

Louisiana Department of Education and eScholar

Using Data to Feed Children

Improving Accuracy in Identifying Eligible Children using Direct Certification

2018 eScholar Uniq-ID Conference

Session Overview

- States face a challenging task when finding students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Files from disparate state agencies must be matched against district and school-level student information for identification and reimbursement.
- Direct Certification** is a process conducted by the States and by Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to certify eligible children for free meals without the need for household applications. Using sophisticated matching technology to directly certify students means that more children are receiving these critical benefits.
- For Louisiana, this is further complicated by legal restrictions, mandated in 2014, that prevent the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) from receiving or accessing student personally identifiable information (PII) which is imperative to the matching and certification process.



Agenda

- Louisiana Privacy Laws Enacted in 2014
- Implementation of New ID Management System
- Development and Implementation of the DirectMatch application
- Next Steps



Enactment of R.S. 17:3914

- Limits and prohibits the collection and sharing of student personally identifiable information (PII).
- Requires LEAs to assign unique student identification numbers to all students enrolled in public schools.
- Prohibits LEAs from submitting student PII to the LDOE data systems.
- Unlawful disclosure of student PII is punishable by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than three years, or both.



Implications for Direct Certification

- The State can no longer add IDs to the SNAP file or act as a liaison between the DCFS and the school districts.
- The LEAs need to find eligible students and report back for reimbursement on their own.
- LEAs must own the process.



New Automated SNAP = DirectMatch

Application

- eScholar and LDOE designed a new, fully automated process in which match decisions are made by the LEA.
- eScholar loads the SNAP file into the application, and LEAs at any time can match their enrollments to the file with the push of a button.
- New SNAP files are loaded at monthly intervals throughout the school year.



New Automated SNAP = DirectMatch Application

- In addition, students can also be searched one at a time through online screens.
- Non-public students are not assigned unique IDs or stored in eScholar; however, non-public schools are able to upload enrollment records to the DirectMatch Application for matching against the SNAP file.
- All match decisions are stored in the DirectMatch Application, and non-PII versions of the data are available for LDOE for use in reporting and auditing.



Demo Student Data



FERPA Police

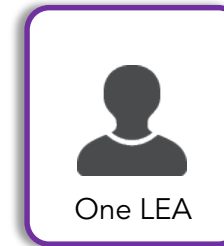
Agency
Logo

State



or

Local



Matching Datasets

eScholar
DirectMatch



SNAP

eScholar DirectMatch



SNAP

Medicaid

eScholar DirectMatch



eScholar DirectMatch

SNAP

Medicaid

TANF



eScholar DirectMatch



SNAP

Medicaid

TANF

Migrant

eScholar DirectMatch



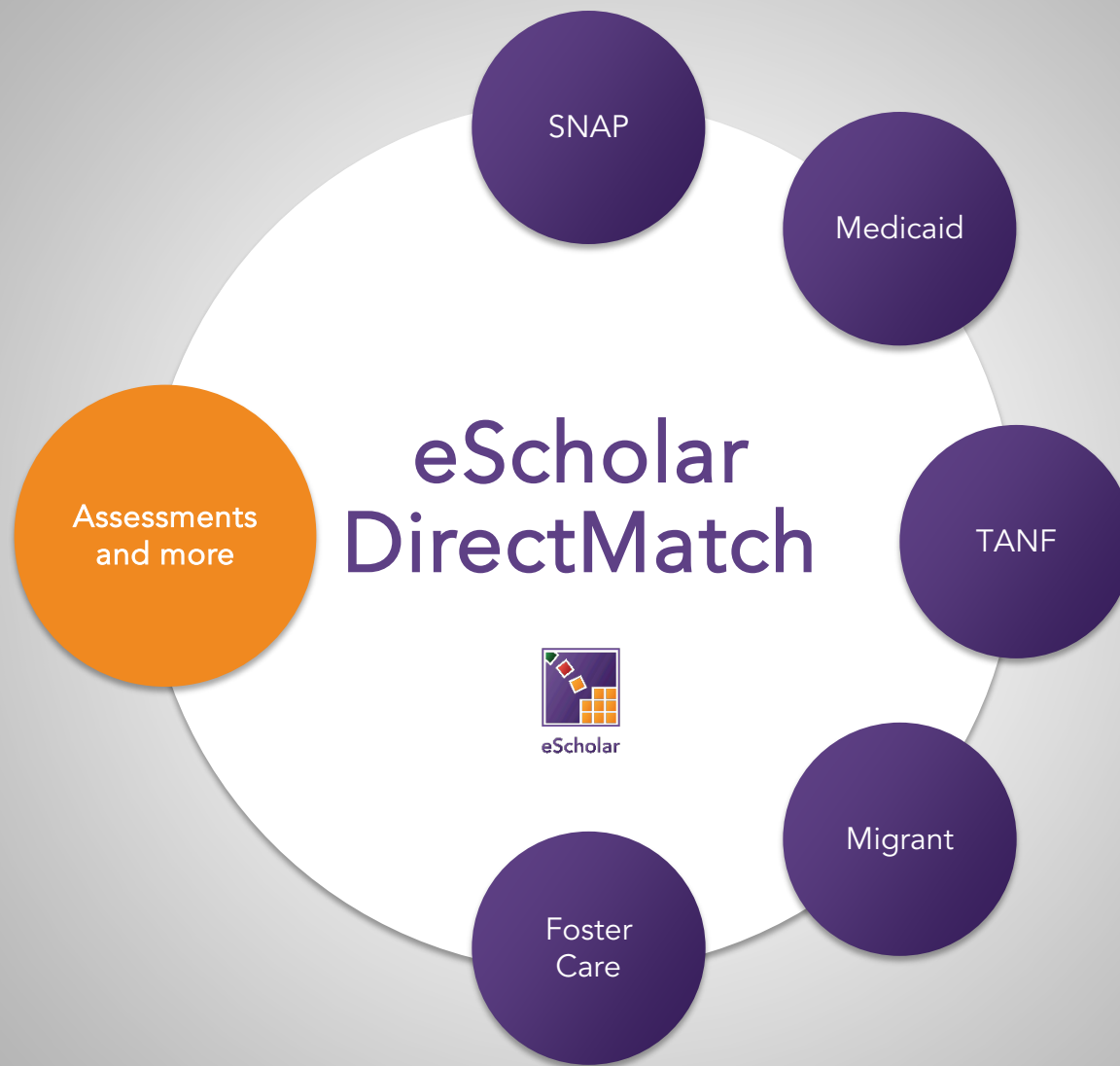
SNAP

Medicaid

TANF

Migrant

Foster
Care



eScholar DirectMatch

DEMO

Next Steps

- Continue to build out and enhance the DirectMatch application.
- Develop centralized federal reporting of direct certification based on the data in the application. Use DirectMatch as the source of truth.
- Work with DCFS to receive clean, usable files. For example, currently there are issues such as truncated names.



Questions?

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