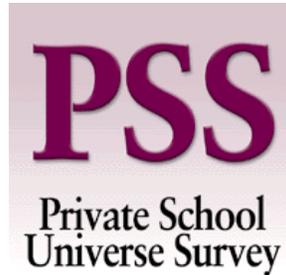


Introduction to the PSS

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Introduction to the PSS

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Module Objectives

- Introduce the [Private School Universe Survey \(PSS\)](#) and describe the study's:
 - Data collection cycle
 - Target population
 - Data collection methods and sources
 - Universe and dual frame
- Highlight the topics for which data are available for analysis

Introduction to the PSS

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Overview

- The Private School Survey (PSS) is designed to:
 - Generate biennial data on the total number of private schools, students, and teachers
 - Build a universe of private schools to serve as a sampling frame of private schools for NCES sample surveys
- The PSS produces data similar to the NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) for public schools
- The data are useful for a variety of policy- and research-relevant issues:
 - Growth of religiously-affiliated schools
 - Length of the school year
 - Number of private high school graduates
 - Number of private school students and teachers
- First data collection 1989-90 school year
- Data collections every 2 years since

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Target Population

- All schools in the 50 states and DC that:
 - Are not supported primarily by public funds
 - Provide classroom instruction for one or more K-12 grades, or comparable ungraded levels
 - Have one or more teachers
- Organizations or institutions that provide support for home schooling, but do not provide classroom instruction, are not included

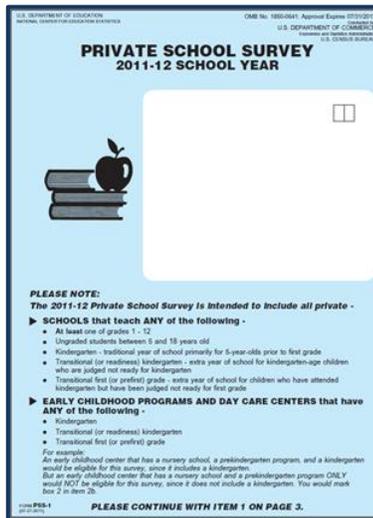


Introduction to the PSS

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Data Collection Methods and Sources

- [2011-12 PSS Instrument - Questionnaire](#): Designed to be filled out school administrators
- To access all of the PSS data collection instruments, visit the [PSS Data and Documentation Directory](#) and click on “Data Tools”



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Data Collection Topics

- Enrollment by grade, race/ethnicity and sex
- Number of prior year high school graduates
- Number of teachers
- Program emphasis
- School religious orientation or affiliation
- Association membership
- Existence and type of kindergarten program
- Number of days in school year and length of school day
- Whether school has library media center



Introduction to the PSS

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Dual Frame [Sample Design](#): Universe List and Area Frame

- PSS is a universe study in that it surveys **all** schools on its updated universe list frame every two years.
- Universe list frame from previous PSS (2009-10)
- Dual frame process to create current list frame (2011-12)
 - Previous list frame matched to current national and state administrative data
 - Supplemented using local administrative data from a sample of geographic areas



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List Frame

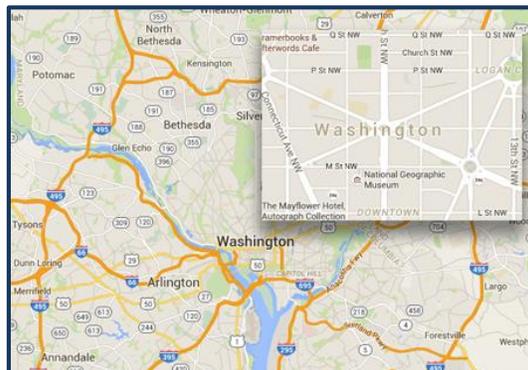
- Developing the list frame
 - Base list: Private schools identified in 2009-10 PSS
 - Membership lists from private school associations and religious denominations
 - 50 states and DC provided private school lists
 - Private schools that contacted NCES
- K-terminal school lists from
 - State departments of health or recreation
 - State child care licensing agencies
 - Child care referral agencies
- Early childhood operation

Introduction to the PSS

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Area Frame

- To identify private schools that were overlooked in the list-building component, a group of geographic areas were selected to be searched for potentially uncounted private schools
- Potential new schools were discovered through several sources
- The selection of the geographic areas introduces a probabilistic element to the PSS, which is accounted for by sampling weights for the area frame cases
 - Analysts will need to use sampling weights to account for the probabilistic nature of the area frame and the nonresponse adjustment



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Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Introduced the Private School Universe Survey (PSS) and describe the study's:
 - Data collection cycle
 - Target population
 - Data collection methods and sources
 - Universe and dual frame
- Highlighted the topics for which data are available for analysis

Resources

- [Private School Universe Survey \(PSS\)](#)
- [2011-12 PSS Instrument](#)
- [PSS Data and Documentation Directory](#)
- [Sample Design](#)