

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to inform you of some important dates for reviewing, verifying, and certifying data in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) for the 2009-10 school year. Districts and schools are encouraged to review their reports early to ensure that all students for whom the district or school is responsible are reported in the SIRS with accurate demographic, enrollment, program services, special education snapshot, special education events and, when available, assessment and outcome data. The attached timeline shows the initial date of release of nySTART verification reports and the dates districts and schools should begin to see assessment and outcome data in each report. The timeline is divided into rows that describe the availability of different types of data: BEDS and elementary/middle-level assessment data; high school data, and accountability data.

On behalf of the Education Department, I want to express our appreciation to all those who work so diligently to report, collect, and verify these data. We continue to make concerted efforts to improve our data collection and reporting systems so that we can minimize the effort required while ensuring data accuracy and integrity. Your ongoing feedback assists us greatly in these efforts.

Please share this information with the school and district personnel to whom you have assigned responsibility for collecting and reporting complete and accurate data.

Currently Available nySTART Verification Reports

The following nySTART verification reports have been available for review to authorized users on www.nySTART.gov since December 22, 2009:

- BEDS Day Enrollment
- New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA)
Tested/Not Tested
- NYSTP Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tested/Not Tested
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)
- NYSTP Grades 4 and 8 Science
- NYSTP Grade 5 and 8 Social Studies
- High School Accountability
- Total Cohort
- High School Annual Assessments
- Other Annual High School
- Reading First

Upcoming nySTART Verification Reports

The following nySTART verification reports will be available for review to authorized users on www.nySTART.gov on the dates shown:

- May 4, 2010: Elementary/Middle-Level Accountability Verification Report
Districts and schools may review enrollment and demographic information and program services codes for students who will be part of the elementary/middle-level accountability determination for the following subjects beginning on the dates shown:
 - May 4, 2010: English Language Arts
 - May 11, 2010: Mathematics
 - June 15, 2010: Science
 - June 29, 2010: Reading First

2009-10 SIRS Reporting Deadline

Data will be refreshed in Level 2 of the SIRS at 11:59 p.m. every Friday until July 30, 2010, when no further changes may be uploaded to Level 2. Your local Level 1 data center will establish a weekly data loading deadline to allow sufficient time for processing. Data that are refreshed in Level 2 as of 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 30, 2010, will be used to determine school and district accountability, for New York State Report Cards, and for other federal and State reporting purposes.

Certification of SIRS Data in nySTART Verification Reports

Superintendents must certify data in SIRS as shown in the nySTART verification reports by submitting a completed 2009-10 Statement of Certification of Verification Report(s) form (available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/nystart/certification.html>) to their Regional Information Center (RIC) Director or Big 5 Data Coordinator by August 3, 2010.

Alternate Method of Accessing SIRS Data

The Department continues to monitor the performance of nySTART closely. We continue to work with CTB McGraw-Hill to improve nySTART performance, and we regret any performance problems you may be experiencing. Reports of difficulties accessing reports on nySTART and suggestions for improvements should be e-mailed to nystart@mail.nysed.gov.

If you continue to experience difficulties accessing reports on nySTART, you may also check certain data in the Level 2 Reports available from your data center.

Level 2 Reports currently available include:

- High School Accountability
- Tested/Not Tested: 3-8 ELA, 3-8 Math, 4 & 8 Science, 5 & 8 Social Studies, and New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT)
- Total Cohort
- Reasonableness Reports

Level 2 Report available May 4, 2010:

- Elementary/Middle-Level Accountability

In addition to the information provided in the nySTART reports, the Level 2 Reports provide additional subgroups for all reports and estimated participation rates and performance indices for accountability reports. The Reasonableness Reports provide information on year-to-year changes in counts/percentages for various data elements, as well as student-level drill through reports. Data in these reports are also available for download as Excel and .csv files. Your Level 1 data center can provide the web link and general instructions on how to access these Level 2 reports.

Special Education Verification Reports

Data in special education verification reports have been or will be available for review and certification through the PD Data System (<http://pd.nysed.gov>) by the dates shown below:

- October 14, 2009-January 13, 2010: VR 1-6 and VR8 available for review.
- January 13, 2010: VR 1-6 and VR8 data certification deadline. (Please ensure that your school district has completed the certification of these reports.)
- February 10, 2010: VR 16 available for review.
- June 2, 2010: VR10, VR11, VR12, VR13, VR14, and VR15 available for review.
- July 30, 2010: Deadline for uploading all demographic, program services, enrollment, type of credentials, and post-graduate plans for VR10, VR11, VR12, VR13, VR14, VR15, and VR16.
- August 4, 2010: VR10 and VR16 data certification deadline.
- November 3, 2010: VR11, VR12, VR13, VR14, and VR15 data certification deadline.

What You Should Be Doing Now

Most high school accountability data are available for review now, including 2006 accountability cohort membership for English and mathematics, 2005 Total Cohort Graduation-Rate membership and outcomes, and

January 2010 and earlier secondary-level assessment results used for accountability. To relieve the summer 2010 data review burden, you should begin to review these data now.

In addition, NYSTP Tested/Not Tested reports, which are also available now, will allow you to verify that your students in grades 3 through 8 have been correctly reported in the SIRS with the appropriate demographic, enrollment, and program services information. This will also help relieve some of the summer 2010 data review burden, as most of these students will also be included in the Elementary/Middle-Level Accountability Verification Report scheduled for release in May. Confirming that your grades 3 through 8 students are included in the correct accountability subgroups (e.g., race/ethnicity, disability, limited English proficient, economically disadvantaged) now will leave only assessment and enrollment review for accountability for summer 2010.

What You Need To Plan To Do for Summer 2010

In late April, the Department plans to provide an early preview Accountability and Overview Report (preAOR) to help you see your expected Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) information for secondary-level English, mathematics, and graduation rate, based on data in the SIRS at that point in time. If the results in the preAOR are not as expected, review your High School Accountability Verification Reports to determine the reporting error and correct the error in your Local Student Management system. Beginning in July, preAORs with both elementary/middle- and secondary-level results will also be available on nySTART.

Because some data will not be available for final review until summer 2010, please plan the personnel resources now for summer 2010 data verification activities, including the reporting and verification of June 2010 secondary-level assessment results used for accountability and the confirmation of 3-8 assessment scores in English, math, and science and appropriate associated enrollments for these students. Scores for the NYSAA and the NYSESLAT will be available in early June and mid-July, respectively. Please review data for these students, as they may impact accountability.

As more information becomes available, we will share it with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Information and Reporting Services at (518) 474-7965 or via email at dataquest@mail.nysed.gov.

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P-16 Policy and Strategic Planning