Teacher Student Data Link (TSDL) FAQ's

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the Teacher Student Data Link (TSDL) collection?
The TSDL is a collection by the State of Michigan where data are collected that tie the teacher of record to a particular course and student. This data is necessary to meet the requirements of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and those specified in the America Competes Act as part of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). These requirements are further substantiated in state legislation in the State School Aid Act.

How is this going to be reported to the public?
CEPI will post summary reports of the effectiveness ratings by district. A report summarizing effectiveness ratings of all educators, including teachers, principals and other administrators, will be produced and posted by September 30, 2012. These reports will be developed in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education. More information about these reports will be provided as it becomes available.

Are there other states that do this and if so, what benefit has this been to them?
This is a federal requirement and all states are required to comply by September 2011. Other states have produced reports of course enrollment and course completion statuses that have been helpful for school improvement.

Why are student test scores to be used as a significant portion of evaluation? Is it just politics?
In part it is politics, but tests are designed and keyed to our grade-level content expectations. They measure the content we expect to be taught. We do acknowledge that test scores are not a complete indication of how well as student is doing. But, it is an important part of the picture.

The state requires that growth data be used as a significant part of the teacher evaluation process. How do we determine what is "significant"?
It is true that legislation indicates growth data needs to be used as a significant portion. But there is no definition of significant. It could be interpreted as important, vital, included, etc. It is up to the districts to define significant.

SPECIFIC TSDL CODING QUESTIONS

Student Scenario Examples

#1 A student completes eight weeks of a freshman algebra course before transferring out of your district. At the point of transfer, the student is earning an "A" based on the completed course work. In the TSDL Collection your district will report this student with a "WP" (Withdrawn/Passing) in the Completion Status characteristics.

#2 A student enrolls in your district at the beginning of the school year and exits before the end of the first marking period. No course grade or academic credit is earned during his/her enrollment **and** this course is not noted in the student's academic record (report card). It is not necessary to report this student/course in the TSDL Collection.

At the Elementary level a student is passing math and reading, but failing science – how would this be coded at the end of Trimester 1?
The question is how your teacher and the school district looks at this student's status. Would the district consider this student as passing the first trimester? If this were the end of the school year would you pass the student on to the next grade? Your teacher would need to determine if this student should be coded as CP-Completed/Passed or CF-Completed /Failed for this trimester.

All the completion codes in the general email that was sent to teachers are not appearing in my gradebook.
Each teacher is only given access to those codes that would apply to his/her students.

Do parents see these TSDL codes (either on the portal or on report cards)?
No

What if the student that appears in red in my gradebook only moved to a different class – did not actually attend my class?
You do not need to code these students.