**TO:** Smart Scholars ECHS Administrators

**FROM:** Smart Scholars Program Office, NYSED

**SUBJECT:** Smart Scholars ECHS Data Collection Changes for 2022-23

**DATE:**  September 6, 2022

This memo is to apprise you of changes to the Smart Scholars Early College High School (ECHS) collection methodology for the 2022-23 school year.

Beginning this fall, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) will begin collecting K-12 Smart Scholars ECHS program data in the NYSED Student Information Repository System (SIRS). During the 2022-23 school year, the Department will be conducting a dual collection to ensure all grant partners have had time to establish the necessary procedures for the new collection. Therefore, the file submission process to the NYSED Office of Access, Equity and Community Engagement Services will also continue in 2023.

The new collection methodology utilizing the SIRS will provide a greater level of data security, improve data quality, and allow for better review and analysis of program data by grantees and the Department. The most significant change will be that lead applicants/grantees will not be reporting the data to the SIRS. The accountable school district for the students will be reporting the data for their students. Currently, these school districts are reporting the program service codes for these students to SIRS but will now also be reporting additional data elements in this manner. The Department aimed to keep the required data elements as close to the existing collection as possible but some changes, particularly concerning codes may be different. In some cases, where applicants were allowed to type text into a field, there will now be a list of codes they will have to choose from.

It is recommended that staff currently responsible for the collection and submission of SMART SCHOLARS ECHS data consult their school district data coordinators to develop a process for reporting the data to the SIRS based on the requirements set forth in the NYSED eScholar Partner Project Fact template. The SIRS Manual, eScholar templates, and code change document contain the necessary information about this new collection. That information can be found on the NYSED Office of Information and Reporting Services (IRS) [web page](https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/vendors/home.html).

For additional information, please contact the Office of Access, Equity and Community Engagement Services at [SMARTSCHOLARS@nysed.gov](mailto:SMARTSCHOLARS@nysed.gov).