Work-Based Learning and MIS Data Element SG21

Work-based learning (WBL) is a critical strategy to support learning and prepare students for the workforce; it makes learning relevant and leads to strong labor market outcomes. Employers also benefit — from the preparation of a strong workforce in general to the vetting of specific prospective employees.

WBL spans a continuum of experiences — from career awareness to training — that allow students to apply classroom content in professional settings while gaining real-world experience and demonstrating competencies to employers.

The San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges identified work-based learning as a strategy for increasing student retention, success and completion and a primary regional goal. To that end, the region allocated $200 thousand per college over three years to develop and institutionalize WBL at each college. Colleges hired Work-Based Learning Coordinators and, through a Community of Practice and technical assistance, are working together to establish processes for systematically engaging faculty and supporting student experiences at their campuses.

The collection of accurate data is critical for tracking progress toward the goal of expanding WBL. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has added **Data Element SG21** into the Management Information System (MIS) that will capture the number of students participating in WBL activities at each college. The table below provides the category codes associated with different types[1] of WBL (i.e., preparing for employment, applying learning in practical experiences, and building career awareness), reflecting the continuum of experiences.

DED#	DATA ELEMENT NAME	FORMAT
SG21	**STUDENT-WORK-BASED-LEARNING-STATUS**	**X(01)**

This element indicates whether the student participated in specific types of work-based learning during the reporting term.

Coding	Meaning
A	Student participated in work-based learning preparing the student for employment in a specific range of occupations, such as internships, work experience, and capstone projects
B	Student participated in work-based learning allowing the student to apply learning through practical experience and interaction with professionals from industry and the community outside of school, such as job shadows, service learning, class projects or challenges, and mentorships
C	Student participated in work-based learning allowing the student to build awareness of the variety of careers available, begin identifying areas of interest, and explore career options, such as guest speakers, company tours, field trips, career fairs, and mock interviews
N	Student did not participate in work-based learning
X	Unknown/unreported

The San Diego/Imperial Counties region will make the implementation of SG21 a priority. A glossary has been developed to support data entry, and guidance on approaches to completing the data element is being developed.

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[1] This data element also includes a Field Check that states: If the student is identified as participating in more than one type of work-based learning during the reporting term, report the first applicable mode (A through C).