

2019 National Indian Education Study (NIES) Data Companion (March 2022)

Background

The National Indian Education Study (NIES) is a special study funded by the Office of Indian Education (OIE). The study includes oversampling of American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in public schools and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Schools. The study design includes students taking the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) operational assessment followed by a short survey questionnaire specific to AI/AN students about the role of AI/AN culture in students' lives and school experiences. Additionally, for teachers of the sampled AI/AN students there are surveys that collect information about teachers' backgrounds and instructional practices as they relate to the education of AI/AN students. (Note there also is a school administrator survey, however those data are unrelated to this data product.)

For both the student and teacher surveys, all of the questions were multiple choice, but a space was provided at the end of the survey for respondents to write in comments. There are two such write-in questions for each of the student and teacher surveys. The responses for these write-in questions are the purpose of this data product.

Intended Audience

Researchers without ready access to NIES restricted-use data (RUD) have expressed an interest in obtaining responses to the write-in questions in order to conduct qualitative analysis. (Note the write-in responses are also available in the RUD.) These researchers represent a sizeable component of the intended audience who may live in remote areas or may otherwise lack the ability to access the RUD. As such this public-use data file was developed for use in the AI/AN community and the general public.

Additional Variables for Analysis

A limited number of variables beyond the write-in responses are included on the public-use data product. These are deemed desirable for conducting qualitative analysis and include:

- DENSBI: AI/AN Density of School defined as (1) Public school less than 25% AI/AN, (2) Public school greater than or equal to 25% AI/AN, (3) BIE school, and (-) Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) or Private school
- NA25PCT: Density of school regardless of school type defined as (1) less than 25% AI/AN, (2) greater than or equal to 25% AI/AN, and (-) Missing
- SCHTYPE: Type of school defined as (1) Public, (2) Private non-Catholic, (3) Private Catholic, (4) BIE, and (5) DoDEA
- Mode: Indication of mode of survey response for teachers defined as (1) online and (2) paper

Confidentiality of Respondents

All student and teacher responses have been reviewed and edited to remove the presence of names or addresses and any other Personal Identifiable Information (PII). Additionally, responses that contain inappropriate text (e.g., profanity) have been suppressed. Edited responses include brackets around the text. For example the source text “School ABC offers many opportunities to learn” was replaced with “[School’s name] offers many opportunities to learn.”

Data File Structure and Contents

This data product includes two Excel files—one each for students and teachers. Each file included four worksheets including:

1. Source Questions: Images of the student and teacher write-in questions
2. Reporting Variables: Identification and details of the additional variables for analysis considerations
3. Student_Gr04 (or Teacher_Gr04): Responses for 4th grade for the two student questions (or teacher questions) and additional reporting variables
4. Student_Gr08 (or Teacher_Gr08): Responses for 8th grade for the two student questions (or teacher questions) and additional reporting variables

The student Excel data file includes the two student write-in questions, three reporting variables (discussed above), and a 10-digit student booklet ID (STUDID). The purpose of including the booklet ID is simply to have a unique identifier in the event a secondary user has specific questions. The booklet ID does not provide any information that would allow a user to link to a known student.

The teacher Excel data file is similarly structured and includes the two teacher write-in questions, three reporting variables (discussed above), a 10-digit teacher booklet ID (TCHID), and a 7-digit school ID (SchID). Additionally, there is an indicator for the teachers’ mode of response—online or paper. The purpose of including the booklet ID is simply to have a unique identifier in the event a secondary user has specific questions. The booklet ID does not provide any information that would allow a user to link to a known teacher.

The student data file includes those students who provided at least one of the write-in responses. Student sample sizes are 5,165 (grade 4) and 4,723 (grade 8). Similarly, the teacher file includes teachers who provided at least one of the write-in responses. Teacher sample sizes are 2,806 (grade 4) and 3,519 (grade 8).

The NIES Survey Questionnaires can be found at this link.

<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies/questionnaire.aspx>

The school and teacher questions included in this public-use file are the following:

Student Questions

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30. If you know the name of the American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group that you belong to or are enrolled in, or if you think you know it, please write it in the box below. Do not worry about spelling. If you belong to more than one American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, write the names of as many as you know.

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31. What else would you like to say about yourself, your school, or about American Indian or Alaska Native people? Use the box to write your ideas.

Teacher Questions

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26. What have you found to be the most effective teaching and learning strategies for increasing the achievement of your American Indian or Alaska Native students?

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27. In the space below, please share with us your thoughts about any other important issue(s) about your students, school, or community that are related to student academic performance, student aspirations, or other educational matters.
