

Data Collected Through the PSS

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Module Objectives

- Describe the underlying principles guiding PSS and the associated data collected through the PSS questionnaire
- Describe data collection procedures
- Describe how the questionnaire items were developed in general
- Identify the questionnaire topics

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Guiding Principles for PSS

- PSS target populations
 - Private elementary schools
 - Private secondary schools
- No data collected on individual students or parents
- Homeschooling not covered
- Pre-K covered only if school has students in K-12 level(s)



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Guidance for PSS Items

- PSS has been guided by the needs of NCES sample surveys for data necessary to sample private schools
- OMB subject matter experts have also provided content suggestions and assistance with item review
- No assessments or psychometric measures

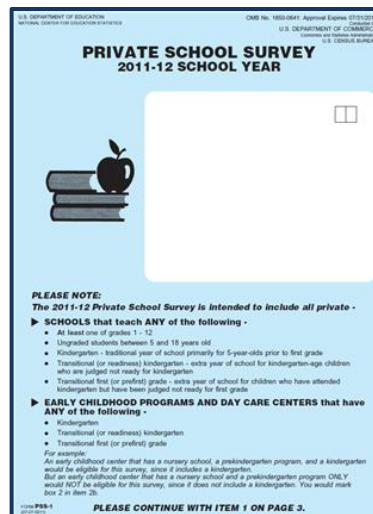


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PSS Data Collection Procedures

- Initial contact letter mailing
 - Addressed to school administrator
 - Issues survey invitation
 - Includes username and password to complete survey online
- Second survey invitation and paper [questionnaire](#) sent to school administrator two weeks after initial mailing



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PSS Data Collection Procedures (Continued)

- Telephone follow-up of schools that do not respond to mailings
 - 3-4 months after initial mailing
 - Schools can complete survey through computer-assisted interviewing (CATI)
- Field follow-up of schools that cannot be reached via telephone

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Data Collected for PSS 2011-12

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

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Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Described the underlying principles guiding PSS and the associated data collected through the PSS questionnaire
- Described data collection procedures
- Described how the questionnaire items were developed in general
- Identified the questionnaire topics

Resources

- [PSS Questionnaire](#)