Notes

District Data Collection Group

8/6/2014; 10:00 a.m. CDT

1. Introductions
2. Proposed New Transfer Out codes
	1. See Power Point attachment
	2. It was suggested to add another code for Transfer out of Country would be helpful as different paperwork is required. There was some confusion on how these students should be reported, dropouts or transfer outs. These students can be counted as transferred out based on these two publications and the documentation requirements are noted below:

From NDE Guidance for Graduation Cohort under frequently asked questions:

A-28. What documentation is required to confirm that a student has emigrated to another country?

A school or LEA must have written confirmation that a student has emigrated to another country (34 C.F.R. §200.19(b)(1)(ii)(B)), but need not obtain official written documentation. For example, if a parent informs a school administrator that the family is leaving the country, the school administrator may document this conversation in writing and include it in the student’s file. The regulations do not require written documentation to be “official” for a student who emigrates to another country because the Department recognizes that it may be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain transcripts or other official documentation from another country confirming that the student is enrolled in school.

From No Child Left Behind High School Graduation Rate Non-Regulatory Guidance located at http://[www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf).

The Assessment Office said if a student is in the testing file but they are no longer enrolled, there is a process in their system for handling that BUT if the student is left in the file and gets a zero score, this can be resolved with the Assessment office if you have an appropriate transfer out school enrollment record for the student.

The Nonpublic/Exempt Home school indicator, the group thought this indicator would be good. It will help NDE on some of our validation reports and will help us review the FTE of these students as it shouldn’t be 100.

On the guidance related to transfer out/transfer in in the same school year, I will hold on adding that to the guidance until I can review the data once we implement new codes and see how many students are left unaccounted for.

1. Summer School Courses Reported in November

The Data Manager now allows us more flexibility on “windows” so for 2014-2015 Jill was able to allow school districts to report 2015 summer school courses to be applied to 2014-2015 school year to be reported in the Year-End window. If the courses have not been completed until later they can be reported in the Follow-up Collection which opens in August.

1. Grading Question (Final vs. Grading Period vs Transcript) – This one got out of order during the meeting in case you listen to the recording. It sounded like to districts this question on grading is that they are all the same. In the transcript, they record the grading period grades as final grades.
2. Privacy and Transparency – Dean asked if school districts have any issues, documents, language in 3rd party contracts, etc. related to privacy they can share. At the National Center for Education Statistics Summer Data Conference, states are looking for best practices related to privacy and transparency. If you have items to share, please forward those to Dean. Dean suggested that NDE will be bringing this topic forward to be proactive and avoid what some states have experienced. He described a 3 pronged approach: 1) awareness, 2)tools/technical assistance, 3) governance and support.

There was some discussion about district Legal staff reviewing contracts and hoping they are including language that would protect student data if appropriate. Another issue is Freedom of Information Act requests and the data districts can provide.

1. Future Topics and emerging issues – Dean

Instructional Units and how Student Grades are being used for that. A proposal for using student grades to do this report was an agenda topic for the District Data Collection Group around a year ago. NDE did implement that proposal and 37 districts were notified they had areas of noncompliance. There is a CDC Instructional Units collection for those 37 districts. The business rules for this process will be attached. The process is very high level and Approval and Accreditation reviewed and edited the list in case districts with block scheduling were on it. If you have any questions, contact Pam Tagart.

1. Other items
2. Next meeting 9/3/2014

Please forward any comments, ideas and concerns to Dean.Folkers@nebraska.gov 402-471-4740 or Pam.Tagart@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4735.