



Department
for Education

Data Operations Division - request for change form for CBDS

RFC 1206

School census: AP module new items

Type of change

Data Items

Team/company of RFC Originator:

Data Ownership Team

Contact: 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

[2]

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 two new data items – which were approved at Star Chamber on 3rd March

Data item : Companies House Company Number

Metadata Requirements:

CBDS Identifier – TBC

Data Item Name – Companies House Company Number

Description – identifies the records, where available, the [Companies House](#) company number for the setting in which the pupil has taken up an alternative provision placement.

Type and format – 99999999 or AA999999

Code set / Valid values: N/A

Item level validation – N/A

XML Tag - <CompanyNumber>

Status – Active

History Notes – C

Multiplicity Notes – S

Data item : Alternative Provision placement postcode

Metadata Requirements:

CBDS Identifier – TBC

Data Item Name – Alternative Provision placement postcode

Description – identifies the setting's postcode, within which the pupil has taken up an alternative provision placement.

Type and format – BS7666 Postcode or A(8)

Code set / Valid values:

Valid Postcode formats are:

A9 9AA

A99 9AA

AA9 9AA

AA99 9AA

A9A 9AA

AA9A 9AA

Plus BFPO 999

Item level validation – N/A

XML Tag - <APPlacementPostcode>

Status – Active

History Notes – C

Multiplicity Notes – S

Implementation date:

These data items are to be collected from the Spring 2023 school census however, are 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)

The AP sector consists of i) state-funded AP schools (pupil referral units (PRUs), AP academies and AP free schools) ii) independent schools providing AP placements and iii) unregistered AP settings that don't meet the threshold to register as an education provider because they are too small or have a limited education offer.

Ministers are currently concerned about the safeguarding of pupils and the quality of education being provided in unregistered AP and have asked officials to work up policy proposals as part of the upcoming SEND Review. The lack of data on numbers of unregistered AP providers and detail about their individual make up is the biggest gap in our understanding of this part of the AP sector and limits our ability to provide evidence-based policy options.

Impact of not doing the change

We would be unable to greatly improve our understanding of placements in unregistered AP arranged by schools and LAs. Which would prevent us from being able to:

- identify the number of unregistered alternative provision settings currently operating nationally, which is our main evidence gap around the use of unregistered AP;
- map out how unregistered provision is used nationally and locally;
- help us to understand more about individual local areas are using unregistered provision to support children and young people;
- respond to concerns from Ministers and Ofsted about the quality of unregistered alternative provision (AP) by identifying individual providers (e.g., for targeted support, research/sector engagement, and for accountability and safeguarding reasons if there are concerns that providers may be acting unlawfully);
- work up detailed options and costings ahead of the next spending review.

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

Are these 2 new fields only required where either a URN or UKPRN is not provided ? it would feel like an unnecessary burden if either of these was being provided, if so this would presumably only be needed when specifying a “type of setting” placement?

The department can confirm that the new items are only required when AP setting type is returned.

Supplier 2

We have no objection in principle, but we would appreciate it if you would answer these questions.

1) Please can you tell us if the Companies House number has some sort of check digit to identify its validity?

Company Number is: Eight numbers(e.g. 12345678) or, Two letters followed by six numbers(e.g. AB123456). The department updated the RFC to reflect.

2) If other identifiers are present what are the rules for including Companies House number and Postcode?

*Approval was granted for both the Company number **and** Postcode to be provided where Type of setting is used. Type of setting must only be used where there is no URN or UKPRN. This will be clear in the specification and also validation rules.*

DfE internal colleagues' summary of impact assessment

Agree

Alternative Solutions / Workarounds (if appropriate)

Section 3 - outcome / decision

Date of review meeting

15 March 2022

Brief Summary of Discussion

Reviewed proposal and all comments received. Agreed to proceed.

Accept / Reject

Accept

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