

## **Public and Private School Data from NCES**

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### **Common Core of Data**

#### **General Information**

The Common Core of Data is a data set pertaining to public schools by school year. Data are available at three different levels: individual school level, school district level, and state level. The data is collected for Public elementary and secondary schools, as well as for school districts. This data is produced by the National Center for Education Statistics (<http://www.nces.ed.gov>).

#### **Data Set Description**

Data for the Common Core of Data have been collected starting in 1986 and as of the date of this document are available for 2000-2001 school year. The complete set of data and documentation are available from the NCES website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>.

Individual school level data includes data on all schools providing free, public elementary and secondary education, state operated schools, and schools operated by non state education agencies. Three main types of information are included in this database: general information on the location and type of school, student information on number and composition of the student body, and staffing information on full-time equivalent classroom teachers.

Agency level information is provided for school districts in the US and its territories. General information on the location and type of agency is included, as well as student information on membership and high school completers and dropouts.

State level databases include data on the students and staff for the US and outlying territories with a US relationship. Data is included for agency identification, type of staff, student membership as well as high school completion and dropout, and state financial data.

Online Applications to search for public school and school district are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/search.asp>. Matching records are presented with formatted tables of the data from the Common Core Data for the 2000-2001 school year. The search can be conducted based on Geography as well as by name and characteristics of the school or district.

#### **Resources**

Common Core of Data 1993-94 through 1997-98 CD is available from the GIA Core. This includes a software extraction program for the data provided on the CD as well. Data files are available through the NCES website and are available in several formats. Manuals are also available through the NCES website. <http://www.nces.ed.gov/ccd/ccddata.asp>.

## **Private School Universe Survey**

### **General Information**

The Private School Universe Survey is a data set pertaining to private schools teachers and students every other year. The data is collected for all elementary and secondary schools in the U.S. that meet the NCES definition of a private school (i.e., a private school is not supported primarily by public funds, provides instruction for one or more of grades K-12 or comparable ungraded levels, and has one or more teachers. Organizations or institutions that provide support for home schooling without offering classroom instruction for students are not included.). This data is produced by the National Center for Education Statistics (<http://www.nces.ed.gov>).

### **Data Set Description**

The Private School Universe Survey consists of a single survey that is completed by administrative personnel in private schools. Information collected includes: religious orientation; level of school; size of school; length of school year, length of school day; total enrollment (K-12); number of high school graduates, whether a school is single-sexed or coeducational and enrollment by sex; number of teachers employed; program emphasis; existence and type of kindergarten program.

Data for the Private School Survey have been collected starting in 1989 and as of the date of this document are available for the 1999-2000 school year.

The Private School Universe Survey produces data similar to that of the NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) for the public schools. The data are useful for a variety of policy- and research-relevant issues, such as the growth of religiously-affiliated schools, the number of private high school graduates, the length of the school year for various private schools, and the number of private school students and teachers.

An online tool entitled the Private School Locator is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>. This tool allows access to the 1999-2000 data in an interactive format. Schools are searched by location or by specified characteristics and presented in formatted tables.

### **Resources**

Publications, data, and information about the Private School Survey are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>.

Some local users of NCES data have included Gerry Letendre, Eric Plutzer, and Sean Reardon on topics such as segregation in schools and policy effects on youth behavior.