

## Introduction

The Data Dictionary is a resource created to assist administrators with SAM roster imports and exports.

This document is intended for technical staff, media specialists, or administrators responsible for student data management.

For help with technical questions, contact Scholastic at one of the following:

- Web site:
  - <http://www.read180.com>
  - <http://www.scholastic.com/sri>
  - <http://www.scholastic.com/readingcounts>
  - <http://www.scholastic.com/readabout>
  - <http://www.fasttmath.com>
- Email: [techsupport@scholastic.com](mailto:techsupport@scholastic.com)
- Phone: 800-283-5974

For help with renewing software support or purchasing new products, additional licenses, or other assistance, contact Scholastic Customer Service at one of the following:

- *READ 180*, ReadAbout, and FASTT Math: 1-877-234-READ (877-234-7323)
- SRI and SRC: 1-877-268-6871

## The Data Dictionary: Definition and Use

The SAM Data Dictionary is a resource that helps administrators manage data.

Data dictionaries, like language dictionaries, are a collection of definitions. In this case, the Data Dictionary defines how data is stored, exported, and imported for each product.

The SAM Data Dictionary is useful when exporting data from SAM for use in another database (for example, merging student data with a Student Information System or data warehouse) or importing data into SAM from another database or spreadsheet (for example, importing student and class information). The SAM Data Dictionary describes how SAM exports data; it also describes the correct formatting necessary to import data into SAM.

To export and import data, users will access wizards within the SAM application. For information on data aggregation and transfer, see each product's Installation Guide.

## Using the Data Dictionary

Make sure you're using the Data Dictionary that matches your version of SAM; there may be slight differences between each version.

You can find the data dictionary at:

*READ 180:*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/read180/techsupp/specs.htm>

*SRI:*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/sri/techsupport.htm>

*SRC:*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/readingcounts/techsupport.htm>

*ReadAbout:*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/ReadAbout/techsupport.htm>

## Import Rules

Follow these guidelines to successfully import teacher or student roster data into SAM.

### Required fields for students

FIRST\_NAME  
LAST\_NAME  
GRADE  
USER\_NAME  
SIS\_ID

### Required fields for teachers

FIRST\_NAME  
LAST\_NAME  
EMAIL  
USER\_NAME

### Optional fields for students

AYP categories  
GENDER  
ETHNIC categories  
PASSWORD  
SCHOOL\_NAME  
CLASS\_NAME  
LEXILE\_SCORE  
LEXILE\_MOD\_DATE

### Optional fields for teachers

DISTRICT\_USER\_ID  
SPS\_ID  
PREFIX  
TITLE  
SUFFIX  
PASSWORD  
SCHOOL\_NAME  
CLASS\_NAME

### Unique Identifier for Students: SIS\_ID

The SIS\_ID (Student Information System ID) is the student's unique identifier and, thus, is the key field for the SAM database and roster import. Because of this, an import file may not contain duplicate SIS\_IDs. The import process will fail until all duplicates are removed.

**NOTE:** The import process does not recognize leading zeros in SIS\_IDs. To SAM, the numbers 123, 0123, 00123, and 000123 are all different. Take care if your SIS\_ID contains leading zeros. Some spreadsheet programs such as Excel will drop the leading zeros when you open the import file.

All student profile data, except for the SIS\_ID, will be updated according to the data in the roster import file. An import file may contain the SIS\_ID of a student already in SAM, in which case the student's SAM profile will be updated.

### Unique Identifier for Teachers: USER\_NAME

The USER-NAME is the unique identifier for a teacher. If an imported file contains a teacher with a USER\_NAME that already exists in the SAM database, the information in the .csv or .xml file will overwrite the information in the database for that teacher.

If an optional field is left blank in the import file and data already exists in the database for that USER\_NAME, the existing data will remain as it is; blank fields will not overwrite existing data.

If an imported file contains duplicate USER\_NAMES for a teacher, the roster import will fail.

### Duplicate USER\_NAMES for Students

If an import file contains duplicate USER\_NAMES for a student, SAM will automatically distinguish them by appending a number to the duplicated entries. If the import file contains a USER\_NAME that is currently being used in SAM (by a student with a different SIS\_ID), SAM will append a number to the imported USER\_NAME. In the Message Center, SAM will provide a message after the import process, alerting you to any duplicate user names that were changed during the import process.

## Character Import Limitations

Each import field has character limitations. During the import process, SAM will truncate data in the import file that exceeds the maximum field lengths. This most often affects the USER\_NAME of students with long first and last names (for example, when USER\_NAME is set to “firstname lastname”)

## Password

PASSWORD is an optional field when importing, but is required in the Student or Teacher Profile. If the import file leaves PASSWORD blank for a new student or teacher, SAM will assign “password” as the value for that field. If the import file leaves PASSWORD blank for someone who already has a profile in SAM, the import process will not overwrite the existing password.

**NOTE:** Passwords are case sensitive. Take care when importing passwords with respect to capital letters, spaces, and special characters.

## Dependent Fields

A Dependent Field is one that requires an accompanying field during a roster import. For SAM imports, there are two such dependencies:

- SCHOOL\_NAME is required if CLASS\_NAME appears in the import file.
- LEXILE\_MOD\_DATE is required if LEXILE\_SCORE appears in the import file.

If SCHOOL\_NAME and CLASS\_NAME are included, the roster import will create the new class name – if it doesn’t already exist – and assign the student or teacher to it. If the roster import contains a student or teacher already in the database, that person will be assigned to the class listed in the import file, but will not be unassigned from any current classes.

**NOTE:** You cannot create new schools through the roster import process. A district administrator must add a new school in the SAM application prior to the roster import process. When importing a new CLASS\_NAME, the associated SCHOOL\_NAME must be an exact match to the school name in SAM.

Imported Lexile tests will display in SAM as an SRI Print Test. The import will not change or delete existing Lexile scores in SAM, even tests taken on the same date.

### Imported Scores for SRI

Imported scores will be treated no differently than any other Print Tests and will be included in SRI Reports.

When you import a Lexile score to establish a base line for a student's first SRI test, you might want to use a date BEFORE the school year starts. This way the imported tests will not be included in reports with the time period of "Current School Year."

Apart from this one SRI test, you cannot import performance data for any other product.

## Export Rules

The following rules will help ensure accurate, usable data exports.

### Excel Maximum Column Limit

Excel can display a maximum of 256 columns. If you export a file that contains more than 256 data columns, Excel will be unable to display all the data. You can avoid this problem by exporting products one at a time. The following chart displays the number of columns included in the export file for each product.

### Data Columns in SAM 1.1 through 1.4 exports

	SAM	READ 180	SRI	SRC!	rSkills	ReadAbout	FASTT Math
SAM 1.1	32	22	112	4	167	201	0
SAM 1.2	32	22	112	4	131	201	0
SAM 1.3	32	22	112	4	131	201	12
SAM 1.4	32	22	112	4	131	201	12

Note that even if an export file exceeds the Excel column and row limits, the data is still contained within the .csv or .xml file. The issue is limited to Excel's display capacity; large files can still be imported into a district's SIS or data warehouse.

### Active Student Data in Roster Exports

The export process only includes active students. Inactive students (those listed under "Manage Inactive Accounts") will not be included.

### Student Profile Information and Lexile Score and Lexile Date

The student's current Lexile score in the export file reflects the most recent test taken, regardless of the time period selected for the export process. The export wizard allows you to set a specific date range for an export; however, the LEXILE\_SCORE and LEXILE\_MODE\_DATE exported will be the student's last score and date, even if this falls outside of the date range selected. In this instance, the LEXILE\_SCORE and LEXILE\_MOD\_DATE may not show a corresponding score or date in the SRI columns. That being said, every SRI test taken within the selected date range will appear in the export file.

### SRI Test Names #

An SRI test can be a “Computer” test or a “Print” test. Tests that you have imported and tests that you have manually added in SAM will display in SAM as a “Print Test” and be exported as a “Print Test.”