

# **Summer School Census 2024 – Readiness Bulletin Number 1**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this note is to provide school census contacts with important information in readiness for the 2024 summer school census. This will be the first in a series of bulletins and therefore provides some basic information about the summer school census including arrangements around COLLECT familiarisation.

## **Why is the school census important?**

The school census is the department's primary source of administrative data about pupils attending schools in England. The data collected is vital in supporting a number of the department's strategic objectives and is widely used for the purpose of improving, and promoting, the education or well-being of children in England. For example, the data collected helps us to make sure we are allocating funds where they are needed and that no groups of children are missing out on the education they deserve.

## **Data collection key dates**

The census date for the 2024 summer school census is Thursday 16 May.

## **Summer census COLLECT familiarisation**

A 'beta' release of the 2024 summer school census live COLLECT blade will be available shortly for you to become familiar with. This will remain available until 4pm on Friday 10 May at which point the blade will be removed and cleared out in advance of the start of the live collection on Thursday 16 May.

The department would strongly recommend that, if possible, all schools take the chance to load a file output from their

management information system (MIS) into COLLECT during the familiarisation process. This will allow schools to check that all the required data is being output correctly from their MIS into the summer census return and whether any validation errors or queries are generated against their data when loaded into COLLECT which need to be resolved before the collection goes live. This will be especially important for any schools completing the summer school census for the first time.

COLLECT familiarisation will take place on the same system as the live collection and, therefore, can be accessed by logging into COLLECT via [DfE sign-in](#) in the same manner as you would for the live collection.

In previous collections the use of the school census familiarisation blade has been extremely low, therefore if the number of users continue to be low again this collection, we will look to undertake a consultation about the future of this service.

### **Early Years data items**

Following the introduction of expanded hours entitlement for working families the Summer 2024 census will be the first time schools will be asked to submit this data.

Detailed below are the new data items and changes to existing data items:

- Expanded hours for 2 year olds (new data item) collected termly from Summer 2024
- Eligibility code (formerly known as thirty hour code) is being extended to 2 year olds with expanded hours greater than zero
- 2 year old basis for funding will be collected termly from Summer 2024

- Early Years Pupil Premium (including basis for funding) is being extended to 2 year olds and will be collected termly from Summer 2024
- DAF indicator is being extended to 2 year olds

## **School census data collection guidance**

The school census manual for the 2023 to 2024 academic year is available on the [school census website](#)

## **Further support**

A data collection forum is available for all data collection contacts to access. The purpose of the forum is to provide a facility to allow customers to exchange ideas and good practice relating to specific data collections and related Data Operations systems. To gain access to the forum please complete a [service request form](#).

As always, if you have any queries about any of the points covered in this note, COLLECT or school census in general, please use the [service request form](#).

Please use the [feedback form](#) if you have any comments about the data collection content on the web site, the service offered by the data collection helpdesk, the COLLECT system or any other aspect of our data collection service.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards  
Data Operations Service Desk