



SASS, TFS, and PFS Database Training Seminar Announcement

**Using the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Teacher
Follow-up Survey (TFS) for Research and Policy Discussion**

**Tuesday, July 12, through Thursday, July 14, 2011
Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 2½-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS), and Principal Follow-up Survey (PFS) for research and policy discussion.

This seminar is open to institutional researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from state and local education agencies and professional associations, as well as advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide.

OVERVIEW

SCHOOLS AND STAFFING SURVEY (SASS), TEACHER FOLLOW-UP SURVEY (TFS), AND PRINCIPAL FOLLOW-UP SURVEY



SASS is a data collection system designed to address a wide range of education-related issues. The 2007-08 SASS is the nation's largest sample survey of America's public and private schools and the teachers and principals who work in them. It also collected data from a national sample of public charter schools in the United States and schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

The Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) is a one-year follow-up of a sample of teachers who responded to the Teacher Questionnaire in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). The TFS is designed to measure the attrition rates of teachers who leave the profession and permit comparisons of those who stay in the teaching profession, those who move from one school to another, and those who leave the profession (stayers, movers, and leavers).

The Principal Follow-up Survey (PFS) is a one-year follow-up of all principals who responded to the Principal or Private School Principal Questionnaire in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). The PFS is designed to measure the percentage of principals who leave the principalship and permit comparisons with those who stay and those who move from one school to another (stayers, movers, and leavers).

Examples of topics that can be studied with the SASS/TFS/PFS data include:

- Teacher capacity as defined by teacher qualifications, teacher career paths, professional development needs and activities, instructional practices and support for these aspects of teachers' careers and practice by the school and the district;
- School capacity as defined by school organization and decision-making, management of curriculum and instruction, school safety, and parental involvement;
- District capacity as defined by policies over the recruitment, retention, and retirement of teachers, plus hiring policies for paraprofessional instructional aides and principals;
- Attrition rates for teachers as well as attitudes about the teaching profession and job satisfaction;
- Characteristics of those who stay in the teaching profession, those who move from one school to another, and those who leave the profession;
- Major activity/occupation data for those who leave the teaching profession and career pattern data

- for those who remain in the profession; and
- Attitudes about the teaching profession and job satisfaction.
- Attitudes about school climate and principal job satisfaction.

For more information about SASS, TFS, and PFS, please review the materials posted on the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/>).

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide researchers with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize a comprehensive resource on K-12 education in the nation. The 2½-day seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Programming instruction will be provided in SAS and SUDAAN. Specifically, the seminar will include the following:

- An overview of the 2007-08 SASS/2008-09 TFS/2008-09 PFS sample design, data content, and research potential;
- Methodological and technical issues relevant to data use; and
- Individual assistance in answering research questions.

Participants will be trained in the use of SASS/TFS data, appropriate estimation, and other topics deemed relevant. Specifically, participants will receive hands-on experience merging, manipulating, and analyzing data to address their research questions. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants shall submit a summary of their preliminary analysis results.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have a solid understanding of statistical methods, be experienced in using personal computers, and be proficient in the use of SAS, SPSS or Stata statistical software packages. The training will use SAS but also provide support for SPSS and Stata.

Applicants will be evaluated on:

- Significance of the proposed research and potential benefit from participation in the seminar;
- Appropriateness of SASS, TFS, or PFS data to address proposed research agenda;
- Experience in educational research;
- Knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages; (Please see the attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)
- SASS restricted-use license is preferred, but can apply “for training.”

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCES will provide training materials as well as computers for hands-on practice. For out-of-town participants, NCES will also pay for transportation, hotel accommodations and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses incurred during the training seminar.

LOCATION

The seminar will be held in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, July 12, through Thursday, July 14, 2011. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements (for out-of-town participants).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return the following documents:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume.
3. A 2- to 3-page statement clearly describing your research interests, including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specification of population, variables, research methodology, etc.), and preliminary analysis results if available.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor, if you are a graduate student.

It will not be necessary for you to mail the application form if you complete and submit the on-line application form, however all other accompanying documents are required.

In order to assure that your application and accompanying documents are received by the application deadline, **please email all documents as Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachments to Gordana Vukovic at gvukovic@seiservices.com.**

All applications and the accompanying documents listed above should be received no later than **June 7, 2011**. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be informed by **June 13, 2011**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements (for out-of-town participants).

Applications should be returned to: Gordana Vukovic
Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1440
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Contact Gordana Vukovic through e-mail at gvukovic@seiservices.com if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

NOTE: Applicants are allowed to attend no more than two NCES sponsored training seminars within a 6-year period.



APPLICATION
SASS, TFS, and PFS Database Training Seminar
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
U.S. Department of Education
July 12-14, 2011 ♦ Washington, DC

Dr. Mr. Ms.

NAME:

(please type or print clearly)

AFFILIATION:

TITLE/POSITION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

Computer Statistical Software Experience: All participants must have at least 2 years of SPSS, SAS, or Stata experience.

	Level of experience			
	Extensive	Some	Very little	None
SPSS (Windows)				
SAS (Windows)				
Stata (Windows)				

Please answer the following:

1. How many years have you used SPSS, Stata, or SAS? _____
2. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS, Stata, or SAS? yes no
3. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS, Stata, or SAS? yes no
4. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS, Stata, or SAS? yes no
5. Have you estimated standard errors for a complex survey design? yes no
If so, which package? _____
6. Typically, how frequently do you run data analyses? _____
7. Which programming language are you most comfortable using? SAS SPSS Stata
8. Do you already have a restricted-use license for SASS? yes no
If no, have you applied for one? yes no

Area of Research Interest:

Please attach a clearly written 2- to 3-page statement describing your research interests, including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specification of population, variables, research methodology, etc.), and preliminary analysis results if available. If you are a graduate student, a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor must be included with your application.

Completed applications should be submitted no later than **June 7, 2011**. Space is limited for this seminar. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be notified by **June 13, 2011**.

Applications should be returned to:

Gordana Vukovic
 Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
 8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1440
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (240) 485-1700

Email: gvukovic@seiservices.com