

Q & A - Fall Data Collection Webinar – September 10, 2015

- 1) Any news on 'Close Match' errors that we were received on Exact matches? This error is still being received after enrolling these students manually.
 - a. At this time the solution is to manually enroll these students on SDS. This error will no longer be returned for exact matches once a fix is applied in October but will continue to be returned until September 30. To assist in reducing or eliminating this error for close matches the SIRS system needs to change their NEW student enrolments to include the SK Learning Id when it is known. SIRS support has been informed of this recommendation / requirement.

- 2) Which Divisions use SIRS to submit EAL electronically?

Lloydminster Catholic SD, Prairie South SD, Prairie Value SD, Regina Catholic SD, South East Cornerstone SD, Living Sky SD and Prince Albert Catholic SD.

 - a. At this time, SIRS support has not responded to the deficiency. They have been made aware.

- 3) Are foreign tuition students counted as EAL?
 - a. No. Tuition-paying students should not be entered into the EAL screen. If tuition-paying students are included in the EAL data submission, their EAL record will be ignored. Tuition-paying students are not part of the ministry's EAL data collection.

- 4) Why does the EAL data have to be entered by September 17? [We] have a high percentage of EAL and it is often difficult for schools to have all newcomers assessed, offices to data enter and then have the data submitted to SDS by September 17? Our superintendent in this area has expressed concern with the 17th as a deadline.
 - a. The September 30th collection requires school divisions to assess each student's language abilities and to enter the most current EAL level in the SDS to guide planning and instructional support as the school year begins. If the SDS simply transferred CFR data from the previous year into the new school year, the CFR levels could be those entered in September of the previous year.

To ease the pressure of data entry in September, many school divisions assess EAL learners in May and June. They record the entries into their vendor system or save the

new CFR levels in an Excel file. The EAL data is then transferred to the SDS in late August/September for the new school year.

EAL data has been collected by the Ministry since September 2012. This is not a new initiative and collection dates have remained consistent. The data is used:

- i. to create a reliable, valid ministry record of students receiving EAL support in school divisions;
- ii. to identify and track the language progress of EAL learners along a reference scale that is used consistently by all school divisions;
- iii. to understand trends and issues with EAL progress at a provincial level and within specific divisions; and,
- iv. to make decisions regarding funding and support for EAL using an equitable and transparent process.

5) Will this presentation be posted?

- a. Yes, it will be posted on the SDS – System Updates page.

6) Are there any changes to Discover for this fall; new reports etc?

The list of reports on Discoverer was reviewed in the spring. All out of date or unused reports were removed from the list. If a report that you used was removed, please let us know. We will re-share that, or a like report being sure that accurate information is being returned.

The September 30th FAQ posted on the SDS System Updates page contains a section that addresses September 30th related Discoverer reports.

7) Is there a way to create a new language code (DNE - Dene Suline). Schools with DEN speaking staff and students would like to recognize their own language. The only code available is - "CHP - Dene Suline" which I believe is a child or related code to "CHP - Chipewyan.

- a. The ministry adheres to the Library of Congress, International Standards - Codes for the representation of names of language (ISO). At this time there is no separate code for Dene and Denesuline. The code "chp" is assigned to the family of languages referred to as Chipewyan; Dene Suline.