**Early Childhood Experiences Data Element (DOE 050)**

**Question and Answer (Q&A) from original presentation of webinar in September 2018. *Some answers have been updated to reflect current dates and other information.***

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| Once we enter the two-digit code for incoming kindergarten students, we don’t remove it when they move on to 1st grade, correct? | That is correct. The value does not need to be removed once the student moves on from Kindergarten. The value should be retained, and it will then carry forward and remain on the student’s enrollment record. |
| What do we use when a student enters as a JK or PK student (we have both programs in our district) and attended a formal pre-school like Head Start? Are we sending the Head Start information or the JK information? Head Start runs for fewer than 20 hours and our JK program runs for greater than 20 hours per week.  | Based on our understanding of the Junior Kindergarten (JK) program in your community, students enrolled in the J/K program are considered preschool for the purposes of enrollment into SIMS. As an incoming kindergarten student, students who were enrolled in JK/public preschool as well as Head Start would be coded as either 07 (center-based, part-time) or 08 (center-based, full-time). Based on the hours included in this specific question, 08 would be the appropriate code as the child is likely enrolled for more than 20 hours if he/she/they are enrolled in both programs. |
| In the past, we could not have 99 for kindergarten students as it would cause an error. We have students who were public preschool students. Does that mean we can code them at 99 now or will this cause errors again?If a student is repeating Kindergarten what should the code be? | You should not get an error, unless you are reporting a Kindergarten student as 99. 99 is mandatory for students in PK, and is also an acceptable value for students in grades 1 through 12.For students repeating Kindergarten, their value in DOE050 should be whatever value was retained in the field from their first year in Kindergarten. |
| We have an in-house survey that we have already administered during the registration process. Do we need to send out this official survey as well or will our internal survey suffice in terms of maintaining a paper trail? | If the district already has a survey that collects the data as outlined on the Department’s survey (i.e., CFCE/PCHP participation, setting and hours of formal early childhood experience) and allows you to select the appropriate code, then you do not need to send out the Department’s survey. |
| Who should be administering the survey, collecting the results, coding them and reporting them in SIMS? | The process that is used to administer the survey, collect and code the data and report the data in SIMS is locally determined. We strongly encourage collaboration between the district’s SIMS staff and early childhood/kindergarten staff when determining and implementing your local process. |
| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| We have a population of Wampanoag students that transfer to my school from a Wampanoag Language Program run by the Tribe. How would we code that? | As part of your school program, the Wampanoag students’ participation would be coded as center-based. If the Wampanoag Language Program meets the definition of a formal early childhood program, then you can include the hours children spent in this program when determining the weekly hours of participation (part-time or full-time). |
| How do we find out who our Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) coordinator is? | The MA Department of Early Education has a search engine for the [CFCE Grants Coordinator](https://eecweb.eec.state.ma.us/ChildCareSearch/CFCE.aspx)s. This web link will provide you with the name of the grantee that serves your community as well as the name of and contact information for your local CFCE coordinator. |
| Why does the interview need to be face to face? | Decisions about how to administer the family survey are determined locally. Having district staff available to assist families with the survey (e.g., ask questions, access translation, be prompted with follow-up questions to ensure accurate responses) can be beneficial as we seek to strengthen the accuracy of the data. |
| Are we reporting this element for the October 1 report for this school year?Just to confirm, this should be completed for the next SIMS collection on 10/1/21 for current, First-time kindergarteners?If we don’t have all of the data, should we put in at least our public preschool students?If we have not yet sent the survey should we send it out now for 10/1? enter all that is collected and then add the other responses in March?  | As we embark on year 3 (October 1, 2021) of this data element, districts are expected to make their best efforts to administer the family survey and code the data for the purposes of SIMS in the 2020-2021 school year. *Added for current context: for year 3 (2020-2021) and beyond, the expectation is that this information is collected for all students entering kindergarten for the first time.*The expectation is that, as districts plan for future kindergarten registration/screening/orientation processes, the family survey is included as part of these opportunities to engage with families around their children’s preschool experiences. |

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| If we have a PreK program, do we need to have families of returning Kindergarten students complete the survey? | For the 2020-2021 school year and beyond, the district is expected to administer the survey to all families of incoming kindergarten students, including those who are currently part of your public preschool program. For many families, their children are enrolled in more than one program and the survey allows for districts/schools to have this information as it relates to weekly dosage and determining opportunities for partnerships with community-based programs. |
| How do we code students who only receive drop in services from the public preschool program? | If an incoming kindergarten student had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as a preschool-aged child and the IEP called for speech, physical therapy and/or occupational therapy but not the public preschool program, it will be important for the district to administer the survey to find out whether the family enrolled their child in a community-based program (center-based or family child care) or participated in CFCE/PCHP in the year prior to kindergarten outside of receiving their special education services. Responses to the survey will determine the code. |
| Do we have to try to figure out what category an early childhood experience in another country falls under? We have no way of verifying or understanding the Early Childhood programming in other countries. | You do not need to try to figure out what setting an early childhood experience falls in another country. If you have staff who are assisting families in the completing the survey, a follow up question about whether the child participated in the provider’s home can help to determine whether it is a family child care setting as opposed to a center-based program. |
| Will we receive validation errors on SIMS if we don't have this data ready to go for Oct 1? | No. We are asking districts to do their best to gather the data and provide the two-digit code for incoming, first-time kindergarten students. However, districts will not receive a validation error if the DOE050 data are not ready for submission at the time of validation. |
| The data cannot be entered until the district has rolled-up over the summer correct? | The data should be entered after end of year SIMS is certified and the incoming Kindergarten students have been entered into the SIS. This doesn’t necessarily need to be after roll-over, but it does need to be after EOY SIMS is complete. |

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| Where can I get a list of licensed preschools? | To find out which are the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) licensed programs, please visit EEC’s Search Link (<https://eeclead.force.com/EEC_ChildCareSearch>).Once in the search engine:* select Family Child Care or Group/School Age in the Program Type drop down box;
* select Preschool under the Age drop down box; and
* Select the City/Town from the drop down box.

This will generate the list of licensed programs in your community. |
| Is it possible for us to enter the info for our current PK students prior to EOY and rollover? | No, the data should be entered after end of year SIMS is certified. Once EOY SIMS is certified, the data could be entered prior to rollover. |
| I thought there was a validation rule that doesn't allow for using 00? Has that changed? | Districts are allowed to use 00 for this data element but this code should only be reserved for incoming, first-time kindergarten students whose families do not complete the survey. The goal is to have as few kindergarten students with 00 as possible. |