Simplify and Streamline Your DASL Data Entry

A Guide to DASL Data Entry for 2021-2022

Why?  With your DASL data you can easily benchmark your school data to highlight successes, review trends, find areas that need additional attention, and contribute to the Independent School Community.

Where?  DASL.nais.org

When?  Going forward DASL will have two separate data entry periods. DASL Data Foundation entry opens June 9 and closes on October 15 at 5pm Eastern Time. DASL/BIIS Financial Operations data entry opens October 26 and closes on November 19 at 5pm Eastern Time.

How?  Make data entry easier on yourself by following the steps in this guide.

*Note: Steps 1-4 must be taken by the Head of School or Business Officer*

1. Decide how your team will enter data - page 2

2. Confirm the associations to which your school belongs - page 3

3. Add colleagues and set appropriate access levels - pages 4-5

4. Activate your DASL data entry - page 6

5. Choose between entering:
   a. Directly into DASL - page 7
   b. Excel Export/Import - page 10
   c. Export to Google Sheets/Import - page 10

6. Enter your data and use [Core Question Definitions](#) and daslhelp@nais.org to answer questions - page 11

7. Review, approve and submit your data - page 12
Decide Internally How Your Team Will Enter Data

Before you begin entering data, it will be helpful to decide whether one person will collect and enter all your school’s DASL data OR whether more than one person at your school will enter the data. Based on that decision, you can plan your process accordingly. See workflow tips below.

*Note: This is an internal decision at your school that can help organize your staff. You do not need to tell NAIS or indicate in DASL how you plan to enter data.*

**One person (coordinator) will collect and enter data.**
- Give coordinator permissions in DASL.
- Coordinator enters data.
- Enter any missing data and manage alerts.
- Review and submit data.

**More than one person will enter data.**
- Give all appropriate staff permissions in DASL.
- Clearly define who is completing which categories of data.
- Staff log in to DASL and enter data.
- Enter any missing data and manage alerts.
- Review and submit data.

**Online Form**
- Give coordinator permissions in DASL.
- Coordinator enters data.
- Enter any missing data and manage alerts.
- Review and submit data.

**Template in Excel**
- Coordinator downloads Excel template and sends to team with instructions & definitions.
- New: You can upload the template to Google Drive and share it with your team.
- Coordinator fills in data in Excel template
- Coordinator imports Excel file to DASL.
- Enter any missing data and manage alerts.
- Review and submit data.
Confirm the Associations to Which Your School Belongs

This step must be taken by the Head of School.

DASL is being used by more than 40 independent school associations to collaborate on collecting data from their members. It is critical that you confirm the associations to which you belong so you’ll be able to see and answer ALL questions from the applicable associations. (Some participating associations will ask questions to supplement the core set.)

1. Go to dasl.nais.org and log in using your NAIS username and password.

2. From the DASL home page, you will see a list of associations on the lower right to which your school is currently tied in DASL. Scroll down the page if you do not see it right away. You will also see this list on the Data Entry home page before activation.

3. Refer to the list of associations participating in DASL at the end of this document.

Missing an association?

If your school belongs to an association on the participating list and it does not show up on your home page, reach out to the association directly to have them add your school.
Set Appropriate Access Level for Each of Your School’s DASL Users

This step must be taken by the Head of School, Business Manager, or the person they have designated.

1. Go to dasl.nais.org and log in using your NAIS username and password.

2. From the DASL home page, click on **School Data Permissions** at the bottom of the left-hand navigation menu.

3. On the **School Data Permissions** page, in the DASL Users section, you will see all the individuals from your school who have access to DASL. Click on the boxes to indicate the access level each one should have in DASL. There may be additional people who have records in our database and are attached to your school, but do not yet have DASL access. See how to add a user on the next page.

### Pull Reports:
This user may use Benchmarking and other reporting features in DASL.

Note: This user will only be able to report on salary data if See Salaries & Compensation box is also checked.

### Edit Data:
This user may enter data in the current data collection and in Update School Data. See note above re: salaries.

### See Salaries & Compensation:
This designation adds access to salary and compensation data.

### Manage User Permissions:
This user may manage permissions and add new users.

### Activate, Submit, and Review Data Collection:
This user leads the data entry process for a school.

*Note: Heads of School and Business Managers automatically have this access and can opt to designate a colleague.*
Give DASL Access to Additional People from Your School

1. Your list of “DASL Users” includes all the individuals from your school who currently have DASL access. There may be additional people who have records in our database and are attached to your school, but do not yet have DASL access. To add another individual from your school to your DASL Users, click on the “Add User” button above the table of DASL Users.

2. First you will search our database to find that person’s record. In the pop-up box, start typing in the name of the individual. If you see the name, click on it, then click “Add User.” You can then assign DASL permissions to that individual.

3. If the name you are searching for does not appear, that means the person does not have a record in our database.

4. To add a user to our database, instruct the user to register with NAIS as follows:
   - Click Create a user account.
   - Enter his/her email address and click Search to confirm the user doesn't already have an account under that email address.
   - Enter contact information along with a username and password and click Create.

After the user completes the above steps, you will receive an email indicating that the user has registered. At this point, the user is in our database but does not yet have permission to access DASL. You should then return to this page to grant the user the appropriate permissions. If you do not see the user in the table of DASL users, click Add, search for them and add them, along with the desired permissions.
Activate Your DASL Data Entry

In order for anyone from your school to enter data in either the DASL Data Foundation or DASL/BIIS Financial Operations, the Head of School or Business Officer must activate data entry for your school. Activation must take place during the data entry window in DASL Data Foundation.

1. In the DASL navigation under “MANAGE DATA,” click “Data Entry.”

2. Click “Activate Now.”

3. On the Activation page, enter the data requested.

   Review and agree to the Terms and Conditions and click, “Activate.”
Enter Your Data (Option 1: Using the Online Form)

1. Click on Data Entry.
   
   The collection is divided into 12 categories of questions (11 in DASL Foundation and 1 in DASL/BIIS Financial Operations), each of which has one or more sub-categories. This page will display the list of categories and indicate your school’s progress in responding to the questions in that category. (In the example shown, in the category “School and Students,” this sample school has completed 15 out of 201 questions applicable to that school.)

2. Click the category name to go to that part of the data collection.

3. Scroll down the page and enter data in the fields.

4. Helpful Hints:
   
   a. For many subcategories in the data collection, you will find a box at the top of the page with a video and instructions for data in that section. Review these before entering your data.

   b. Use the “Populate with last year’s data” link at the top of the page if you want to enter last year’s numbers and edit them.

   c. Mouse over the “?” icon for a field to view the definition for that data point.

   d. Click the “page” icon to leave a note about any data point for future reference. This could be a note of how you got the data to enter in that field, or an explanation for a number that might look incorrect.

   e. Use the “N/A” icon to designate any field as “Not Applicable” if the question does not apply to your school.

   f. Save your work often by clicking the “Save” button at the top or bottom of the page or use the “Ctrl + S” command on your keyboard.

5. Within each category, fill in answers to the “Core Data” questions. Below, you may see questions from one or more of your associations. Fill in these questions as well.
Enter Your Data (Option 1: Using the Online Form), Continued

1. Within a category (e.g., School and Students), navigate from one subcategory to the next using the pull-down menus. OR click the “Next” button at the bottom or top of the page.

2. Not Applicable

This feature provides a quick way for you to respond to questions that are not applicable to your school. With the N/A option, you will be able to mark entire rows and columns as Not Applicable, so you don’t have to leave blanks in the survey. This will also ensure that the Progress bar will accurately reflect your completion rate.
3. Only Applicable Fields are Displayed

DASL has been designed to be more responsive than in the past. For example, if your school is a girls’ school, you will not see questions related to boys’ enrollment. To be sure we have not inadvertently omitted a question that should apply to you, we have checks built in. If you feel that there are questions missing from a data entry page, look to the top of the page for a message like the following. If you need to adjust one of your responses described in the box, click on that question name to go back to that point in the data collection.

![Only applicable fields are displayed]

On this page, DASL is displaying only the fields that are applicable to your school, based on the answers you provided earlier in the data entry process. Below are the specific answers you entered that determine which fields are shown. Click on the question to edit your response:

- Single Sex or Coed Designation: Girls
Enter Your Data (Option 2: Using the Excel Template)

You can opt to download an Excel template, use it to gather your data, and then import the template to populate fields for your school in the DASL data collection.

1. From the Data Entry 2021-22 home page, click the “Export Template” link.

2. An Excel file will open programmed with all the data collection questions, drop-down options, and validation rules that apply to your school based on the characteristics your school provided during Activation.

3. Save this file to your hard drive and enter your school’s data into the template.

   a. *New:* You can upload the Excel file to Google Sheets and share it with your colleagues. Each person can enter data into the sheet. When you are done, download the file as an Excel file and import it to DASL.

   To upload the Excel file into Google Sheets go to that application and click the + button and in the File Menu select Open and select the “Upload” tab and either drag the DASL Excel file into the box or select the its destination on your computer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The same login must be used to download and upload your workbook. If the workbook structure has been modified or manipulated in any way, your workbook will not upload. Please do not alter this workbook in any way, other than adding responses to cells that request data.*
4. All of the item definitions and drop-down menu options are programmed into the Excel spreadsheet. To access definitions:

Mouse over the red triangle located in the upper right corner of the item label to see the definition. If it does not pop up, look at the top of your Excel window. If you have a yellow bar that says, “Protected View,” Click on the “Enable Editing” button in that bar.
Enter Your Data

As a reminder, DASL Data Foundation entry opens June 9 and closes on October 15 at 5pm Eastern Time. DASL/BIIS Financial Operations data entry opens October 26 and closes on November 19 at 5pm Eastern Time.

If you have any questions, please try the following options:

1. **Questions about terms/definitions**: Please reference the [Core Question Definitions](#) document found in the Help tab in the upper right-hand corner of the DASL website.

2. Email [daslhelp@nais.org](mailto:daslhelp@nais.org) for all other inquiries.
Review, Approve, and Submit Your Data

This step must be taken by the Head of School, Business Manager, or the person they have designated. Confirm that all categories in DASL Data Foundation are completed, and when open, follow the same steps for DASL/BIIS Financial Operations.

1. From the DASL Data Foundation or DASL/BIIS Financial Operations home page, confirm that all the categories have been completed.
   a. If you are missing data in a category, click on that category title and review each subcategory within it.
   b. **New:** Click the Highlight Missing Data link to mark the fields with missing data with pink stripes. This will make it easier to find your missing data and reach 100% data entry completion.

2. Click the “Review Data” chevron.

3. The system will display two types of potential errors on this page:
   - Yellow messages indicate potential inaccuracies and/or missing data in the data entered for your school.
   - Red messages indicate data missing for required questions.

   Use this list to review and revise your school’s data as needed. Click the link in the error message to return to the data point in question. Add explanatory notes, if you feel they will be helpful to you and your colleagues in the future and/or to your associations as they verify data entries for your school.

4. When you are satisfied that all the data entered for your school are correct, go to the Submit Data section and click, “Submit Data.”
## Associations Participating in DASL 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACIS</td>
<td>Association of Colorado Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADVIS</td>
<td>Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIMS</td>
<td>Association of Independent Maryland and D.C. Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>AISAP</td>
<td>Association of Independent School Admission Professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>AISGW</td>
<td>Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington</td>
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<td>AISNE</td>
<td>Association of Independent Schools in New England</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATLIS</td>
<td>Association of Technology Leaders in Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWSNA</td>
<td>Association of Waldorf Schools of North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAIS</td>
<td>California Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAIS-CA</td>
<td>Canadian Accredited Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAIS-CT</td>
<td>Connecticut Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>CASE</td>
<td>Council for Advancement and Support of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSEE</td>
<td>Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education</td>
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<td>ESHA</td>
<td>Elementary School Heads Association</td>
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<td>EMA</td>
<td>Enrollment Management Association</td>
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<td>FCIS</td>
<td>Florida Council of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>FCE</td>
<td>Friends Council on Education</td>
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<td>GISA</td>
<td>Georgia Independent Schools Association</td>
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<td>HAIS</td>
<td>Hawaii Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>ISANNE</td>
<td>Independent Schools Association of Northern New England</td>
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<td>Independent Schools Association of the Central States</td>
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<td>ISAS</td>
<td>Independent Schools Association of the Southwest</td>
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<td>ISSL</td>
<td>Independent Schools of St. Louis</td>
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<td>MISBO</td>
<td>Mid-South Independent School Business Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAES</td>
<td>National Association of Episcopal Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAIS</td>
<td>National Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>NBOA</td>
<td>National Business Officers Association</td>
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<td>NEASC</td>
<td>Network of Sacred Heart Schools</td>
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<td>NJAIS</td>
<td>New Jersey Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>New York State Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>Center for Jewish Day Schools</td>
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<td>Southern Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>Tennessee Association of Independent Schools</td>
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<td>TABS</td>
<td>The Association of Boarding Schools</td>
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<td>NCGS</td>
<td>The National Coalition of Girls Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAIS</td>
<td>Virginia Association of Independent Schools</td>
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