

Learning Services ICT



IMPORTANT NEWS CONCERNING SIMS + SIM .net SOFTWARE FOR PLASC 2005.

It has come to light that the software released by Capita to complete the PLASC 2005 return requires patches installing to enable full PLASC compliance. As of the 8th December 2004 an 'Enhancement Release Two' from Capita is imminent. Enhancement Release One has been released. Information of the issues covered by these releases are detailed on page 2. Please note that the existence of these 'enhancements' should **NOT** hinder the preparation of your PLASC return. For schools that subscribe to LS IT SLA, the enhancements will be installed over the Xmas break (for schools with remote connections) and visits arranged in the first few weeks of January for the remaining LSIT SLA schools. These enhancement releases apply to both PLASC and PLASC .net schools. As yet it is unclear whether further enhancements will be released....

NOTE:

PLASC documentation this year will be on www.hulliclea.com it is advisable to check the site on a regular basis.

Access the information via IMS, PLASC The Helpdesk is also available for any queries. (Tel:613972)

Issue 4 due 12th January 2005.

SIMS Upgrades.

To create the final PLASC report your SIMS system will need to be upgraded. The upgrade to SIMS is nearing completion but obviously the 'Enhancement Releases' will also need to be installed. The upgrade that has been done will allow schools to complete their preparation for PLASC.

PLASC for PRU's

PLASC this year for Pupil Referral Units will be a paper only exercise apparently the DfES did not get the specifications to Capita in time for it to be included electronically...

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PLASC 2005

20th January 2005

16 SCHOOL DAYS TO GO.



Known Issues in PLASC 2005 .

Support Staff hours

You are not allowed to enter more than 99 cumulative hours for any support staff category.

Capita currently testing a solution that will allow for 9999 hours for the support category. This will address the situation in both Data Manager and SIMS .net versions of the software. This will be on Enhancement Release 2

SIMS (Pri) **SIMS .net**

Pre-admission students appearing on PLASC

If students are still in a Pre-admission group, why are they appearing on the PLASC return

All pre-admission pupils where the date of arrival has past and their status is Accepted will be included in the return. These pupils must be Admitted or Withdrawn as appropriate. You cannot currently delete a pre-admission group

SIMS (Pri) **SIMS .net**

Error Message 1622

“was/is in care but care authority is missing”

When a child has been in care in the school, but is no longer currently in care, they produce a PLASC failure. However on checking the record the care authority is clearly there.

This will be fixed in Enhancement Release 2

SIMS .net

Higher Level Teaching Assistants

Higher Level Teaching Assistant information introduced this year but there is no new category .

HLTA data can be entered for Secondary schools, as the original specs for software suppliers from DfES requested. DfES intended to change this to include all schools but unfortunately this information failed to reach Capita. Please see page 3 for information regarding the collection of this data from non-Secondary schools.

SIMS (Pri)

Error code 1805 “Connexions”

In SIMS.net the number of pupils showing with this error code, is less than it should be (found by running a report on the data in SIMS.net)

This will be fixed in Enhancement Release 2

SIMS .net

Failure error code 1670 - Borders

SIMS.net is not picking up validation check 1670 (a failure) but when checked at the LEA it is showing as a failure in DAZ against a pupil, but not in the error list at the school end.

This will be fixed in Enhancement Release 2 (The default for SIMS .net PLASC will be N)

It would appear that unlike Primary db PLASC where a default of N on calculation was used, this does not happen with SIMS.net.

SIMS .net

KEY: **SIMS (Pri)** Issue for Primary Schools **SIMS .net** Issue for Sims .net users

Manual HLTA Staff Head Count for ALL NON SECONDARY SCHOOLS ONLY

Remember that the following needs to be added onto your Summary Report recorded in the following format:

Headcount of Full Time HLTA Staff = x

Headcount of Part Time HLTA Staff = x

Total number of cumulative hours worked by Full + Part time HLTA = {tot hrs}

where x = no. of appropriate support staff

Please record this information as = ZERO for those that are not applicable, [this will stop the school being contacted to send this information.] After completion please ensure the Head-teacher signs the report and then fax it to **613290**.

For information on who is classed as an HLTA see the **Pre PLASC 2005 Exercises** document on www.hullictlea.com



ICT Provision: Remember this year there are additional questions:

Number of computers available in school for use in teaching and learning.

Number of teachers with personal access to a computer

Number of interactive whiteboards in school.

It is advised that the figures are collected before 20/01/2005. To find out what is included see the **Pre PLASC 2005 Exercises** document on www.hullictlea.com

**PRIMARY
SCHOOLS
ONLY NOTE:**

**In Data Manager check your settings Tools | Setups | CTF Setup
Assessment Data—this should now be “Use Assessment Manager 6 (SQL)”**
[This is not a PLASC issue but a general Data Transfer Issue.]



Useful Numbers

Helpdesk : 613972.

All Helpdesk staff will be contactable on this number on PLASC day, please use this number for any PLASC queries before PLASC day.

Fax Number: 613290

PLASC .net Demo.

To see a demonstration of a **PLASC .net** return. Visit **www.sims.co.uk/demos** and click **View** after **‘How to Create A PLASC return in SIMS .net’**