



Department  
for Education

## Data Operations Division - request for change form for CBDS

### RFC 1205

### School census: School Time

#### Type of change

Various

#### Team/company of RFC Originator:

Data Ownership Team

Contact: [Queries.SUPPLIER@education.gov.uk](mailto:Queries.SUPPLIER@education.gov.uk)

#### Date RFC raised

04/03/2022

#### Date change required

From the start of the 2022 to 2023 academic year, for collection in Spring 2023

#### Priority

[1]

#### Priority ratings

**1 = Top** - Ministerial or legislative requirement

**2 = High** - Senior official customer requirement or clear net benefit / efficiency saving to DOD, 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

### Description of change

The addition of one new data item – which was approved at Star Chamber on 3<sup>rd</sup> March

#### Data item : School Time

*Metadata Requirements:*

CBDS Identifier – TBC

Data Item Name – School Time

Description – identifies the total compulsory time pupils spend in school, in a typical 5 day week (including breaks, from the start of the compulsory day, e.g. morning registration, to the end of the compulsory day, e.g. home time)

Type and format – 99.99

Code set / Valid values: Any amount greater than 0.00, recorded to 2 decimal places

Item level validation – N/A

XML Tag - <SchoolTime>

Status – Active

History Notes – C

Multiplicity Notes – S

#### Implementation date:

This data item is to be collected from the Spring 2023 school census however, is requested to be in systems from the start of the 2022 to 2023 academic year to allow schools to enter data in preparation.

### Reason for change (including benefits)

Evidence from the pandemic has shown us that cumulative time in school matters for the breadth and quality of education. We know some pupils are receiving less time than others and over time this will have a cumulative negative impact on learning and cause disparity in pupil outcomes.

The SoS has asked us to include in the Schools White Paper an expectation that schools should meet a minimum school week of 32.5 hours from September 2022, with some flexibility for non-mainstream settings such as special schools and AP providers. This will be supported by non-statutory guidance, with targeted support for schools that do not meet the expectation.

### Impact of not doing the change

We would not have a robust dataset on time in schools that can be used for policy development and potentially be used to identify schools who are not meeting the expected minimum of a 32.5 hour school week (being implemented from September 2022) to offer targeted support.

**Impact assessment to be undertaken by**

School Census software suppliers

School Census working group

**Date consulted**

04/03/2022

**Response requested by**

11/03/2022

## Section 2 – impact analysis

### Software suppliers' summary of impact assessment

Supplier 1:

- It would be good to confirm this value would be highlighted in the summary output to help provide a 'call to action' for the school to check/update this value

The department confirms this forms part of the spring 2023 school summary.

- You could consider the maximum resolution required for this, e.g. 15 mins, instead of giving the full flexibility of 2 decimal places, this could enable slightly easier entry as we could display a dropdown of X minute intervals instead of allowing free-form entry that might not easily align with a number of minutes, or be more easily confused with minutes instead of a fraction of an hour.
- Regardless of the above 2 this is broadly fine, but the summary output feels pretty important to me.

Supplier 2:

- We are not able to calculate the school time so it will be a new data item where the time can be recorded as hours expressed as 99.99.
- We will consider adding a query if the school enters less than 32.50 hours (ie not 32 hours and 30 minutes) which is the expected minimum hours in a normal school week.
- We cannot promise to include this new data item that is non statutory in our Summer release, but we will definitely include it in our Autumn 2022 release ready for school census Spring 2023.

### DfE internal colleagues' summary of impact assessment

Agreed to change

### Alternative Solutions / Workarounds (if appropriate)

## **Section 3 - outcome / decision**

### **Date of review meeting**

15 March 2022

### **Brief Summary of Discussion**

Proposal and feedback reviewed. Decision made to introduce new data item subject to including in school summary and validating that can only be provided in increments of .25

### **Accept / Reject**

Accept

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