



Department
for Education

Education Data Division - request for change form for CBDS

RFC 1140

Sessions not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Type of change

New data item

Name and team/company of RFC Originator:

Kirsty Knox, DDU

Contact: Queries.SUPPLIER@education.gov.uk

Date RFC raised

13/08/2020

Date change required

In systems for Spring 2021 school census

For CTF 20

Priority

[2]

Priority ratings

1 = Top - Ministerial or legislative requirement

2 = High - Senior official customer requirement or clear net benefit / efficiency saving to Data Operations, department or MIS suppliers

3 = Medium - Customer requirement, marginal net benefit

4 = Low - Nice to have, net cost, does not affect functionality, cosmetic change

Section 1 – details of change

Data item / rule number

New data items

Description of change

Aggregate number of sessions not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus

Metadata Requirements:

CBDS Identifier – TBC

Data Item Name – Sessions not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus

Description – The number of sessions the pupil missed due to circumstances relating to coronavirus

Type and format – 999

Code set / Valid values: 0-400

Item level validation – None

XML Tag - <SessionsCoronavirus>

Status – Active

History Notes – C

Multiplicity Notes – S (Single current occurrence)

Reason for change (including benefits)

To capture policy requirements for the 2020 to 2021 academic year. A change was made to pupil attendance regulations to add a new category of attendance '**Sessions not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus**' to support the full return of pupils by recognising the unique nature of this non-attendance and without unfairly categorising those who are not attending because they are following public health guidance to shield, self-isolate or staying at home in the event of local or regional lockdowns.

This new category of non-attendance has effect from 24th August 2020

For schools using attendance codes, this will be captured and returned under code X for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

For schools not using codes, there is a requirement to collect the aggregate number of sessions from each term.

The data collected will enable a national view of the scale and distribution of this type of non-attendance and provide us with insights into its efficacy to inform any change we may need to make ahead of the 2021-22 school year in order to maintain an efficient school attendance system

Impact of not doing the change

Data quality would not be as great and would not enable the department to gain a national view and scale of non-attendance in relation to coronavirus.

Impact assessment to be undertaken by

School Census software suppliers

CTF working group

Date consulted

13/08/2020

Response requested by

20/08/2020

Section 2 – impact analysis

Software suppliers' summary of impact assessment

Supplier 1 - The RFC is fine, when would this be implemented in CTF20? CTF20 is due to go live during August this would mean that the next release of our software is due at the end of December (in time for Spring census) is that when the tag would start to be produced in CTF20 or would it be expected before this date?

Response: A separate CTF RFC will follow if it is deemed this new category should be transferred.

Supplier 2 - Presumably it is acknowledged that the X actually represents both 'Sessions not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus' and 'Non-compulsory school age absence - not counted in possible attendances' combined ?

Response: That is correct, for non-compulsory school age children, we would not be able to distinguish the actual reason for the use of code X

Supplier 3 - For schools not recording attendance codes

The new data item, Sessions not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus, is only required from schools that do not use the attendance codes for recording/reporting attendance.

Therefore the census will only contain specific coronavirus absence information for a subset of schools.

For schools recording attendance codes

Our understanding is that from 24 August 2020 attendance code X is to be used for 2 purposes:

1. non-compulsory school aged pupils who are not expected to attend a session and
2. non attendance due to covid-19 reasons

and that code X means that the pupil is not required to attend the school and that the session is not counted as a possible attendance (and therefore is not an absence).

Therefore the census will not allow differentiation between these two uses of attendance code X and specific reporting of non attendance due to covid-19 will not be possible in this case.

DfE internal colleagues' summary of impact assessment

No problems with including this field. Presumably, this will have some as yet unspecified validation associated with it as well.

Impact Assessed by (name)

School census working group, School census software suppliers, Star Chamber Scrutiny Board

Date

25 August 2020

Section 3 - outcome / decision

Date of review meeting

25 August 2020

Attendees

Kirsty Knox and Paul Hirst

Brief Summary of Discussion

Following a review of comments and the need for this data to be collected it was agreed we should proceed. With regards to CTF 20, separate discussions will take place with regards to the need to transfer this non attendance and if required an additional CTF specific RFC will be raised.

Accept / Reject

Accept

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