



## NAEP NIES Database Training Seminar Announcement

A Special Session of the NAEP/NIES Database Training Seminars for  
Research on American Indian/Alaska Native Students

Wednesday, June 27, through Friday, June 29, 2012  
Washington, DC

In an effort to encourage research on American Indian and Alaska Native students, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will conduct a 3 -day advanced studies seminar on the use of NCES databases for education research and policy analysis on American Indian and Alaska Native students. This seminar, sponsored by the Office of Indian Education (OIE), will focus primarily on the National Indian Education Study (NIES), a supplemental study conducted as a part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2005 and 2007. NIES is a two part study; the Part I represents NAEP reading and mathematics achievements of 4<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>- grade American Indian and Alaska Native students, Part II is a separate survey conducted to collect information on educational experiences of the students who participated in NAEP assessments.

The database for the study contains both reading and mathematics achievement scores for 4<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from public and non-public schools at the national level and 7-11 states identified as high-proportion state for American Indian and Alaska Native students. In addition to the public and private schools at the national level, the data base includes schools identified as Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

The database also includes background information on the students who were assessed and their learning environment, teachers and school administrators of the students who participated in the studies. In addition, the seminar will provide an overview of other NCES databases (e.g., CCD) that contain information on American Indian and Alaska Native students.

This seminar is aimed at faculty and advanced graduate students from colleges, universities, and tribal colleges and universities. Education researchers and policy analysts with strong statistical skills from state, local, and tribal education agencies and professional associations are also welcome. This special seminar is only for those interested in the education of American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States.

### OVERVIEW



NAEP, also known as “the Nation’s Report Card,” is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically at the 4<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>-, and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade levels in reading, mathematics, science, writing, history, geography, the arts, and other fields. By making information on student performance, and instructional factors related to that performance, available to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation’s evaluation of the condition and progress of education. At the national level, NAEP is divided into two assessments: the main NAEP and the long-term trend NAEP. Since 1990, NAEP assessments have also been conducted on the state level.

For more information on NIES, please review the materials posted on the survey website (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies/>).

In addition, NCES collected education data on American Indian/Alaska Native students as a special study in other survey programs: the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) and the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). For more information about these surveys, please review the materials posted on the ECLS-B (<http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/>) and SASS (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/>) survey websites.

## PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The purpose of this seminar is to provide education data analysts and researchers with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of what American Indian and Alaska Native students know and can do as assessed by NAEP. The participants will get hands-on experience exploring and analyzing the previously collected NAEP data. Although the primary focus of this seminar is NAEP, the participants will also be given a brief overview of the other NCES surveys that collect education data on American Indian/Alaska Native students.

The 3-day seminar has the following aims:

- to stimulate interest in using NAEP data to address current and future education research questions on American Indian/Alaska Native students;
- to enhance participants' understanding of the methodological and technical issues that must be addressed when working with NAEP data; and
- to provide instruction and hands-on experience in conducting statistical analyses on NAEP/NIES data.

The seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- an overview of the design and database contents of NAEP/NIES;
- methodological and technical issues that must be taken into account when analyzing NAEP/NIES data;
- example analyses and practice with NAEP-specific software;
- hands-on experience in conducting individualized analysis projects using NAEP data; and
- an overview of the design and database contents of NIES, ECLS-B, and SASS.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will submit a summary for a preliminary study design that uses NAEP/NIES data, including a clear specification of study issues, the rationale for the study, the study approach (specifications of population, variables, etc.), and preliminary analysis results, if available. When the study is eventually finished, a copy of the paper or report should be sent to NCES.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have a solid understanding of basic statistics including procedures required for analyzing survey data (i.e., data collected from multi-stage probability samples as opposed to simple random samples), have some familiarity with measurement theory, and be experienced in the use of personal computers. They also should be proficient in the use of the SPSS statistical software package. Participants will be expected to know how to perform basic SPSS procedures, including recoding data and running descriptive analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, means). Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- knowledge of and experience in the education of American Indian/Alaska Native students;

- consistency of the proposed research agenda with the NAEP data available on American Indian/Alaska Native students;
- experience in educational research and the potential ability to benefit from participation in the seminar; and
- knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages. (Please see the [application form](#) for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCES will provide training materials as well as computers for the 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 from **Wednesday, June 27, through Friday, June 29, 2012** at the Madison Hotel. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume, highlighting your experience with statistical analysis.
3. A 1- to 2-page statement, clearly describing your research study and how the study can be furthered by your participation in the seminar.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Your proposed research study should include specifications of issues, rationale, and study approach. Space is limited for the seminar. Only complete applications will be considered, and only two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

All applications should be received no later than **May 31, 2012**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned to:      Nicole Schray  
CDS2  
1900 L St. NW  
Suite 505  
Washington, DC 20036

Contact Nicole Schray through e-mail at [nschray@cds2.com](mailto:nschray@cds2.com), by telephone at (202)296-2528, or by fax at (202)296-2539, if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

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



**APPLICATION**  
**NAEP NIES Database Training Seminar**  
**National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**  
**U.S. Department of Education**  
**June 27-29, 2012**  
**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 experience.**

Software	Level of experience			
	Extensive (= proficient in aggregating, merging, reencoding, weighting, and analysis)	Some (= familiar with reencoding and many analysis procedures)	Very little (= simple descriptive procedures and reencoding)	None
SPSS (Windows)				
WesVar				
Other (specify)				

**Please answer the following:**

1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS?       yes       no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS?       yes       no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS?       yes       no
4. Have you run statistical analyses using SPSS?       yes       no

**Area of Research Interest:**

Please attach a clearly written description of your research interest and how that can be furthered through the use of NCES data (1-2 typewritten pages). Be as specific as possible. If you are a graduate student, a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor must be included with your application

Complete applications should be submitted no later than **May 31, 2012**.

***Applications should be returned to:***

Nicole Schray  
CDS2  
1900 L St NW  
Suite 505  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel : (202)296-2528 / fax: (202)296-2539  
e-mail: [nschray@cds2.com](mailto:nschray@cds2.com)