



Service Level Description

BOCES Support and Coordination

TAX BILLING

OVERVIEW

This document represents a Service Level Description (SLD) between subscribing Local Educational Agencies (LEA) as the subscriber and the Northeastern Regional Information Center (NERIC) as the provide for the provision of the **Tax Billing** service. The document outlines the parameters of the service as it is mutually understood.

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

This streamlined tax billing application provides districts with an end-to-end solution for all of their tax processing needs. From data collection and bill printing to payment processing and delinquent reporting, this comprehensive solution relinquishes valuable resources back to districts. It enables districts to calculate taxes due, as well as print specific bills, receipts and reports on demand from staff members' desktops. This application is Windows-compatible and can run from a district's network or standalone PC.

Billing Code(s)

CoSer: 604-7710

Service Codes: 604.320

Pricing

Pricing for the **Tax Billing** service is based on NERIC's 2016-2017 service costs and is subject to adjustment based on additions or removals.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goal of this document is to ensure that the proper elements and commitments are in place to provide consistent service support and delivery to the subscribers of this service. The objective of this Service Level Description is to clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of the NERIC as a service provider and the LEA as a service subscriber.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marlene MacFee, managing program coordinator I, (518) 862-5348 or marlene.macfee@neric.org



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SERVICE DETAILS

SERVICE SCOPE

The following services are covered by this Service Level Description:

- The NERIC Tax Billing Service provides an end-to-end solution which includes printing, collecting and reporting school tax bills within the school district. Districts can opt for the printing portion only, which also includes on-line lookups for their taxpayers and escrow companies, or include the collection and reporting options for the full service suite.
- Hosting at least one annual user group meeting to which clients are invited.

SERVICE PROVIDER AND SUBSCRIBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The following areas are the responsibility of the Service Provider:

- Training at the NERIC and/or at the district.
- New employee application training.
- Providing software assistance by phone and remote access.
- Conducting user group meetings to review tax collection routines and introduce new application features.
- Hosting application workshops as determined by NERIC specialists.
- Applying application software patches to incorporate new features.
- Providing technical phone support for district personnel.
- NERIC's Tax Billing team will serve as liaison between the school district and their data sources.
- NERIC's Tax Billing team will serve as liaison between the school district and software development team.
- Scheduling system maintenance jobs (backups and integrity checks) and applying database upgrades.

The following areas are the responsibility of the School District:

- District assumes all responsibility for accuracy and verification of data input into tax collection system.
- Designating a central contact person for all district correspondence and communications for the Tax Billing system as well as act as a point of escalation.
- Verify all staff workstations meet the minimum requirements to operate the tax collection application.
- Verification of data, Bills and reports prior to producing bills for taxpayers.
- Recognize that it's vital for appointed district staff to attend web-based training and live trainings.
- Validation of all data throughout the year to ensure accurate daily, quarterly and year end reporting and reconciliation.
- District staff attendance and participation at the annual Tax Billing User Group Meeting.
- Identify End-of-Year process to close the district's Tax Billing Season for that year.
- Internet connectivity to allow use of our software.



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SERVICE MANAGEMENT

SERVICE ONBOARDING

Not applicable to this service.

SERVICE AVAILABILITY/COVERAGE PARAMETERS

The goal of the **Tax Billing** service is to provide the subscriber with access to enterprise-level, cost-effective and efficient support.

- The NERIC is responsible for assuring the delivery of services during core business hours (each weekday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.). This does not include after-hours, weekend and/or holiday support, however the NERIC will make a best effort in providing support for board meetings and/or other scheduled special events, as requested and applicable.
- Subscriber will provide sufficient notice of planned technology initiatives to ensure timely completion. In cases where sufficient notice is not provided by the subscriber, reprioritization of incidents/service requests may result in delayed service delivery times.
 - In instances where the NERIC is unable to meet subscriber requested service delivery dates, subscribers may have the option to purchase additional resources. Additional service charges may apply.
- Non-standard services may require project planning, with the appropriate NERIC service provider, to determine project costs and delivery dates.

SERVICE REQUEST PROCEDURES

Incidents and Service Requests

The process for all subscriber incidents and service requests begin with a ticket submitted through the ServiceNow self-service portal, <https://bocescr.service-now.com/> or by phone at (518) 862-5400 or (800) 205-0735.

- **Incidents** - Application(s)/technology inquiries that require troubleshooting/response.
- **Service Request** - A new technology initiative where subscriber and service provider must determine the scope of work and service to be delivered.



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INCIDENT RESOLUTION TIMES

It is the expectation that NERIC, as the service provider, will respond to customer service requests within four hours (during scheduled business hours each weekday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) of receiving the request. This does not mean that the ticket will be resolved in that time period, but the customer will receive a response that the NERIC is aware of the request and will facilitate a solution in a timely manner, allowing for triaging of incidents.

The Incident Resolution Schedule (below) shows the incident priority, target assignment, target status update and target resolution time for a subscriber's documented incidents. Each incident is defined as:

Priority - The NERIC Contact Center assigns a priority to every incident or service request that is initiated. The **NERIC Prioritization Model** is used to ensure a consistent approach in defining the sequence in which an item needs to be resolved and to assign appropriate resources.

Under the **NERIC Prioritization Model**, priority assigned to a ticket depends upon:

1. Impact on the business: Size, scope and complexity of the incident
2. Urgency to the business: Time within which resolution is required
3. Resource availability (NERIC, district, vendor)
4. Expected effort in resolving or completing a task (NERIC, vendor, contractor)

Target Assignment Time - the total time from ticket creation to the time that the ticket is assigned to a technical resource responsible for resolving the incident.

Target Status Update Time - the time interval that the Service Desk has to update the ticket status for the customer who reported the incident.

Target Resolution Time - the total time from ticket creation to incident resolution and restoration of service to the user. Service may be restored either by a workaround or by a permanent solution. NERIC strives to resolve ninety percent of incidents within the timeframe specified for each priority. Resolution times are measured in business hours unless otherwise specified and include:

Priority	Target Assignment Time	Target Status Update Time	Target Resolution Time
Critical	10 Minutes	Every 60 minutes or as agreed upon by customer	4 hours
High	1 Hour	Every 2 hours or as agreed upon by customer	8 hours
Moderate	4 Hours	Upon request	28 hours
Low	16 Hours	Upon request	32 hours



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ESCALATION PROCEDURES

Begin the escalation process when:

- You have not received a response to incident or service request within four hours or as defined in the Incident Resolution Schedule above.
- The response you received to your incident or service request is unsatisfactory.

The escalation process begins by calling the contact listed in Escalation Step 1 (below).

If after completing Escalation Step 1, you do not receive a response within the specified Target Resolution Time above, proceed to the next Escalation Step.

ESCALATION CONTACT LIST

Escalation Step 1: Shawn Connors, (518) 862-5347 or shawn.connors@neric.org

Escalation Step 2: Marlene MacFee, managing program coordinator I - Administrative Services, Computer & Systems Integration, (518) 862-5348 or marlene.macfee@neric.org

Escalation Step 3: John Warner, managing program coordinator II - Administrative Services, Computer & Systems Integration/Operations, (518) 862-5353 or john.warner@neric.org

Escalation Step 4: Dale Breault, NERIC director, (518) 862-5424 or dale.breault@neric.org



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MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE(S)

Subscriber will receive a minimum five days' notice prior to scheduled updates.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURANCES

Service Provider Responsibility:

Please be advised that subscribing to this NERIC service authorizes NERIC to access student PII or confidential teacher or principal data (hereinafter referred to as “confidential data”).

NERIC does not sell or release confidential data for any commercial purposes. Access to confidential data is restricted to approved and authorized staff only, and access to servers containing confidential data is controlled through the use of a firewall, secure networks and user directory service permissions.

In addition, NERIC will ensure that all subcontractors or other third party vendors will sign appropriate non-disclosure agreement and/or confidentiality agreements.

After a contract is terminated, NERIC will destroy all copies of relevant databases and related internal backups will be destroyed within thirty days. Any physical data will be stored for the time period required by law, and then destroyed.

Any breach of the NERIC's confidential data that compromises the security, confidentiality or integrity of confidential data will be promptly reported by the NERIC to the superintendent of the school subscribing to the service, to the BOCES Information Security Officer, to the BOCES District Superintendent and to the New York State agencies as required by Education Law section 2-d; State Technology Law, section 208; and Labor Law section 203-d.

PERIODIC REVIEW

Provider and subscriber will review the Service Level Description bi-annually (or as required) concurrently with the acceptance of the annual BOCES Final Service Request (FSR)/Annual Service Contract (AS-7).

- This document is governed by the operating procedures and policies as outlined in the NYSED BOCES Administrative Handbook.
- Customers may request a review of the service level description at any time by contacting their service level manager and/or Technical Account Manager (if applicable).
- The Service Level Description will require a review under any of the following conditions:
 - a significant and/or sustained change to the delivery of services
 - a significant change or departure from the agreed upon Service Level Description and/or comprehensive technology inventory.



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This document is valid from the effective date outlined herein and is valid until further notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

PREVIOUS REVIEW DATE: _____

NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____

SUBSCRIBER ACKNOWLEDGMENT (SIGNATURE): _____

PROVIDER ACKNOWLEDGMENT (SIGNATURE): _____