

Session Keys

Reduce Session Natural Key Volatility

DATASTD-1302 Ticket Review

Consider Options to Reduce Session Natural Key Volatility

Infinite Campus have to change Session Name when a school changes their Term Descriptors.

Main concern lies around the field SessionName. SessionName, since it is part of the key for Domain Entity Session, needs to be stable.

TERM DETAIL		ED-FI CODE
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 08/31/2017 - 11/03/2017	Q1	First Quarter: First Quarter
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 11/03/2017 - 02/26/2018	Q2	Second Quarter: Second Quarter
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 02/26/2018 - 05/21/2018	Q3	Third Quarter: Third Quarter
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 03/27/2018 - 06/21/2018	Q4	Fourth Quarter: Fourth Quarter

These are the Term Names that we would send for each unique Term Descriptor. This is easy, 1 to 1 mapping.

TERM DETAIL		ED-FI CODE
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 08/31/2017 - 11/03/2017	Q1	Fall Semester: Fall Semester
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 11/03/2017 - 02/26/2018	Q2	Fall Semester: Fall Semester
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 02/26/2018 - 05/21/2018	Q3	Spring Semester: Spring Semester
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 03/27/2018 - 06/21/2018	Q4	Spring Semester: Spring Semester

If more than 1 Term is now grouped to 1 Ed-Fi Term Descriptor (many to 1), we would need to send a new session name as well as delete the old sessions and all dependent data underneath the old names.

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Eric's suggestions for future data model:

1. Add SessionIdentifier as key
2. Change SessionName to optional - consider this to be a "friendly" name.

Pros:

1. Adding SessionIdentifier will be consistent with partial key surrogate pattern
2. SessionName will be more flexible
3. More stable

Cons:

1. Gabrielle mentioned that EdFi doesn't like to use new surrogate keys(?)

TERM DETAIL	ED-FI CODE
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 08/31/2017 - 11/03/2017	Q1 First Quarter: First Quarter
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 11/03/2017 - 02/26/2018	Q2 Second Quarter: Second Quarter
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 02/26/2018 - 05/14/2018	Q3 Third Quarter: Third Quarter
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 05/14/2018 - 08/27/2018	Q4 Fourth Quarter: Fourth Quarter

These are the Term Names that we would send for each unique Term Descriptor. This is easy, 1 to 1 mapping.

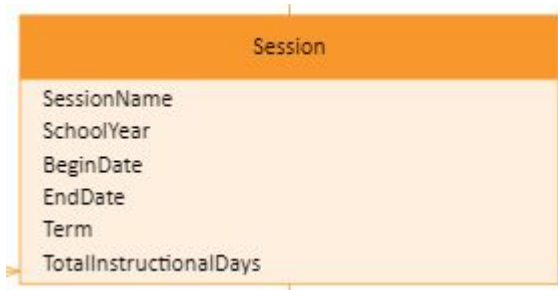
Term - First Quarter, Second Quarter, Third Quarter, Fourth Quarter; Fall Semester, Spring Semester

TERM DETAIL	ED-FI CODE
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 08/31/2017 - 11/03/2017	Q1 Fall Semester: Fall Semester
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 11/03/2017 - 02/26/2018	Q2 Fall Semester: Fall Semester
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 02/26/2018 - 05/14/2018	Q3 Spring Semester: Spring Semester
17-18 Trumbull High School Main 05/14/2018 - 08/27/2018	Q4 Spring Semester: Spring Semester

If more than 1 Term is now grouped to 1 Ed-Fi Term Descriptor (many to 1) we would need to send a new session name as well as delete the old sessions and all dependent data underneath the old names.

Session Name - Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4

It looks like Infinite Campus is mapping the same element to Term and SessionName.



Semantically, Term is meant to be the more generic type (Quarter, Semester, etc.) and SessionName is specific so it would include the school year, for example, or SessionName might be First Six Weeks, Second Six Weeks, etc.

E.g. (First Six Weeks for the Term)

Additional Suggestions

- Re-write the definitions of the following:
 - **Domain Entity Session**
 - E.g. “Denotes the subset of coursework within a term, each with various start dates. Sessions can last anywhere from four weeks to twelve weeks.”
 - E.g. Add “A session denotes the subset of coursework within a term.”
 - **SessionName**
 - E.g. Add “A session denotes the subset of coursework within a term.”
 - **TermDescriptor**
 - E.g. Add “Denotes the portion of the year in which the school holds courses.”

Notes

1. Ask SIS vendors if Session keys are causing issues.
 - a. How is the field using Session vs Term? Is Term and Session being used interchangeably?
2. Consider making TermDescriptor as optional if using SessionIdentifier (partial surrogate key)
 - a. Session and Term are being used interchangeably.