NCES SURVEYS

NCES conducts a wide range of surveys designed to measure all aspects of the United States education system from early childhood education through postgraduate education and adult education. NCES collects these data through surveys of students, parents, teachers, and principals, as well as through administrative surveys of schools, districts, state agencies, colleges, and universities.

Among the most widely known NCES surveys, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) produces “The Nation’s Report Card.” This survey system provides achievement data on student progress at grades 4, 8, and 12 in mathematics, reading, and other subjects.

NCES serves researchers and policymakers by conducting a series of longitudinal surveys, which track the progress of students as they advance through school grades or college, and beyond. These longitudinal studies collect a comprehensive set of variables that enable research relating student, school, parent, and teacher characteristics over time.

NCES conducts large-scale administrative surveys that gather comprehensive information on each of the nation’s schools, school districts, and postsecondary institutions.

NCES household surveys provide information on adult education, parental involvement in education, early childhood education and other education activities.

NCES coordinates international surveys to place the American experience in an international context.

ACCESSING NCES DATA

NCES releases data in a range of formats designed to meet the needs of researchers, policymakers, news media, students, and the general public.

Website: contains comprehensive access to all NCES reports, web tables, data tools, data sets, graphics, videos, and survey documentation.

Publications: provide highlights of new surveys, analyses of selected topics, and a range of large annual reports. These publications are all posted on the NCES website in PDF format, with the most popular reports also featured in HTML format.

Web tools: enable users to produce custom tabulations from a range of NCES surveys. These web tools are flexible and allow the use of a range of filters and statistical techniques. Simplified versions provide convenient access.

Data sets: may be downloaded from the NCES website for many surveys, providing fast access to raw data for researchers. A restricted-use data license is available for qualified researchers to obtain more detailed data. Comprehensive survey descriptions and survey forms are available for all surveys on the web.

NCES News Flash: subscription is available to anyone wishing to receive up-to-date information from NCES.

NCES is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing education-related data in the United States and abroad. The NCES website puts that data at your fingertips!
MISSION STATEMENT

... to collect and analyze education information and statistics in a manner that meets the highest methodological standards.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Condition of Education has key indicators that summarize important developments and trends using the latest statistics.

The Digest of Education Statistics provides a compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from early childhood education through graduate school.

High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States provides dropout and completion rates and examines the characteristics of high school dropouts and high school completers.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety provides the most recent data on school crime and student safety.

Projections of Education Statistics provides projections for key education statistics including enrollment, graduates, teachers, and expenditures in elementary and secondary public and private schools, as well as enrollment and degrees conferred in postsecondary degree-granting institutions.