

## LinkB5 Data Security for Classroom Lists

### **Is LinkB5 a secure place to store information about children?**

LinkB5 data (including children's data) are stored at the University of Virginia within secure servers guided by the University's data security protocols for sensitive data and under the same level of protection as the child assessment data of VA state data systems, such as VKRP. Sharing and use of the LinkB5 data are also guided by protocols approved by the University of Virginia's Institutional Review Board, which are designed to protect the confidentiality of information.

### **Who has access to children's information in LinkB5?**

Individual user logins and passwords for LinkB5 accounts ensure that only Site Directors at that site are able to see child-level data in LinkB5. Region Leads are not able to see this information, even if the site allows access to site and classroom profiles. For this reason, site directors are the only users who can input child information.

### **How will children's information in LinkB5 be used?**

Children's information is stored in LinkB5 for state and project goals of understanding how Virginia's publicly-funded children are being served in early childhood settings. Individual information about specific children will never be shared or reported publicly or with anyone outside the PDG project in an identifiable way.

### **How is it allowable that data about publicly-funded children can be shared with LinkB5?**

The basic demographic information stored in LinkB5 have already been shared with the state for other purposes. Storing this information in LinkB5 allows the state and the PDG project to understand more about children's experiences in specific sites and classrooms within PDG.

### **How is it allowable that information about children funded by Head Start can be stored in LinkB5?**

We recognize the tension between protecting children's information (Head Start Performance Standard 1303 Subpart C) and following Program Guidelines for participating in local and state early childhood data systems (Program Operations 1302.53b3). LinkB5 is a secure data system, serving the state's agenda related to uniform measurement and improvement efforts, and data use is compliant with the regulations set forth in the IRB.

