released without the Inactive watermark, the included files can be submitted to ESS.