



Introduction to the ECLS-K

Module Objectives

- Introduce the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K) and describe the study's
 - Design
 - Target population and sample design
 - Years of data collection
 - Study respondents
 - Data collection methods
- Highlight the topics for which data are available for analysis

ECLS-K Study Design

- Base-year sample included more than 21,000 children attending more than 1,200 public and private schools
- Data were collected at multiple points in time
 - Fall 1998 and Spring 1999: Kindergarten
 - Fall 1999 and Spring 2000: First Grade
 - Spring 2002: Third Grade
 - Spring 2004: Fifth Grade
 - Spring 2007: Eighth Grade
- Information was collected from children, their families, their teachers, and their schools

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Target Population and General [Sample Design](#)

- Nationally representative sample of kindergarten children, kindergarten teachers, and schools with kindergarten programs for the 1998-1999 school year
- Nationally representative sample of first-graders in the 1999-2000 school year
- Not nationally representative of third-, fifth- or eighth-graders
- Clustered, PSU multi-stage design
- Oversampling of Asian and Pacific Islander children

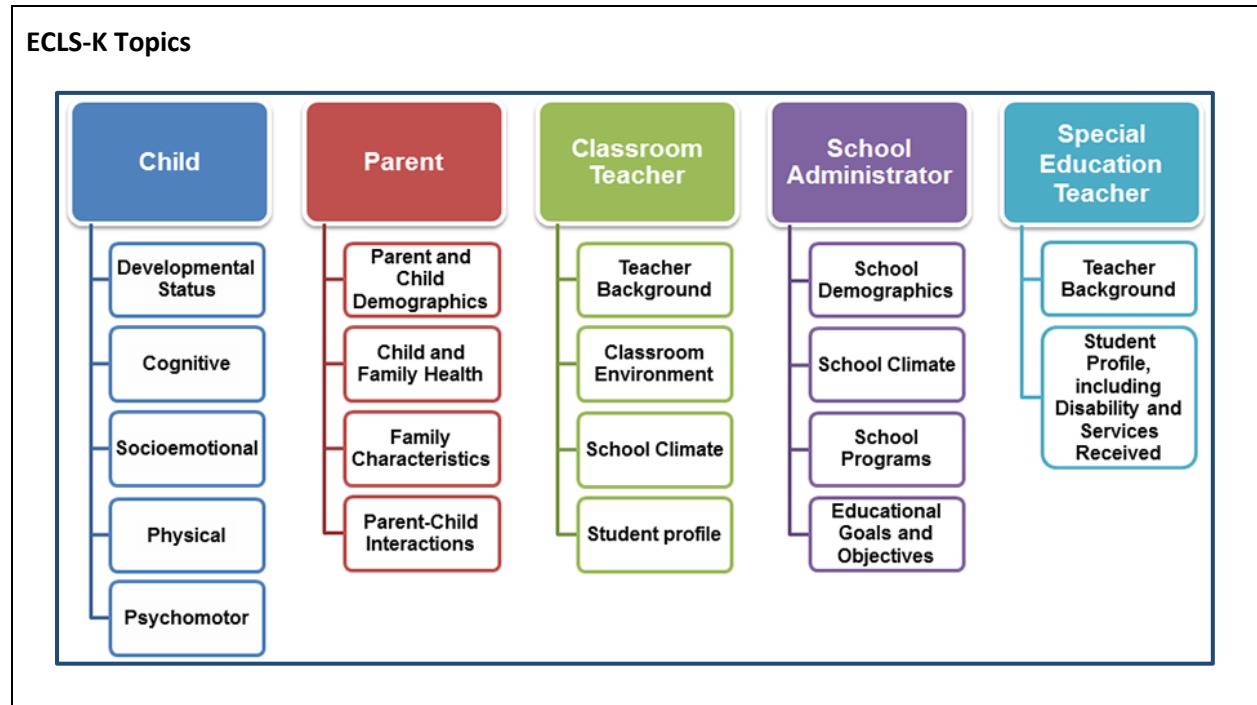
Sample Sizes Over Time

Data Collection Round	Direct Child Assessments	Parent Interview
Fall Kindergarten	19,170	18,100
Spring Kindergarten	19,970	18,950
Fall First Grade*	5,290	5,070
Spring First Grade	16,730	15,630
Spring Third Grade	14,470	13,490
Spring Fifth Grade	11,350	11,000
Spring Eighth Grade	9,360	8,810

*The fall first-grade data collection was conducted with a 30 percent subsample of the full sample
 NOTE: Sample sizes rounded to the nearest 10

Data Collection Components by Round

	Direct Child Assessments	Parent Interview	Classroom Teacher Questionnaire	Special Education Teacher Questionnaire	School Administrator Questionnaire	Student Questionnaire	Student Record Abstract	School Facilities Checklist
Fall Kindergarten	X	X	X					
Spring Kindergarten	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Fall First Grade	X	X						
Spring First Grade	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Spring Third Grade	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spring Fifth Grade	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spring Eighth Grade	X	X	X	X	X	X		



Head Start Verification Study

- Conducted only in the base year
- Purpose was two-fold: (1) to identify which children in the study attended a Head Start program and (2) to evaluate the accuracy of identifying Head Start participation through parent and school reports
- Head Start attendance information was first collected from parents and school records
- The name of the Head Start center was then checked against a database of all Head Start centers in the primary sampling units included in the study
 - If the center was found in the database, a questionnaire was sent to center directors
- Center directors reported whether the center was a Head Start center, whether they had a record of the study child having attended and, if so, when the child attended

Kindergarten Teacher and School Administrator Salary and Benefits

- Business office administrators and/or head administrators completed a self-administered questionnaire on the salary and benefit rates of the school head administrator and all kindergarten teachers in the school
- Data were collected about administrators' and teachers'
 - Base salary
 - Merit pay
 - Benefits

Strengths of the ECLS-K Design

- Assessments of children's knowledge and skills at the start of formal schooling
- Assessments of the same children at several points in time
- Fall and spring assessments in kindergarten and first grade
- Assessments not limited to children's academic achievement
- Information on multiple environments and from multiple sources

Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Introduced the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K) and described the study's
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Resources

- [ECLS-K](#)
- [ECLS-K Sample Design, Weights, Variance, and Missing Data Module](#)