

Release Notes for District Extract Guides 5.0

This release of the District Extract Guides consolidates the following local assessment facts into the guide:

- DIBELS Assessment
- GRADE Assessment
- Generic Assessment

It is recommended, but not required, that you load the Student Dimension before loading these assessment facts. If you do not load the Student Dimension, you can still produce reports that join assessment facts to SIMS and MCAS facts, however, you will need to build these joins in Report Studio.

[Known Problems](#) for the prior release still apply to this release.

Release Notes for District Extract Guides 4.1

This release of the District Extract Guides includes the following additions and changes to the extract file formats:

- [Bug Fixes](#)
- [Fields designated as Slowly Changing Dimensions \(SCD\)](#)

Bug Fixes

- In the previous release of the data warehouse ETL (Extract, Translate and Load) process, non-SCD fields were being updated in all related records, not just the 'current' record as documented. If a non-SCD field, such as **Student Number of Tardies** changed from local data extract to the next, all records for that student were updated, including records from earlier school years. In this release of the ETL process, non-SCD fields are updated in the 'current' record only (as documented).

This change affects a small number of districts that had previously loaded historical data into the Student, Course and Staff dimensions and related facts. The data warehouse team is working with those districts to reload their historical data. Please contact the warehouse team at datawarehouse@doe.mass.edu for additional information.

Fields Designated As Slowly Changing Dimensions

Slowly changing dimensions (SCD) allow accurate tracking of changes to attributes in any dimensional area of the warehouse. For example, students can be accurately represented as they move from one school to another, or in and out of special population categories.

The data warehouse tracks students by SASID. When a district uploads a new student record, the warehouse compares the new student record to the existing student record and takes one of the following actions:

- If the SASID does not exist in table, a new ‘current’ record is added
- If the SASID exists, but the new data is the same as existing data, no action is taken
- If the SASID exists, and the new data has differences in non-SCD fields only, the existing ‘current’ record is updated
- If the SASID exists, and the new data has differences in SCD fields, the existing record is marked ‘historical’, and a new ‘current’ record is added

This is especially valuable for seeing trends and the effectiveness of applied methodologies over time. For example, the system could identify that a student once belonging to the Free and Reduced Meal Program is no longer part of the program.

In this release, additional SCD fields have been added to the Student, Staff and Course dimensions. This change affects a small number of districts that had previously loaded historical data into the Student, Course and Staff dimensions and related facts. The data warehouse team is working with those districts to reload their historical data. Please contact the warehouse team at datawarehouse@doe.mass.edu for additional information.

Table 1 – Slowly Changing Dimensions

Extract File	Field	New or Existing SCD
Course Dimension	SCHOOL_YEAR	New
	COURSE_DESC	New
Staff Dimension	STAFF_ID	New
	STAFF_FULL_NAME	New
	STAFF_LAST_NAME	New
	STAFF_FIRST_NAME	New
	STAFF_MIDDLE_NAME	New
Student Dimension	STU_ID_2	New
	STU_GENDER	New

Massachusetts Education Data Warehouse

Extract File	Field	New or Existing SCD
	STU_ETHNICITY	New
	STU_ETHNICITY_DSC	New
	STU_FREE_REDU_LNCH	Existing
	STU_FREE_REDU_LNCH_DSC	New
	STU_LAST_SCHL	Existing
	STU_CUR_SCHL	Existing
	STU_NEXT_SCHL	Existing
	STU_LAST_GRD_LVL	Existing
	STU_CUR_GRD_LVL	Existing
	STU_NEXT_GRD_LVL	Existing
	STU_ENTRY_DT	New
	STU_ENTRY_CD	New
	STU_ENTRY_DSC	New
	STU_DISTRICT_ENTRY_DT	New
	STU_DISTRICT_ENTRY_CD	New
	STU_DISTRICT_ENTRY_DSC	New
	STU_WITHDRAWL_DT	New
	STU_WITHDRAWL_CD	New
	STU_WITHDRAWL_DSC	New
	STU_DISTRICT_WITHDRAWL_DT	New
	STU_DISTRICT_WITHDRAWL_CD	New
	STU_DISTRICT_WITHDRAWL_DSC	New
	STU_FLAG_504	Existing
	STU_LEP_CODE	Existing
	STU_LEP_ENTRY_DT	Existing
	STU_LEP_EXIT_DT	Existing
	STU_AIP_PARTICIPAT	New
	STU_SUP_ACAD_IMP	New
	STU_LAST_TEAM	New
	STU_CUR_TEAM	New
	STU_NEXT_TEAM	New
	STU_INRLY_CLG_NTRY	New
	STU_SINGLE_PARENT	New
	STU_HOMELESS	New
	STU_IN_INTNSV_RDNG	New
	STU_IN_INTNSV_MATH	New
	STU_IN_INTNSV_LA	New
	STU_IN_INTNSV_SCI	New
	STU_SMRSCHL_STATUS	New
	STU_IS_AT_RISK	New
	STU_IS_TAG	New
	STU_TITLE1_STATUS	New
	STU_TITLE1_STATUS_DSC	New
	SCHL_YR	Existing
	STU_IEP_CD	Existing
	STU_IEP_HOURS	New
	STU_TRANS_ROUTE	New
	STU_TRANS_TIME	New

Known Problems and Limitations

When loading Student, Staff and Course dimensions, if duplicate records (records having same ID) are contained in a source extract file, all non-SCD fields in the corresponding target records will have the same (latest) values. To avoid this problem, ensure that source extract files do not contain duplicate student, staff or course records.

Before accepting a staged extract file, check for duplicate records using the duplicate reports located on the warehouse portal in the following folder:

Public Folders > District Data Upload Validation > Extract File Validation (Staging) > Duplicates