

## Data Collected Through the PSS

### Slide 1 of 8

Title Slide: Data Collected Through the PSS

### Slide 2 of 8

PSS collects basic data from private schools. This module provides more detailed information about some of the PSS data that are described in the introductory module. This module is intended to help users determine whether PSS data fit their research purposes.

Throughout this module, underlined blue screen text indicates a link to additional resources.

### Slide 3 of 8

The Private School Survey is a survey that gathers basic data from elementary and secondary schools as institutions, generally grade levels K through 12. Some data about elementary and secondary students are collected, but data on individual students or data with identifying characteristics about students and parents are not within the scope of this data collection system. Additionally, homeschooling is not covered by PSS. Further, schools that have preschool students are only included in PSS if the school has students at one or more of the kindergarten through the 12th grade levels.

### Slide 4 of 8

From its inception, PSS has been guided by the needs of NCEES sample surveys for data necessary to sample private schools.

Officials at the Office of Management and Budget, or OMB, which regulates all federal surveys, also provided input by suggesting content, or at times, by assisting with crafting appropriate items.

However, although many NCEES surveys contain assessments or other forms of psychometric measurement, PSS does not have such measures.

### Slide 5 of 8

To collect PSS data, a contact letter is mailed to the school and is addressed to the school administrator. The letter includes an invitation to participate in the study as well as a username and password to complete the survey online. Two weeks later, another invitation to complete the survey online and a paper questionnaire are sent to the school administrator.

### Slide 6 of 8

Three to four months after the initial mailing, telephone follow-up is conducted with schools that have telephone numbers and have not responded to the mailings. Schools are given the option of completing the survey through computer-assisted telephone

### **Data Collected Through the PSS**

interviewing, or CATI, when reached via telephone. For schools that cannot be contacted by telephone, field or in-person follow-up is conducted.

#### **Slide 7 of 8**

Data collected for each school in 2011-12 included total enrollment, enrollment by grade, enrollment by race/ethnicity and sex, number of high school graduates from the previous year, number of teachers by full-time and part-time categories, program emphasis, school religious orientation or affiliation, association membership, existence and type of kindergarten program offered, number of days in the school year and length of the school day, and whether the school has a library media center.

#### **Slide 8 of 8**

This module has provided you with more detailed information about the content of the Private School Universe Survey questionnaire. Specifically, this module focused on describing the underlying principles guiding PSS data collection. This module also briefly described the questionnaire item development and listed the topics of the questionnaire items. The link to the PSS questionnaire is provided here along with the module's objectives for your reference.

You may now proceed to the next module in the series or exit the module.