



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
FROM: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer
DATE: September 4, 2020
SUBJECT: New Data Collections to Support Student Engagement

Schools across Connecticut are reopening for the 2020-21 school year using one of three learning models, i.e., in-person, hybrid, or remote. The school reopening plans also allow parents to opt their students into full remote learning. In its resolution that permits remote learning days to count toward the 177 school day requirement, the State Board of Education affirmed that its authorization for hybrid or remote programming due to unavoidable emergency is contingent upon school districts providing rigorous learning and engagement opportunities that are aligned with State standards and Board expectations. The Board also charged the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) with ensuring fidelity to this expectation by collecting whatever data are necessary and making that information transparent.

The CSDE believes that effective accountability is reciprocal. The CSDE will continue to advocate for resources and supports so schools can open safely, and that students have the requisite device and Internet connectivity to benefit from remote learning. At the same time, the CSDE believes in the ability of data and information to support student engagement. It will gather any additional information necessary to tell the CSDE, the State Board, the Governor, legislators, and the broader public whether all students – regardless of race/ethnicity, gender, English proficiency, disability, family income, and school learning model – are participating and engaged in public school.

Therefore, the CSDE will be implementing two new data collections:

1. Learning Model and Enrollment (weekly collection) – *a Qualtrics survey*
2. Student Membership and Attendance (monthly collection) – *an add-on to the Public School Information System (PSIS) Register Module*

Learning Model and Enrollment Data Collection (weekly)

At the end of each week, the CSDE will expect that districts report the following data for the week no later than Wednesday at noon of the following week:

- the learning model for each grade (in-person, hybrid, remote);
- the district's total student enrollment;
- the number of students who were fully remote; and
- the number of fully remote students who were disconnected, i.e., those who did not connect on even a single school day during the week.

These data will be collected weekly through this [online Qualtrics form](#). Please assign this task to the lead research/data specialist in your district. The form should be relatively self-explanatory. However, the CSDE is scheduling a webinar on Tuesday, Sep 8, 2020 at 3:00 PM to walk through the form. Interested parties should register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6569126087998376719>. Please direct any questions about this collection to Jeff Greig at Jeff.Greig@ct.gov. The data from this collection will be reported publicly on the Governor's Open Data Portal.

Student Membership and Attendance (monthly)

At the end of September, a new file upload module will be added to the PSIS Register Module. Districts will be expected to provide student-level membership and attendance data for students who were enrolled in the district on the last day of the month. In this collection, **membership and attendance will be required separately for a student's in-person and remote days during the month**. Please direct any questions about this collection to Kendra Shakir at Kendra.Shakir@ct.gov. The following is a tentative list of the data elements that will be part of this monthly collection:

1. Reporting District
2. State Assigned Student ID (SASID)
3. Date of Birth
4. Month of Attendance (MM)
5. Year of Attendance (YYYY)
6. Number of Days of In-Person Membership for the Month
7. Number of Days of In-Person Attendance for the Month
8. Number of Days of Remote Membership for the Month
9. Number of Days of Remote Attendance for the Month
10. End of Record Marker

We fully understand that these new reporting requirements place some additional demands on districts. However, having this information at the state level is vital for all of us to collectively demonstrate to state leaders, advocates, parents, and the general public that we are doing everything possible to support and engage all students in our public schools this year. That assurance will position us better to advocate for public education and foster greater student engagement and learning.

We truly appreciate your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at ajit.gopalakrishnan@ct.gov or Abe Krisst at abe.krisst@ct.gov if you have any additional questions.

Thank you for your cooperation.