



SASS and TFS Database Training Seminar Announcement

Using the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) for Research and Policy Discussion

**Wednesday, July 23, 2008, through Friday, July 25, 2008
Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 2½-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) for research and policy discussion.

This seminar is open to institutional researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from state and local education agencies and professional associations as well as advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide. Since an individual must have a restricted-use (RU) license in order to obtain a copy of the SASS RU dataset, preference is given to applicants who either already have a RU license or are in the process of obtaining one. (For information on applying for a restricted-use license, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/rudman/chapter2.asp>).

PURPOSE

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide researchers with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize one of the most comprehensive education resources in the nation and to use the data in substantive research. The 2½-day seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Programming instruction will be provided in SAS and SUDAAN. Specifically, the seminar will include the following:

- An overview of the 2003-04 SASS/2004--05 TFS sample design, data content, and research potential
- An overview of the 2007-08 SASS and 2008-09 TFS;
- Methodological and technical issues relevant to data use;
- Instruction and hands-on practice on how to use the Electronic Codebook and analyze SASS data; and
- Individual assistance in answering your research questions.

SCHOOLS AND STAFFING SURVEY (SASS) AND TEACHER FOLLOW-UP SURVEY (TFS)



SASS is a data collection system designed to address a wide range of education-related issues. The 2003-04 SASS is the nation's largest sample survey of America's public and private schools and the teachers and principals who work in them. It also collected data from a national sample of public charter schools in the United States and schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

The Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) is a one-year follow-up of a sample of teachers who responded to the Teacher Questionnaire in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). The Teacher Follow-up Survey is designed to measure the attrition rates of teachers who leave the profession and permit comparisons of those who stay in the teaching profession, those who move from one school to another, and those who leave the profession (stayers, movers, and leavers).

Examples of topics that can be studied with the SASS/TFS data include:

- Teacher capacity as defined by teacher qualifications, teacher career paths, professional development needs and activities, instructional practices and support for these aspects of teachers'

- careers and practice by the school and the district;
- School capacity as defined by school organization and decision-making, management of curriculum and instruction, school safety and parental involvement;
 - District capacity as defined by policies over the recruitment, retention and retirement of teachers, plus hiring policies for paraprofessional instructional aides and principals;
 - Attrition rates for teachers as well as attitudes about the teaching profession and job satisfaction;
 - Characteristics of those who stay in the teaching profession, those who move from one school to another, and those who leave the profession;
 - Major activity/occupation data for those who leave the teaching profession and career pattern data for those who remain in the profession; and
 - Attitudes about the teaching profession and job satisfaction.

For more information about SASS and TFS, please review the materials posted on the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/>).

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have a solid understanding of statistical methods, be experienced in using personal computers, and be proficient in the use of the SAS or SPSS statistical software package.

Applicants will be evaluated on:

- Significance of the proposed research and potential benefit from participation in the seminar;
- Appropriateness of SASS and/or TFS data to address proposed research agenda;
- Experience in educational research;
- Knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages; and (Please see the attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)
- SASS restricted-use license (an applicant needs to either already have a license or be in the process of obtaining one).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINAR

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCES will provide training materials as well as computers for hands-on practice. NCES will also pay for transportation, hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training seminar.

LOCATION

The seminar will be held in Washington, DC, on **Wednesday, July 23, 2008 through Friday, July 25, 2008**. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume.
3. A statement, clearly describing your research study (less than 5 pages is preferred), including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specification of population, variables, research methodology, etc.), and preliminary analysis results if available.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Space is limited for the seminar. Only completed applications will be considered, and only two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

Please note: Applicants are allowed to attend no more than two NCES sponsored seminars within a 6-year period.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications should be received no later than **May 2, 2008**. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be informed by **May 16, 2008**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements. Please send completed application to:

Gordana Vukovic
Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 450
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Contact Gordana Vukovic through e-mail at gvukovic@sei2003.com, by telephone at (240) 485-1700, or by fax at (240) 485-1982, if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Participants will be well trained with the use of SASS/TFS data, the electronic codebook (ECB), appropriate estimation, and other topics deemed relevant. Specifically, participants will receive hands-on experience extracting, merging, and analyzing data to address their research questions. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants shall submit a summary of their preliminary analysis results.



APPLICATION
SASS Database Training Seminar
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
U.S. Department of Education
July 23-25, 2008 ♦ Washington, DC

Dr. Mr. Ms.

NAME:

(please type or print clearly)

AFFILIATION:

TITLE/POSITION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

Computer Statistical Software Experience: All participants must have at least 2 years of SPSS or SAS experience.

	Level of experience			
	Extensive	Some	Very little	None
SPSS (Windows)				
SAS (Windows)				
Stata (Windows)				

Please answer the following:

1. How many years have you used SPSS, Stata, or SAS? _____
1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS, Stata, or SAS? yes no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS, Stata, or SAS? yes no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS, Stata, or SAS? yes no
4. Have you estimated standard errors for a complex survey design? yes no
If so, which package? _____
5. Typically, how frequently do you run data analyses? _____
6. Do you have experience with a SASS or SASS-TFS Electronic Codebook? yes no
7. Do you already have a restricted-use license for SASS? yes no
If no, have you applied for one? yes no

Area of Research Interest:

Please attach a clearly written description of your research study (less than 5 pages is preferred), including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specification of population, variables, research methodology, etc.), and preliminary analysis if available.

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