



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Title III Contacts
Public School Information System (PSIS) District Coordinators

FROM: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer

DATE: October 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Immigrant Children and Youth

For many years, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has asked districts to collect and report the number of children who met the federal definition of Immigrant Children and Youth. The CSDE needs this information to award eligible districts the federal Language Instruction for Immigrant Children and Youth Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

In May 2017, Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell [notified all districts](#) that the CSDE was changing its method for collecting this information. The CSDE discontinued Form ED-236. It transitioned to collecting this data through the Public School Information System (PSIS). In this transition, the CSDE also discontinued collecting the “country of origin” – something that used to be collected through the ED-236 – because it concluded that this information is not necessary for determining eligibility for the grant under federal law.

We have received questions from some districts about the process for collecting and reporting this immigrant status if the country of origin cannot be collected. Please note that the definition of Immigrant Children and Youth under federal law has only three criteria,¹ and does not ask for the specific country. To determine whether the child was born outside the United States, which is one of the criteria, districts can simply ask if the child was born in any State (defined as each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) – Yes or No. Ultimately, what is reported to the CSDE is a Yes or No as to whether the child meets all three criteria of the federal definition of an immigrant child/youth. If you have any questions about this data collection, please contact Kendra Shakir at Kendra.shakir@ct.gov or 860-713-6896.

We have also received information that families in some school districts may not understand why this information is being collected and how it will be used. The attached memorandum to superintendents provides additional background and includes sample letters in multiple languages for use when communicating with families.

Lastly, please note that nonpublic immigrant student counts are also included for this grant calculation. Therefore, the CSDE has updated the ED159-Nonpublic Schools Report so that private schools can report that data directly to the CSDE.

Thank you.

¹ Section 3201(5) of Title III of the ESEA defines immigrant children and youths as individuals who:

- are aged 3 through 21;
- were not born in any State (defined as each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico); and
- have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more States for more than 3 full academic years.