2024 Summer TSDS Training Questions and Answers
Updated: 08/27/2024

Behavior Threat Assessment Program:

1. **For the 2024-2025 school year, will LEAs need to send behavior threat assessment paperwork through the Texas Records Exchange (TREx)?**

   For the 2024-2025 school year, LEAs will still need to send behavior threat assessment paperwork through TREx. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, the behavior threat assessment paperwork should be in the new Sentinel system. When a student transfers to a new LEA, the new LEA should have access to the paperwork through Sentinel.

2. **Is Sentinel accessed via the TEA Login (TEAL) system or is it a stand-alone system?**

   Sentinel is a stand-alone system.

3. **Is there guidance for LEAs about what should be included in the behavior threat assessment paperwork?**

   The program area is working with district behavior coordinators to provide additional information about what should be included in the behavior threat assessment paperwork. When the behavior threat assessments are moved into Sentinel, there will be screening surveys for an LEA to use. These surveys will provide consistent documentation for each LEA to use for behavior threat assessments.

4. **Will the data in Sentinel be used to determine if a school is safe?**

   None of the data in Sentinel will be used to determine if a school is classified as a safe school.

5. **Which LEAs will be part of the 2024-2025 pilot program using Sentinel?**

   The LEAs participating in the pilot program have not been determined. The program area will be visiting each ESC beginning in September and will provide information to the ESCs on which LEAs will participate in the pilot program.

TSDS Web-Enabled Data Standards (TWEDS):

1. **Is there a new descriptor table that replaces the SERVICE-ID (C022) table in the TSDS Upgrade Project?**

   In the TSDS Upgrade Project, the SERVICE-ID table is replaced by the CourseCode table. This table can be found in the TWEDS under References>Course Codes Link. (https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/TWEDSAPI/22/0/0/0/References/List/644)

All About Going Live (Added 08/22/2024):

1. **How should an LEA work with their vendor if the LEA has concerns about their vendor being ready for the 2024-2025 Go Live? What if the vendor is not ready for an individual submission?**

   The first step is for the LEA to ensure proper communication with their source system vendor(s). An LEA should request an onboarding plan with details and dates for any actions needed by the LEA to ensure a successful integration. If an LEA encounters any issue with satisfying a TSDS submission due date, the LEA is encouraged to reach out to their supporting ESC for assistance and coordinate with TEA support staff to mitigate the issue.

2. **Is there a best practice for sending data in the API since there are entity specific dependencies?**

   Best practice may vary by vendor product in terms of how data can be sent via the API. If the vendor product allows control over the data load order, a best practice would be to send any non-student entities first. Entities such as Calendar and Course could be loaded first, and any errors resolved. Refer to the TSDS Upgrade Project Domain Dependency chart for more information and guidance on data dependency based upon domain and resource.

3. **Are most vendors following the Texas Education Data Standards (TEDS) or are they requiring the LEA to map their descriptors?**

   All vendors are adhering to Texas Education Data Standards. In terms of descriptors, most vendors were utilizing the TEA namespace and not requiring descriptor mapping during the Parallel Submission year based upon a limited set of LEAs. Since this will vary by vendor product integration, an LEA is encouraged to work with their vendor and supporting ESC to determine whether descriptor mappings will be needed in 2024-2025.

4. **What if an LEA is using an assessment vendor that TEA is not currently working with?**

   The Individual Operational Data Store (IODS) will allow any assessment vendor to load data via the API with the proper credentials and claim set configured in the Data Management Center (DMC) by the LEA. Any assessment not currently on the Early Childhood Data System (ECDS) commissioner approved list for kindergarten and prekindergarten will be treated as "local use" data and will not be supported by TSDS support staff at TEA. Those assessment vendors can seek support and assistance through the Ed-Fi community.

5. **Are level 2 validations run on the data before it is promoted to TEA?**

   Level 2 validations are run against TSDS collection-specific data. The data must have passed Level 1.5 filters before it can be processed by Level 2 validations. Level 2 validations are not

automatically run against the data and must be scheduled by the LEA or ESC. Data can be promoted to the TEA data marts with or without running Level 2 validations.

6. **When will LEAs be able to schedule reoccurring level 2 validations?**

   TEA does not have an official release date for scheduling reoccurring level 2 validations. However, TEA expects for this to be ready early in the 2024-2025 school year. Stay tuned for more information and guidance on when that feature will be made available.

7. **When will vendors need to implement the changes in the TEDS 2025.2.0 version?**

   TEA does not have an official release date for the implementation of TEDS 2025.2.0 changes in the API at this time. The TSDS teams are currently in the process of developing and testing those necessary changes. TEA expects to continue to support vendors through a Software Development Kit (SDK) and provide continuous communication to ensure proper alignment with vendor product changes and the updating of the TSDS API based upon TEDS 2025.2.0.

8. **Since LEAs will be sending data before the TEDS 2025.2.0 requirements are implemented, will this cause any data syncing issues or impacts?**

   TEA will be communicating with all vendors on the potential impact to data previously loaded prior to the implementation of TEDS 2025.2.0. Stay tuned for more information and guidance. In the meantime, LEAs are encouraged to send their data using the TEDS 2025.1.0 requirements.

9. **When will TEA release the SDK for version 2025.2.0 to the vendors so the vendors can test the SDK before it is sent to the LEAs?**

   TEA has provided a pre-release BETA Software Development Kit (SDK) for version 2025.2.0 on August 16, 2024. The official release is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2024.

10. **Some parallel LEAs have noted several promotion logic issues stopping them from validating. Will these be fixed in parallel before August 30, 2024?**

    Due to the Parallel Submission closing on August 30, 2024, TEA will not be implementing any additional software updates or resolving any known issues with the promotion logic for the 2023-2024 TSDS data submissions. However, these issues will be addressed in the 2024-2025 Production environment.

Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH): (Added 8/27/2024)

1. **A Local Education Agency (LEA) can request a waiver until the end of July. How does an LEA report a low attendance or missed school day waiver when the PEIMS Summer Resubmission is due in the middle of July?**

   An LEA should apply for and receive an approved low attendance or missed school day waiver before the PEIMS Summer Resubmission due date unless they are running a year-round program. An LEA should not report a waiver until the waiver has been approved by the TEA Waivers Division.

2. **Will Section 12 of the SAAH be updated to include information about the new Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) waiver campuses?**

   The new TXVSN waiver campuses are allowed to operate K-12 and this option is temporary for those operating under the extended online TXVSN waiver. Since the waiver does not apply to all TXVSN schools, the information will not be added to the SAAH.