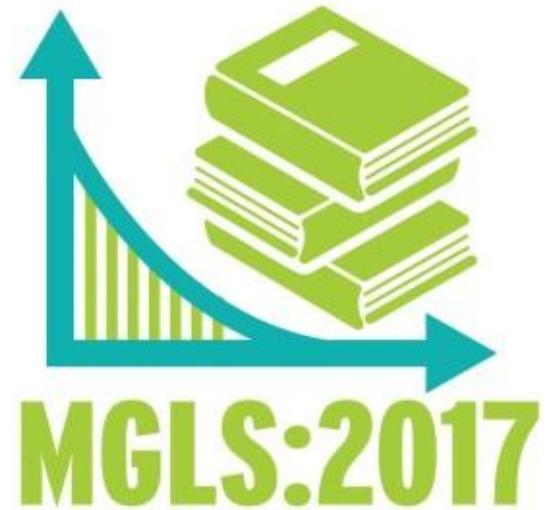


Overview of the Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18



Standing Committees Reports
2016 NCES Summer Forum and STATS-DC
Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC
July 12, 2016

Goals for Today

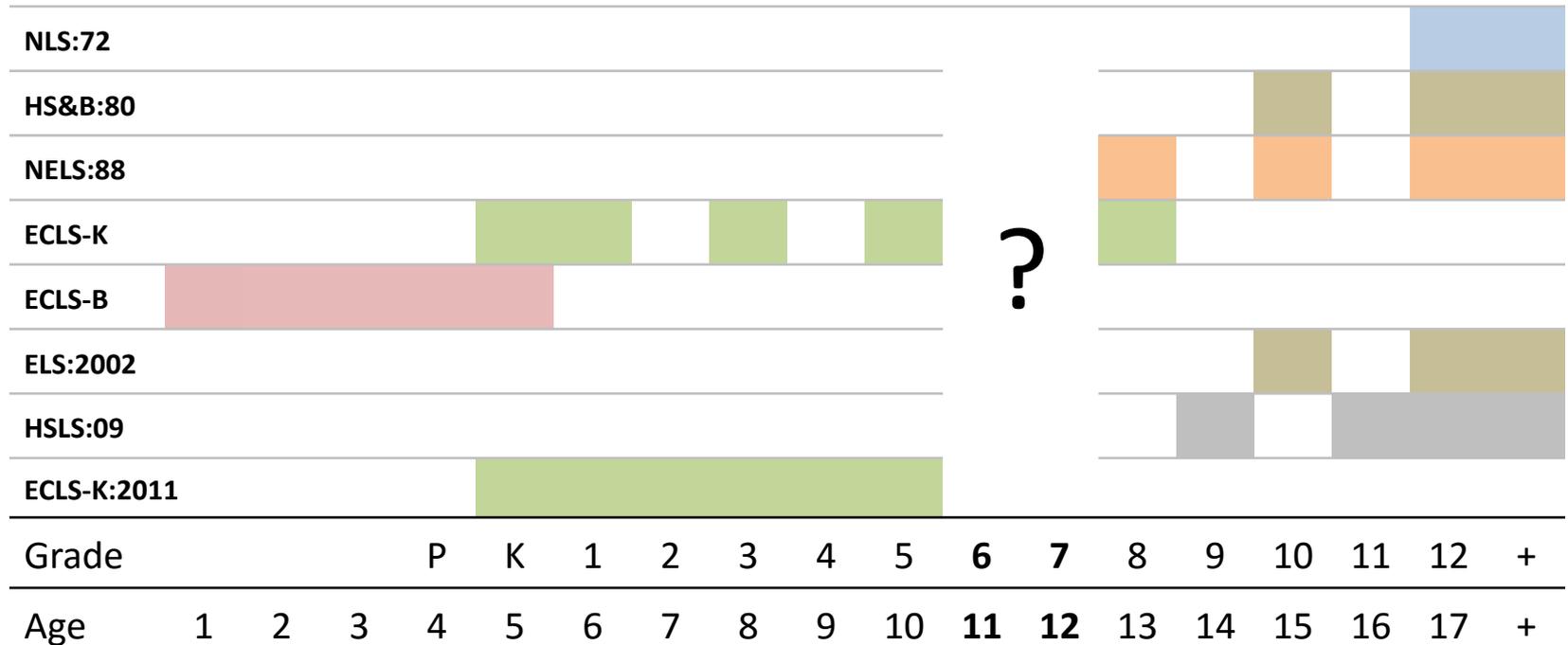
- Quick facts about MGLS:2017
- What can MGLS:2017 data be used for?
- What would states, districts and schools need to know?
 - Timing of Field Test and Main Study
 - School Selection and Contact
 - Student Sample
 - Survey Respondents
 - Administration Protocols
 - Follow-ups

What is MGLS:2017?

- A longitudinal study of sixth-graders being conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (Institute of Education Sciences/U.S. Dept. of Ed.)
- First study to follow a nationally representative sample of sixth-grade students as they enter and move through the middle grades.
- Measurement of student growth in mathematics and reading and aspects of their instruction in these subjects.
- Data to allow researchers to examine associations between executive function, contextual factors and student outcomes.

Historical context for this study

NCES longitudinal studies of school-age children 1972 to the present



?

Key Features of the National Study Design

- Nationally representative sample of sixth-grade students in the 2017-18 school year
- Public and private schools and their students
- Schools with different grade configurations
- Representative of three disability groups
- Baseline data (sixth grade) collected in winter/spring of 2018 with first follow-up in winter/spring 2019 and second follow-up in winter/spring 2020
- Students will be followed 2019 and 2020 regardless of whether they are promoted to the next grade or change schools.

MGLS:2017 data will be used to study...

- Students' academic (especially in math and reading), social, and interpersonal growth;
- Transitions from elementary school and preparations for transitions into high school;
- School connectedness, belongingness, and engagement;
- Characteristics of schools serving students in the middle grades and their relationship to student outcomes; and
- School progress and outcomes of students with disabilities.

Who do MGLS:2017 data apply to?

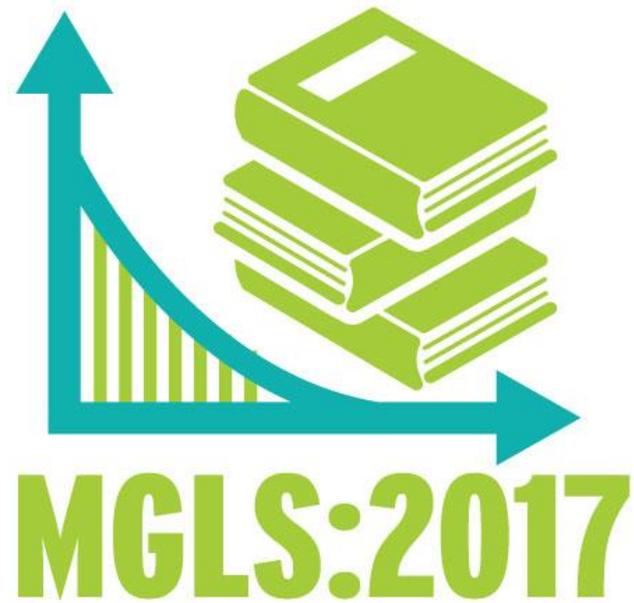
- Public and private school students in the U.S. in general education schools.
 - The main study will involve about 20,000 students enrolled in grade 6 from about 900 public and private schools.
- ... including U.S. students in general education schools in three IDEA-defined groups:
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Autism
 - Emotional Disturbance

Past and Future Field Tests

1) Item Validation Field Test (IVFT) in 2016

2) Operational Field Test (OFT) in 2017

- **Finalize recruitment and administration protocols**
- **Develop a tracking sample**
- Evaluate quasi-final instruments



Operations

MGLS:2017 - What Schools Should Know

- When are the field tests and main study?
- How would a school be selected?
- How many and which students might be included?
- Could a school or student be identified in the data?
- Could a school be in both a field test and the main study?
- Who is the school's contact?
- Who besides the student is surveyed?
- What are the administration procedures?
- How are follow-ups handled?

When are the field tests and main study?

I. Design Phase 2013-2017

- Instrument development
- **Item Validation Field Test (Jan-May 2016)**
- Refine Instruments
- **Grade 6 Operational Field Test (Jan-May 2017)**

II. National Study 2018-2020

- **Grade 6 Base Year (Jan-Jun 2018)**
- First Follow-up (Jan-Jun 2019)
- Second Follow-up (Jan-Jun 2020)

How will schools and students be selected?

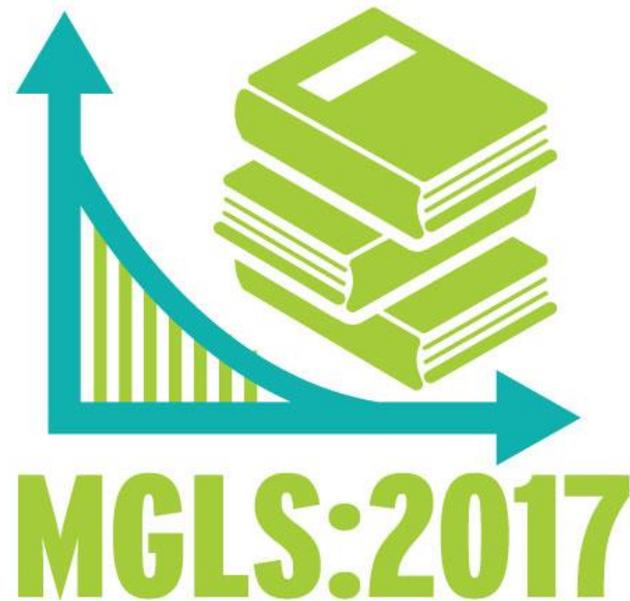
- The 2017 field test uses a quasi-nationally representative sample of approximately 1,200 students enrolled in grade 6 from about 50 schools in 10 geographic locations.
- The 2018 main study will involve about 20,000 students enrolled in grade 6 from about 900 public and private schools throughout the 50 states and DC.

How will schools and students be selected?

- Once a school agrees to participate, students are randomly selected from their sixth grade roster.
- Students with disabilities in general education schools are identified through school and district contacts and are part of the sampling frame.
- All students with disabilities are included in the sample, even if they cannot take the assessments.
- If we have trouble getting enough students in the two rarer groups, we may use oversampling.

Multiple Instruments and Respondents

- Student assessments and questionnaire
- Parent questionnaire
- Two-part teacher questionnaires
 - Mathematics teacher
 - Special Education teacher/provider
- School administrator questionnaire
- Facilities checklist
- School records/transcripts (in future)



In conclusion

How Can You Help?

- If there are schools selected in your state, help us to encourage participation.
- Promote understanding of MGLS:2017 among your colleagues and schools.
- Help us better understand your state's concerns.

MGLS:2017 Project Team

NCES

MGLS:2017 Project Officer: Carolyn Fidelman

Longitudinal Studies Branch Chief: Gail Mulligan

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RTI, International (RTI): Dan Pratt, Steven Ingels, Debbie Herget,
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Debby Kasak

Project Support

ESSIN (AIR): Kristin Flanagan, Dan Potter, Shannon Russell,
Jeremy Redford

Thanks for listening!
Spread the word about this historic study!



<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/mgls>

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Products for Policy and Research

- Federal reports
 - Descriptive reports of the characteristics of the cohort of students, their families, their teachers, and their schools
 - Analytic reports on various policy-relevant topics, e.g., the relationship between executive function and academic achievement
 - Indicators in federally-mandated reports
- Data files provided to researchers for statistical analysis
 - Used for policy briefs, academic journal articles, dissertations, and master's theses
 - Data from Grade 6 round should be available to restricted-use license holders in summer of 2019. Public-use data will be made available in late 2019.

NCES Data Resources

- Electronic Codebooks (ECB) and
- “Public Use” or “Restricted Use” Data files
Example from ECLS-K:2011
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2013060>
- Distance Learning Dataset Training at
<http://nces.ed.gov/training/datauser/>
- ED Data Inventory at <http://datainventory.ed.gov/>
- PowerStats at <http://nces.ed.gov/datalab/>