



Schools and Staffing Survey: 2003-04



Schools and Staffing Survey

U.S. Department of Education
Institute of Education Sciences
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SASS



What is the Schools and Staffing Survey?

The Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) is the nation's largest sample survey of the characteristics of America's public and private schools, districts, principals, teachers, and library media centers.

The SASS surveys a sample of public schools, private schools, and schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

SASS



How large is the sample?

Approximately 14,000 schools and more than 75,000 teachers are selected to participate in SASS.

When will the SASS be administered?

The next administration of the SASS will be during the 2003–2004 school year. Previous rounds of the SASS took place in school years 1987–1988, 1990–1991, 1993–1994, and 1999–2000. SASS data collection activities span most of a school year and begin with a personal visit by a field representative of the Census Bureau.

What is the Teacher Followup Survey?

The SASS also includes a Teacher Followup Survey (TFS) administered to a subsample of the SASS public and private school teachers in the school year following the SASS. There are two TFS questionnaires, one for current teachers and one for former teachers. These questionnaires cover such topics as current employment status, impressions of teaching, and future plans.



What topics are covered in the SASS?

The SASS consists of five core components and covers a wide range of topics. Illustrative examples of topics covered by each questionnaire are as follows:

The **School District Questionnaire**

- Characteristics of districts
- Teacher recruitment and hiring practices
- Programs offered (e.g., magnet programs)
- Support for professional development activities

The **School Questionnaire**

- Characteristics of schools
- Programs offered (e.g., extended day, gifted and talented)
- Decision making processes
- Parental involvement

The **Principal Questionnaire**

- Principal's characteristics and perceptions
- Decision making
- Performance standards
- School goals

The **Teacher Questionnaire**

- Teacher characteristics
- Teacher preparation
- Professional development
- Perceptions and attitudes

The **Library Media Center Questionnaire** (public schools only)

- Staff characteristics
- Expenditures
- Collection, including technology
- Services to teachers and students

What resources are available for SASS users?

The SASS web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass>) offers a wide range of information about the survey and some of the features are:

- General information about SASS is found in Overview.
- Descriptions of SASS and TFS questionnaires and downloadable files can be found in Questionnaires and Items.
- The Methods and Procedures pages summarize aspects of each round of SASS and TFS with links to methodological reports.

NewsFlash, an NCES e-mail service, alerts subscribers to recently published reports, opportunities for training, and other news. Persons interested in SASS can sign up for SASS news.

Recent reports and public-use data can be ordered, free of charge, from ED Pubs online at <http://www.edpubs.org> or by calling 1-877-4ED-Pubs, while supplies last.

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The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the United States.

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