



DATA ACCESS

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NCES DATA COLLECTION

- Impacted by both privacy and confidentiality laws
- Privacy Laws
 - Privacy Act of 1974
 - Protection of Pupil Rights Act
- Confidentiality Laws
 - Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002
 - E-Government Act of 2002, Confidential Information Protection Title V



NCES DATA COLLECTION

➤ Privacy Laws:

- Provide safeguards for individuals against invasion of personal privacy by requiring Federal agencies to ensure that individually identifiable data are current, accurate, and protected from misuse.
- Protect students and their parents from invasion of privacy by requiring parental consent and by limiting the topics that students can be asked about.



NCES DATA COLLECTION

➤ PPRA restrictions include:

- Political affiliations or beliefs; religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs; or mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Critical appraisals of close family members;
- Legally recognized or other privileged relationships—lawyers, doctors, clergy
- Sex behaviors or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; and
- Income.



NCES DATA COLLECTION

➤ Confidentiality Laws:

- Protect individually identifiable data furnished under a pledge of statistical confidentiality from being published in an identifiable form, from being examined by any unauthorized persons, and from use for any nonstatistical purpose*.
- Willful disclosures are subject to penalty as a Class E Felony with a fine up to \$250,000 and a prison term up to 5 years.

*Exceptions under the Patriot Act may apply.



NCES DATA ACCESS

- **Public-use files include anonymized versions of individually identifiable data.**
- **Restricted-use files include the more detailed individually identifiable data used by NCES for analysis (direct identifiers for persons are removed from all analysis files).**



NCES DATA ACCESS

- **Public-use files are available to all.**
- **Restricted-use files are available to qualified researchers for approved statistical activities, subject to terms of license agreement between NCES/IES and the researcher's institution or organization.**



NCES DATA ACCESS

- Data Search and Locator Tools
- School Demographics
- Peer Comparison Tools
- Table Building Tools
- Public Use Data Files
- Data Analysis Systems for Restricted Data
- Restricted Use Data Files



NCES DATA ACCESS

- **Data Search and Locator Tools,**
- **School Demographics, and**
- **Peer Comparison Tools:**
 - **Include basic descriptive data on public and private schools, school districts, school district finance, postsecondary institutions, and public and academic libraries.**
 - **Data Sources include NCES Universe Surveys, U.S. Decennial Census, U.S. Census of Governments.**



NCES DATA ACCESS

➤ Table Building Tools

- **Common Core of Data (CCD) Build a Table:**
 - Allows users to create customized tables of CCD public school data for states, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, districts, and schools, using data from multiple years.
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Data Tool:**
 - Allows users to create tables of detailed results from NAEP's national and state assessments. The data are based on information gathered from the students, teachers, and schools that participated in NAEP.



NCES DATA ACCESS

➤ Public-Use Data Files:

- Over 100 public-use micro data files, with data from the late 1980's through the present, are available on the NCES web site.
- Earlier data, from the late 1960's on, are supported by NCES at the International Archive of Education Data at ICPSR.



NCES DATA ACCESS

➤ Data Analysis Systems:

- Currently 10 public-use data analysis systems are available on the NCES web site for postsecondary surveys—primarily conducted during the 1990's.
- Provide online access to restricted data, allowing users to generate tables and correlations, and appropriate standard errors, without directly accessing the restricted data.
- Tied to variables used in NCES analysis reports.



NCES DATA ACCESS

➤ Restricted-Use Data Files

- Over 40 restricted-use micro data files, with data from the late 1980's through the present, are available through the NCES data licensing program
- NCES is currently supporting approximately 500 active data licenses



NCES DATA ACCESS: WHY

- Congressional mandate
- Federal education data bases that are available to all researchers help ensure increased access to a common information base.
- Secondary analyses of that common base lead to increased understanding and insights that benefit from cross-fertilization of ideas from multiple users analyzing data and publishing results.

