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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Ages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NLS:72</td>
<td>P, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
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<td>HS&amp;B:80</td>
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<td>NELS:88</td>
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<td>ECLS-K</td>
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<td>ECLS-B</td>
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<td>ELS:2002</td>
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<td>HSLS:09</td>
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<td>ECLS-K:2011</td>
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Grade: P, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Age: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, +
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
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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
- 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/