



# **CEDARS: NC COMMON EDUCATION DATA ANALYSIS & REPORTING SYSTEM**

## **CEDARS Reporting System FAQs**

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## Access / Security

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How do I get access to the CEDARS Data Warehouse?

- Each user must register for the CEDARS Data Warehouse. This one-time registration allows you to pick the type of access you think you might need. Your designated CEDARS Security Officer will grant you access. Once you have been granted access, you will use your NCID user name and password to log in. During deployment training, you will not be granted access to the system until the training event. To register, visit: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cedars/reporting/registration/>. You will find documentation and an instructional video walking you through the registration process and describing the security roles available in the system.

What if I'm the designated CEDARS Security Officer and I need to be able to run reports as well?

- Your LEA Security Officer access will be granted by the state CEDARS Security Officer. You will then be able to request any additional roles during the registration process.

Are you able to compare schools within multiple LEAs that may have similar demographics as your own?

- DPI will provide some Dashboards that will allow LEA-LEA or school-school comparison.

I've already registered for the system. I haven't gotten a confirmation; do I need to register again?

- If you've already registered in preparation for training, there is no need to register a second time. Once deployment training begins, you will be granted the appropriate access. To be sure we received your registration; you can log into the registration site and check the status of your request. To access the CEDARS Data Warehouse Registration to review your account, visit: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cedars/reporting/registration/>.

Will LEAs be allowed to have state level security?

- LEA and School staff are limited to access for their specified LEAs and schools. While you will not be able to see student or staff detail level data in other LEAs and schools, you will still have access to compare data at an aggregate level.

I'm confused about UID/NCID and what the differences are.

- The first portion of the CEDARS project was to assign a unique 'key' to all staff or student records. UID Student and UID Staff systems are responsible for assigning and managing the identifiers used for both Staff and Students. This 'key' allows the CEDAR project team to load historical data from the different business systems into the data warehouse. This identifier is used to tie data and follows a student or staff



member through their PK-13 education or employment in PK-13 education system. NCID is the North Carolina Identity management system and its purpose is to assign and manage user accounts used to login to statewide systems. NCID is used to authenticate user access to systems only.

We already use Oracle for our financial systems. Will this grant me access to that system?

- No. You might use Oracle and OBIEE (the CEDARS report interface) for other applications, but this system has its own URL. Remember CEDARS houses historical data only and is essentially a Read Only reporting system. Information is uploaded to this system from the designated authoritative source system periodically, with no effort on your part; other than providing quality data.

Is it correct that anyone who has Detail access can see all of the Subject Areas in the CEDARS Data Warehouse?

- Yes, that is correct. If a user is granted Detail access, they can view data down to the student level for all Subject Areas.

The registration document says that we should register as LEA/Charter Detail Answers role for training. Is this correct?

- Yes, anyone who will be using the Analysis tool to generate ad hoc reports must have the 'Answers' role, otherwise they are limited to viewing Dashboards only.

Will there be a way to see the students that leave your school/district?

- This will depend on you level of access. For example, if you are an LEA level user and the student transfers to another school in your district, you will still be able to view data that is tied to your LEA. If the student transfers to another LEA, you will not be able to see the data tied to that LEA.

I have verified my NCID account and password is correct but I cannot access CEDARS reporting system.

- Does your password contain the character '&' ampersand? The ampersand '&' is a special character that NCID allows but the CEDARS Reporting system will not allow. Please replace this character with something else.



## Collection

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How many years of historical data will be available in the warehouse?

- When DPI rolls out the Production CEDARS Data Warehouse, school years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 will be available.

How often will CEDARS be updated?

- The CEDARS Data Warehouse will be updated monthly, annually and at certain points depending on the business system's needs. A collection calendar will be posted that identifies the specific timelines for each collection type prior to LEAs training staff members.

When will we have access to the 2010/2011 data?

- 2010/2011 data should be loaded into the CEDARS Data Warehouse by January 2012.

How long after each reporting year does it take to for data to be live in the data warehouse?

- Once we are in operational mode, for a complete year, the ideal time-frame would be the fall of the coming year.

Will we be able to access 2008/2009 data?

- No, you will not be able to access the 2008/2009 data in the production environment of the warehouse. The 2008/2009 school year was first set of data we loaded into the System. This was during the implementation of the first part of the CEDARS project; UID Staff and Student. Because we were still assigning unique IDs to staff and student records during that year and the fact that CEDARS data collection is done based on points in time, the CEDARS team feels that this data is great to use for training purposes but will not truly provide an accurate depiction of 2008/2009.

Our school just completed its first year (2010/2011). Will data prior to that timeframe be populated for our students? Will we be able to see it?

- If your first school year was the 2010/2011 school year, you will only see historical data for that school for that year. Data will exist for your students who came from other schools in the state, and will that data will exist in that school. The data a user is able to see is directly tied to the type of access the user has. LEA level users have access to information that was captured for their LEA during the given time-frame. A school user will only be able to see school level data.

If we delete discipline information at YET (Year End Transition) will it remain in CEDARS?

- Yes. Information is extracted prior to YET from eSIS (NC WISE). Previous year's data will remain in CEDARS.



Will 2010/2011 data be in the system for training in late September?

- Some 2010/2011 data will be loaded but not all.

Does the system interface with 3rd party statistical analysis programs, such as SPSS, SAA?

- There is no direct connection to other tools; however, if you have access to create your own analyses you can download the data and import into other tools.



## Data

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Where in the system will we find LEP information?

- You will be able to view LEP information in the Individual Programs subject area, as well as being an attribute of a student for use in all subject areas.

Will we be able to see test information for LEP students?

- You will be able to see some testing information for LEP students. This data is presented in the Assessment subject area.

Will CEDARS have staff/teacher attendance information?

- We do capture staff information such as basic demographics and course information, but at present we are not storing staff attendance.

Will we be able to see EOC performance or just Reading/Math at the high school level?

- You will be able to review all EOC data for all program types.

Will we be able to use CEDARS to collect VEIS (Vocational Enrollment) data?

- CEDARS is not a collection system, but a reporting system. CTE or Vocational data will be stored in the warehouse.

Does CEDARS determine a student's program based on the program assignment in NC WISE, or is their status based on information from one of the 30+ data sources such as the Migrant/ESL data?

- Data in CEDARS will always come from the authoritative source. In this case, the information will come from the program.

Is proficiency by subgroup based on ABC or AYP criteria?

- In dashboards the proficiency is based on the Level I-IV on EOG and EOC tests.

When connecting teachers with students - in courses for example - how often is that information captured? For example, some students may have two or three teachers within a year teaching a particular course, due to mobility, etc.

- Course information is captured twice a year, student data once a month.

Will the subgroup designations for ethnicity be adjusted in the future to reflect changes in the way the Hispanic subgroup is defined? For instance, having the Hispanic group include any race, as in U.S. census reporting?

- Yes, CEDARS provides the data based on the reported race.



NCVPS is not LEA or Charter, but we would be in the dropdown list of schools, correct?

- No, NCVPS will not be in the dropdown list of schools. The NCVPS Courses will appear at the given school.

Will the testing data be value-added, i.e. will this take the place of EVAAS?

- This will not take the place of EVAAS. CEDARS is a historical reporting system.

Will mClass data from K-2 be in this data warehouse?

- Currently we do not have DIBELS data captured.

How many systems/programs are providing information for CEDARS?

- There are over 30 systems providing data to the CEDARS Data Warehouse.

Can you drill down & see the individual student in the Discipline area?

- Yes, depending on your level of security (any detail user role will have student level access to this information). However, the CEDARS Data Warehouse will not display Victim detail.

Demographic staff information - where is the data pulled from?

- Staff demographic data is pulled from the UID Staff system which receives the data from the LEA and Charter School payroll systems.

Can I receive information specifically for homeless students in my LEA?

- You will be able to view information for homeless students within your LEA.

What's the difference between LEP and language minority?

- LEP references students participating in the program; whereas, Language Minority are students who have a Home Language other than English.

Will the ESAS (Beyond 2020) system be maintained for researchers, etc. since it has aggregate data earlier than 2008-2009?

- We are not planning to put any data into the CEDARS Data Warehouse prior to 2008/2009.





How are you guys going to do the student<>teacher<>course link in order to measure performance as per your Race to the Top submission?

- The IIS system is intended to capture information such as student<>teacher<>course and will be more robust in terms of measuring teacher performance, however, CEDARS will capture the link between student<>teacher<>course.

Has DPI ceased the agreement with Duke University for maintaining a data mart for researchers? Can outside researchers access CEDARS aggregated data? Researchers like school instructors going after advance degrees, governmental and foundation researchers, etc. What is DPI going to provide as a resource to those entities?

- DPI still has an agreement with Duke University for maintaining data for researchers.

Can charter schools search data for students once they age out of the charter?

- You will be able to view data for students who exist/ or existed in your charter school. That historic information will always be yours to access. Once a student moves or ages out you will not have access to that student. But the student's data captured in your system will still exist.

Does CEDARS anticipate allowing mapping via GIS of student data?

- The system does provide mapping capabilities that is based on the LEA/Charter school location only at this time.

Is mean scale score available, rather than proficiency?

- The Proficiency Level, Lexile Score, Scale Score, Quartile Scores are all provided for Assessments as is appropriate. For those who have access to the Analysis feature in OBIEE (the CEDARS Data Warehouse interface), they can apply mathematical functions.

Will we have access to PMR and GRS type data in OBIEE?

- Data such as ADM (Avg Daily Membership), GRS (Grade, Race, Sex), ADA (Avg Daily Attendance) and MLD (Membership Last Day) will be stored in the data warehouse; however, the data stored is the final data that has gone through the validations currently used in systems such as NCWISE. The data warehouse is a longitudinal system and does not replace current operational processes.

Can I see Retention, Promotion and Graduation data in OBIEE?

- The School Enrollment subject area captures data that can support these. The data warehouse collects students' entries and exits from schools and districts.



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## Functionality

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I have an analysis that shows individual LEA counts of students as well as a Grand Total for the state. When I manually sum the LEA numbers to get a state total, the number is higher. Why does this happen?

- If you use the 'Unique # of Students' measure in your analysis, it counts a student only once depending on the level you are analyzing. What this means is, if your analysis shows only the State level, then a student is only counted once in the State. If your analysis is at the LEA level, the student is counted for each LEA that s/he appears and the same applies to the school level.

At the LEA level, using the pivot table feature, will you be able to access the student records associated?

- How much data you are able to see will depend on your security level. You can drill down to the student detail level if you have the access. This does include pivot tables.

Are graphs/tables exportable?

- Yes, there are a variety of formats that will allow you to export.

Is there a way to create district level dashboards?

- Currently dashboards are either specific to the user who created them or are created at the state level and shared with all LEAS.

How quickly do reports generate from the CEDARS Data Warehouse?

- Performance will depend on how much data you are pulling for your LEA. Once the report has been created however, the results will display much more quickly.

Will we be able to drill down to the NC WISE Team level? Or if not, will we be able to drill down to the Program level?

- You will be able to drill down to the student program level; however, it is important to remember that the program information in CEDARS will come from the authoritative source system.

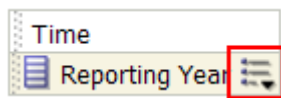
Can you use more than one Subject Area to build an Analysis?

- At this time, you cannot join multiple Subject Areas. The CEDARS project team has been and will continue to create Subject Areas that are already joined for your convenience.



Where do I find the More Options button?

- The More Options button is located on each column selected for Analysis. The button's image and feature change depending on which tab you working on.



When working with the Criteria tab, the More Options provides you the ability to Sort, Edit Formula, Update Column Properties, Filter or Delete.



When working in the Results tab and editing an Analysis, the More Options provides you the ability to Format Headings, Format Values, Hide, Calculate, Aggregation, and Duplicate or Remove the column.

What does Analysis mean?

- Consider Analysis your starting point in OBIEE to begin gathering data for a report.

Do I need to be able to write code to use OBIEE?

- OBIEE was created to allow any person to perform data mining. You do not need to know how to read or write code; however, you may modify (and/or extend) the SQL that OBIEE automatically generates as the need arises.

How does an Analysis sort? How can I change it?

- Analysis sorts based on the column order first (meaning how you add columns to the Selected Columns section of the Criteria tab). Information is displayed in ascending order. Moving your columns during the Analysis phase will change how the data is sorted. You may also change how a column sorts by using the More Options button for the given column on the Criteria tab. On the Results tab you can use the column header to sort a column ascending or descending depending on your preference.

How do I get out of Edit view on the Results tab?

- If you've made changes to your Analysis in Edit mode from the Results tab, once you are satisfied, click the Done button located in the top right corner below the Save icons. Notice also that if you are not satisfied with your edits, you may click the Revert button to remove your changes and then click Done.



## General

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What kind of policy is there regarding exporting data from OBIEE?

- Information that must remain confidential is to be protected in compliance with applicable federal and state law, including FERPA and HIPAA. NCDPI Data Security Policies are located: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/management/policies/>, NCDPI Data Security Policy forms are located: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/management/policies/security/>

Is one of the major goals of CEDARS to replace UERS (Webapps) state reporting?

- The CEDARS data warehouse will not replace UERS as UERS is considered 'real-time'. CEDARS is historical data only.

Do all LEAs have to use CEDARS to report from? For example, I report my EC information from CECAS.

- It is the choice of the LEA to use the CEDARS Data Warehouse. One thing to remember about this powerful tool is that the data housed here will be historical, previous year information. The CEDARS Data Warehouse tools will allow you to view trends over years. This system will not replace your current day-to-day operational systems.

How does this tie into SAS AHR?

- SAS AHR is considered 'real-time' and is only specific to the eSIS/ NC WISE solution. CEDARS houses data from over 30 different business systems. Data captured here is from previous years.

Is OBIEE real-time data?

- No, the data in OBIEE is not real-time. Data is captured annually, quarterly and monthly depending on the subject area. There also may be specific points in time that data is pulled from a source system. Data from the source systems are collected based on an agreed upon data submission calendar.



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## Training / Support

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Where will Training/Support materials and presentations be posted?

- Training/Support materials, user reference guides, videos and other recordings will be available for download on the CEDARS website. The main CEDARS page is <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cedars/>. Please check the site often for any new information or updates.

When will training begin?

- DPI plans to begin training LEA users in the fall of 2011. Training from DPI will follow the Train-the-Trainer model. LEAs will be asked to send two representatives only to training. These LEA personnel should be familiar with school data and reporting tools, and should be willing to plan and perform redelivery training. Deployment training events for CEDARS will be located throughout the state. LEA Trainers will be asked to register for training via the CEDARS website. The main CEDARS page is <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cedars/>. Notifications will be sent first to the Superintendents' distribution list and then through other state distribution lists. It is up to the LEA who will be identified as the two redelivery trainers. These trainers will receive LEA level access to their data for the deployment training event.

Will there be training for DPI regional staff?

- Training has already begun for state level employees. We may hold two regional sessions out in the state; one in the east and another in the west. More training sessions will follow; it is likely that the Hands-on events will be held at the DPI building in Raleigh. If you are interested in training, please contact your manager or supervisor at DPI.

How much time do you see re-delivery taking the LEAs?

- NC DPI will provide suggestions and materials for re-delivery training.

When should LEA staff re-delivery training be completed?

- Because the data is longitudinal and spans across all business systems, it is important that training be delivered to the appropriate audience. Consider if your intended audience(s) have anything in common or if they need to be trained individually. It may be beneficial to start with LEA level report writers; those who may be unique in their needs and the move to those who will be consumers of dashboards. You will find that you will be able to group Detail users into one class and Aggregate users into a potentially shorter session.

If I have questions, where do I send them?

- Please send your questions to [ceders-info@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ceders-info@dpi.nc.gov).



How do I become part of a user group?

- Those who attended any of the July webinars to the LEAs will be invited to join a user group later in the year. Those who were not able to attend, but wish to take part in a user group may email [ceders-info@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ceders-info@dpi.nc.gov).

Will there be a data dictionary available?

- Currently there is a plan for a Data Dictionary. Due to staffing issues this portion of the project is on hold.  
For a list of authoritative systems, please review the 'Authoritative Source List', located: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/management/resources/>.

Who should be attending the deployment training sessions?

- DPI plans to begin training LEA users in the fall of 2011. Training from DPI will follow the Train-the-Trainer model. LEAs will be asked to send two representatives only to training. These LEA personnel should be familiar with school data and reporting tools and be willing to re-deliver training to other LEA staff members.

Is there a user manual?

- The Help option in OBIEE is located in the top right corner of the screen, to the left of Sign In/Out. The vendor is currently working on updating the content to match the latest version, 11.g.