



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ELLEN E. WEAVER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Accountability Coordinators
District Technology Coordinators

FROM: Dan Ralyea
Director, Office of Research and Data Analysis

DATE: March 12, 2024

RE: Historical Student Assessment Data Migration

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is committed to leveraging technology to enhance data integration and accessibility. To this effect, we are transitioning our data collection methods to a more cohesive and efficient system. We will be utilizing an Ed-Fi technology stack to consolidate data from the Student Information System (SIS), assessment data, Individual Education Plan (IEP) data, and Gifted and Talented (GT) data into a single cloud-based platform.

This significant change in our data collection infrastructure necessitates migrating current and historical assessment data into the new system. It's important to note that much of the assessment data has traditionally been under the purview of individual districts, without a specific mandate for SCDE collection. Our goal is to preserve the utility of this historic data without interruption.

To facilitate a seamless transition, SCDE is initiating a series of procurements to support the migration of historical assessment data. However, to respect the autonomy of each district, SCDE requests explicit permission to migrate data not mandated by legislation or regulation.

The migration process involves:

1. Creating a configuration file for each data file format the assessment was delivered in;
2. Validating student identifiers and correlating them with the SUNS number when absent;
3. Converting flat files into Ed-Fi JSON packets;
4. Validating the JSON packets; and
5. Loading the validated data into the district data store.

To participate in this data migration and benefit from the integrated data platform, districts will need to:

1. Appoint a project contact and submit a letter delegating authority.
2. Provide a comprehensive inventory of the assessments they wish to have migrated.
3. Attend an in-person session that explains the data migration process and its implications.

The letter delegating authority provides SCDE permission to migrate student assessment data not mandated by legislation or regulation and outlined in the comprehensive inventory.

The SCDE is facilitating in-person sessions to ensure that each district is well-informed and prepared for the transition. These sessions will cover the technical aspects of the migration, the benefits of the new system, and address any concerns you may have.

Your participation is crucial in making this transition successful. By engaging in this process, you will ensure that your district's historical data is preserved and made more accessible for future use, all within a state-of-the-art data management system.

We look forward to your cooperation in this pivotal enhancement of our educational data infrastructure. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Ralyea at dralyea@ed.sc.gov.