

## DSA-S Overview

The SQL Data Staging Area (DSA-S) provides each college with access to their college data that is stored in the SQL databases hosted at the State Data Center by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Data may be extracted from the DSA-S to the college campuses using a SQL Server Linked Server. The DSA-S has been developed to become your data source to populate your locally hosted data staging area.

The SBCTC Upload Engine (SUE) will be used to distribute database scripts that may be useful when creating your staging databases. This will include scripts to add tables to your staging database and scripts to apply any subsequent schema changes that correspond to changes applied to the OLTP Production and DSA-S schemas.

## Prerequisites

To use the SQL Data Staging Area (DSA-S), you will need to have a target SQL database (either SQL 2005 and 2008) on a server at your college. The *Linked Server for OLE DB Access* data provider that is part of all SQL Server installations will be used to create Linked Servers for DSA-S access.

For your college to gain access to the DSA-S environment:

1. Create a SQL staging database on your campus. Contact the [SBCTC-ITD Service Desk](#) to request access to the SUE Upload site for SQL scripts to add the tables. You will receive the following:
  - a. College *SUE User* account name and password for access to the SUE upload site for database scripts
2. Access the DSA-S environment. Contact the [SBCTC-ITD Service Desk](#) to request access to the DSA-S environment, provide the following details:
  - a. The name and contact information (email address and phone number) of your college's team members that will be accessing the DSA-S
  - b. The IP Address of the server on your campus that you will be using as your data staging server to extract data from DSA-S
3. The SBCTC will update the network rules and activate your account. Once activated, you will receive the following:
  - a. IP address for the DSA-S server
  - b. College *SQL User* account name and password for access to your DSA-S databases

## Data Availability

The data in the DSA-S environment is replicated from the SQL Production (OLTP) databases in nearly real time. The DSA-S portion of this solution is the responsibility of SBCTC to maintain. This has been installed and configured to provide access to the Degree Audit and Financial Aid databases for each college's data.

## Documentation

The DSA-S environment contains data that is stored in SQL Server databases. Listed below are some documents created to help you better understand this data and how extract and use it.

- **Best Practices.** This document provides a summary of best practices to consider when extracting data from the DSA-S environment.
  - *DSAs\_BestPractices*
- **Meta Data.** These spreadsheets provide details about the tables, fields and data sensitivity for data found the Degree Audit and Financial Aid databases.
  - *DSAs\_DegreeAuditMetaData*
  - *DSAs\_FinancialAidMetaData*
- **Tips and Tricks.** These documents provide details for a better understanding about how to use the Degree Audit and the Financial Aid data.
  - *DSAs\_DegreeAuditTips*
  - *DSAs\_FinancialAidTips*
- **Financial Aid Crosswalk.** This spreadsheet provides a crosswalk to the data in the Financial Aid SQL database that is transferred to the Eloquence / SAFER database in the HP-UX environment each night. This map provides a way to find data in both directions, from SQL to SAFER and SAFER to SQL, making available details on the data that you may currently be extracting from the SAFER database in the DSA-E environment.
  - *DSAs\_SQL FAS to Safer Map*
- **SQL Server Linked Server.** This document provides instructions on how to create a SQL Server Linked Server on your college's SQL staging database server. The Linked Server is used to gain access to your college's databases in the DSA-S environment.
  - *DSAs\_CreateSQLServerLinkedServer*
- **SQL Server Database Schemas.** SQL scripts have been created that can be used to create a database on your college's staging area database for Degree Audit and Financial Aid. They can be downloaded from the [SBCTC Upload Engine](#) (SUE) site, using your SUE User account.
  - *DSAs\_StagingAreaScriptsOverview*

## Support

Direct issues regarding the DSA-S to the SBCTC-ITD Service Desk:

- **Email:** SBCTC-ITD Service Desk (support@sbctc.edu)
- **Phone:** 425-803-9721