

**Programs and Plans  
of the  
National Center for  
Education Statistics**

**1999 Edition**

NCES 1999-027



## Commissioner's Statement

Congress has given the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) the responsibility to collect and disseminate information on the condition of education in the United States and other countries, to analyze and report on the meaning and significance of these statistics, and to assist states and local education agencies in improving their own education statistics systems. To meet each of these obligations, the Center continually works with its "customers" in the education community to determine how it can best meet the demands for timely, useful information that maintains high statistical standards. Our goal is to provide a balanced portfolio of products that reflect interest in data about new topics, while still recognizing the need for basic statistical information about educational institutions and trends.

This report summarizes NCES' current statistical programs, including its major publications and plans for future work. In addition to updating the descriptions of our long-standing data collections such as the Common Core of Data (CCD), the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) this edition focuses on some of NCES' new and innovative work, such as the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten cohort (ECLS-K).

We have increased the availability of our data sets on CD-ROM. Together with advanced software packages that allow users to customize their search requests, these new electronic data systems greatly enhance user access and cost efficiency. In addition, most NCES reports and an increasing proportion of survey data can be accessed on the Internet through the World Wide Web.

The NCES contact person for each study and activity is listed along with numbers where they can be reached. These staff members would be pleased to provide further information about NCES programs. I invite you to send us comments on how we can improve our data collections and reports as well as future editions of this publication.

Pascal D. Forgione, Jr.  
Commissioner of Education Statistics



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