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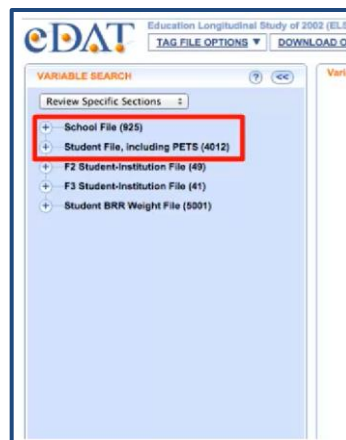**Getting Started with the ELS:2002 Data**

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Module Objectives

- Introduce users to the data collected across the data collection rounds of the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002)
- Describe the contents of the data files and their variables
- Describe the process of accessing the public-use ELS:2002 data via eDAT
- Describe the process of accessing the restricted-use data via the Electronic Code Book, or ECB
- Provide resources that are available to learn more about the study, the data, and the data file

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ELS:2002 Data Files

All public-use data, base year (BY) through third follow-up (F3), are available for download from the eDAT

- Student-level files
  - o Contain questionnaire, composite, and weight variables
  - o Contain context variables from parent, school administrators, and teachers
- School-level files
  - o Contain questionnaire, composite, and weight variables

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ELS:2002 Data Files (Continued)

Some ELS files and variables are not available within eDAT public-use data files and require a restricted-use license

- High school transcripts and school catalog
- Postsecondary Education Transcript Study (PETS)
  - o Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) linked information
- Administrative data files
  - o Contain data from Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)
- Barron's Competitiveness index file
- General Educational Development (GED) testing service file
- Geocode file
- In some cases, NCES creates composite variables of restricted-use data for inclusion in the public-use weights and composites files

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ELS:2002 Variable List

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The ELS:2002 Electronic Code Book (ECB) Description Window

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ELS:2002 Composites

- Types of composite variables available for analysis
  - Combination of data from multiple data sources, such as transcript and instrument data (F2HSSTAT)
  - Combination of data from multiple variables according to some construct (F1SES2)
  - Logically and/or statistically imputed values (F1SEX, F1TXMI1R)
  - Linked data files merged to the student level by STU_ID (F2SWITCH)
  - Recode of verbatim questionnaire responses (F2MAJOR4)
  - Data from survey control system (F2UNIV1)
- The source data for all composite variables is included in the ELS:2002 data files
- The code to produce the composites, if available, is included in the Electronic Code Book (ECB) or eDAT Description Window
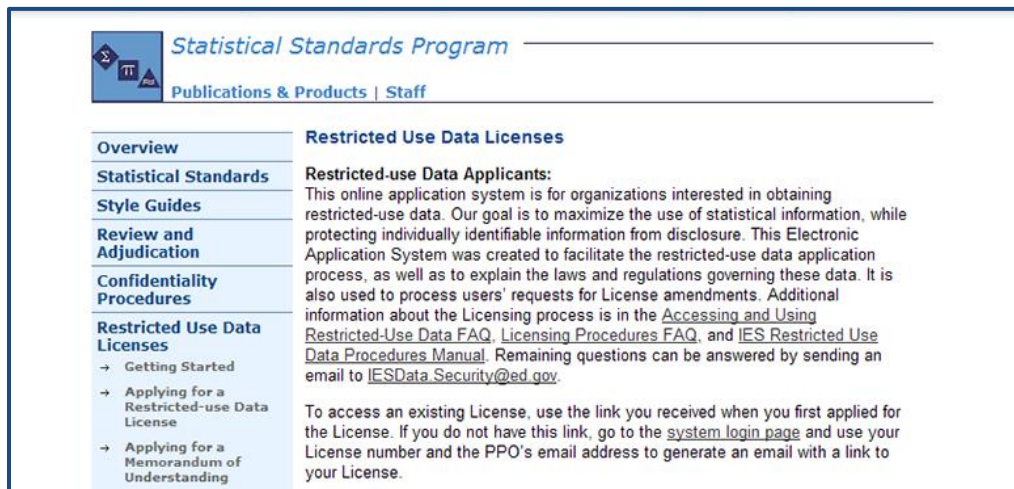

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Which data file should I use?

ELS:2002 Base Year to Third Follow-up Data Availability						
	Base Year	First Follow-up	High School transcripts	Second Follow-up	Third Follow-up	Postsecondary transcripts
Year conducted:	2002	2004	2005	2006	2012	2013
Date available:	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now
Restricted-use DVD 2015-035	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public-use (EDAT) 2015-314	✓	✓		✓	✓	Some composite variables available

ELS:2002 Data on CD-ROM, with Electronic Code Book (Restricted-Use)
- These data are available only in the form of an Electronic Codebook (ECB), a Windows application that must be installed on your computer. This ECB performs essentially the same variable selection and analysis file generation functions as the EDAT application.
- Step 1: Obtain a Restricted-use license for the Restricted-use data file: ELS:2002 Base Year to Third Follow-up Postsecondary Transcripts Restricted-use data (NCES 2015-314)
- Step 2: Once a license is granted, the requested data are sent by express mail to the licensee by an IES Security Officer

Restricted-Use ELS:2002 Data

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ELS:2002 Weight Variables

- Weights must be used to ensure accurate analysis of ELS data
- Weight variables are found under the Student File within the eDAT
  - Weights and Composites for BY, F1, F2, F3 and PETS variables
  - Files that begin, "Weight Replicates…"
  - ID and Universe Variables

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ELS:2002 Reserve Codes

- {-1} Don't know
- {-2} Refused to answer question
- {-3} Item legitimate skip/NA
- {-4} Non-respondent
- {-5} Out of range
- {-6} Multiple response
- {-7} Partial interview breakoff
- {-8} Survey component legitimate skip
- {-9} Missing

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ELS:2002 Student-level Analysis Files

- All student-level ELS analysis files will contain the same number of records
- Use the ID and Universe variables to understand the status of sample members across the ELS data collection rounds
- Consider reserve codes carefully as decisions are made regarding recoding missing data

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Accessing ELS:2002 Data

- ELS:2002 data are released in two formats
  - eDAT for public-use data
    - Files are output in seven formats
- ECB for restricted-use data (requires a restricted-use license)
  - Files are output in three formats

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Module Summary and Resources

Summary
- Introduced users to the data collected across the data collection rounds of the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002)
- Described the contents of the data files and their variables
- Described the process of accessing the public-use ELS:2002 data via eDAT
- Described the process of accessing the restricted-use data via the Electronic Code Book, or ECB
- Provided resources that are available to learn more about the study, the data, and the data file

Resources
- Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002)
- eDAT website
- ELS:2002 Variable List and Available Data page
- ELS:2002 Data File Documentation
- Restricted-Use ELS:2002 Data
- ELS:2002 Sample Design, Weights, Variance, and Missing Data

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