



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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To: BOCES District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Public School Leaders  
Charter School Leaders  
RIC Directors and Level 1 Project Managers

From: Marybeth Casey, Assistant Commissioner  
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Subject: New Student-Level Digital Equity Data Collection

Date: June 8, 2021

This memo provides information on the new collection of student digital equity data in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) for public school

The new Student Digital Access data elements provided as an attachment to this memo will be added to the data collection for every student in SIRS. The attachment details each element's name, definition, response options, and clarifications, as well as sample questions to provide to parents and guardians to ascertain the device and internet access students have at their places of residence. Likewise, this information will be included in the SIRS Manual and be updated as needed to assist the field with reporting requirements. This data will provide the most accurate picture of digital access and informing State Policy and providing Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with programmatic and instructional information and needed supports to further outcomes in teaching and learning.

This data will be used on an ongoing basis throughout the year to help identify specific needs and target resources and funding opportunities when they become available.

regarding disparate access to devices and internet in students places of residence and inform State policy and initiatives to address gaps at the State level. Moving forward, in the 22-23SY and beyond, changes to the dates when extracts are pulled may occur and will be updated in our SIRS Manual (g( )T



Element  
Name

| Element Name | Element Definition | Options | Clarifications | Example Parent / |
|--------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|
|--------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|

|   | Element Name                 | Element Definition   | Options   | Clarifications   | Example Parent / Guardian Questions                                   |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------|--|---|
| 6 | Internet Access In Residence | An indication of whether the student is able to access the internet in their primary place of residence. | Yes<br>No | <p>Primary Residence - the residence where the student typically resides.<br/>If student has multiple residences that share equal time, use the residence that has the more limited access.</p> <p>If this is Yes, then the element 7 cannot be None.<br/>If this is No, elements 7 and 8 must be None and No.</p> | Do you have internet access in your home or the place you are living? |

|   | Element Name                      | Element Definition   | Options  | Clarifications   | Example Parent / Guardian Questions   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 7 | Internet Access Type In Residence | The primary type of internet service used in the student's primary place of residence. | Residential Broadband<br>Cellular Network<br>Mobile Hot Spot<br>Community Provided Wi-Fi<br>Satellite<br>Dial-up<br>None | <p>Residential Broadband - uses a cable (fiber or coaxial) or DSL modem hooked up to an Internet service provider.</p> <p>Cellular Network – uses your cell phone provider for internet access.</p> <p>Mobile Hot Spot - a wireless access point created by a dedicated hardware device or a smartphone feature that shares the phone's cellular data. For example, a cellphone or a device like a Kajeet, Verizon Jetpack, Netgear Nighthawk or MiFi.</p> <p>Community Provided Wi-Fi – internet connection provided by a community location (library, café, hotel, etc.)</p> <p>Satellite - Internet access provided through communication satellites (there is a satellite dish on your property for internet).</p> <p>Dial-up - connecting to the Internet by using a modem and telephone line.</p> <p>None</p> <p>If No to element 6, this must be None.</p> <p>If Yes to element 6, this cannot be None.</p> | <p>Who is your internet provider?</p> <p>Do you have a modem or router in your house?</p> <p>Do you use your phone as your internet access point?</p> <p>Do you use free Wi-Fi at a different location near your house as your only internet connection?</p> <p>Do you have a device like a MiFi, Kajeet or Verizon Jetpack in your house?</p> <p>Do you have a satellite dish on your house for internet access?</p> <p>Do you use a separate phone line to access the internet?</p> |



|  | Element Name | Element Definition | Options | Clarifications | Example Parent / Guardian Questions |
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------------------|

8 Internet

## Reportable Codes Using

|    |   |               |                       |
|----|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| 10 | PRIMARY LEARNING DEVICE SUFFICIENCY INDICATOR | N             | NO                    |
| 11 | INTERNET ACCESS IN RESIDENCE INDICATOR        | Y             | YES                   |
| 11 | INTERNET ACCESS IN RESIDENCE INDICATOR        | N             | NO                    |
| 12 | INTERNET ACCESS BARRIER CODE                  | AVAILABILITY  | AVAILABILITY          |
| 12 | INTERNET ACCESS BARRIER CODE                  | COST          | COST                  |
| 12 | INTERNET ACCESS BARRIER CODE                  | OTHER         | OTHER                 |
| 12 | INTERNET ACCESS BARRIER CODE                  | NONE          | NONE                  |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | RESBROADBAND  | RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | CELLULAR      | CELLULAR              |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | MOBILEHOTSPOT | MOBILEHOTSPOT         |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | COMMUNITYWIFI | COMMUNITYWIFI         |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | SATELLITE     | SATELLITE             |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | DIALUP        | DIALUP                |
| 13 | INTERNET ACCESS TYPE CODE                     | NONE          | NONE                  |
| 14 | INTERNET PERFORMANCE CODE                     | Y             | YES                   |
| 14 | INTERNET PERFORMANCE CODE                     | N             | NO                    |