

CCSESA FOCUS

A Weekly Update to County Superintendents of Schools

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Statewide Data Collection for Network Connectivity Report

On Monday you should have received an email from the K12 High Speed Network (HSN) providing an important update on the data collection plans for the network connectivity report that is due this coming March. A copy of that email is attached for your information.

This report will be important because it will provide needed information to the Governor and the Legislature as they decide on budget priorities for 2015-16 regarding support for the technology needs of schools throughout California.

For county superintendents in particular, the urgency is that the Governor's Office, Department of Education, and K12 HSN are relying on county offices to help ensure that the surveys are completed by the deadline of **December 5, 2014**. The survey sample consists of 500 randomly selected schools.

The survey has been discussed by our Technology and Telecommunications Steering Committee (TTSC) and hopefully your technology staff is already familiar with the survey and the request. However, the short timeline and the importance of accurate information warrants making sure that both county and school district superintendents are aware of this change to the data collection plans.

For additional information, please contact Luis Wong of the K12 HSN at lwong@icoe.org or Efrain Mercado in our office at emercado@ccsesa.org.

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(email attachment)

November 10, 2014

From: Luis Wong, Imperial County Office of Education
To: County Superintendents of Schools
Subject: Statewide Report on Connectivity Update

Greetings County Superintendents,

The purpose of this message is to provide an update on an unexpected change in the approach to statewide data collection for the Network Connectivity Report as required by Senate Bill 852 and implemented by the K12 High Speed Network (K12HSN).

The K12HSN initially announced that County Offices of Education would be selecting schools sites from which they would collect information for the Network Connectivity Report. Recent feedback from critically important stakeholders and expert advisers on survey methodology has prompted the K12HSN to change the school site sample for the report. In order to draw statistically valid conclusions from the data, a random sample of schools in California must be used.

K12HSN recognizes the importance of the survey efforts of its partners and colleagues, and wants to avoid the report to be dismissed due to concerns regarding the school site selection methodology. The current shift will protect our efforts from undue criticism while creating an accurate mosaic of the needs, gaps and strengths of Internet connectivity in K-12 schools across California.

In order to mitigate some of the concerns generated by this shift, the new school site sample will allow K12HSN to reduce the sample size from 800 to 500 sites (attached), while making the data more defensible. K12HSN has also reduced the questions of the survey instrument by 25% in order to reduce the burden in the field. While these changes are important, the data collection window is still expected to close on **December 5, 2014**, in order to meet the timelines set by SB852.

The California Department of Education has sent an official communication to the 500 schools sites to inform that they have been randomly selected to participate in the Network Connectivity Report. It will be important for County Offices of Education to proactively engage with the chosen schools to ease the data collection process.

K12HSN asks for your continued leadership and support to move forward amid this unexpected, but important change. The K12HSN has begun working with staff from the County Offices of Education involved in this work to support them in every step of the process to ensure they are able to complete the data collection process in a timely fashion.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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