



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, June 6, through Friday, June 8, 2007
Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 3½-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.

PURPOSE

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide researchers with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to access one of the most comprehensive education resources in the nation and to use the data in substantive research. The 3½-day seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Specifically, the seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- an overview of the 1999–2000 SASS/2000–01 TFS sample design, data content, and research potential, with an emphasis on the newly released TFS data;
- methodological and technological issues relevant to data use;
- instruction and hands-on practice on how to analyze SASS/TFS data; and
- individual assistance in designing and carrying out a research study.

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 1999–2000 SASS is the nation's largest sample survey of America's elementary and secondary public and private schools and the teachers and principals who work in them. It also collected data from public charter schools in the United States and from schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

TFS is a one-year follow-up of a sample of teachers who responded to the SASS Teacher Questionnaire. TFS 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).

The following are examples of topics that can be studied with SASS/TFS data:

- 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 decisionmaking, 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; and
- major activity/occupation data for those who leave the teaching profession and career pattern data for those who remain in the profession.

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 four criteria:

- significance of the proposed research and potential benefit from participation in the seminar;
- appropriateness of SASS and/or TFS data to address the proposed research agenda;
- experience in educational research; and
- knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages. (Please see the attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)

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, from Wednesday, June 6, 2007, through Friday, June 8, 2007. The exact location has not yet been confirmed. 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 the following documents:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume.
3. A statement clearly describing your research study (fewer than 5 pages are preferred), including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specification of population, variables, 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.

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 **April 30, 2007**. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be informed by **May 11, 2007**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned 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) 485-1717, if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Participants will be well trained in 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. When the study is finished, a copy of the paper or report should be sent to NCES.



APPLICATION
SASS and TFS Database Training Seminar
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
U.S. Department of Education
June 6-8, 2007
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)				
WesVar/SUDAAN/AM				
Other (specify)				

Please answer the following:

1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS or SAS? yes no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS or SAS? yes no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS 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? _____

Area of Research Interest:

Please attach a clearly written description of your research study (fewer than 5 pages are preferred), including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specification of population, variables, etc.), and preliminary analysis if available. If you are a graduate student, a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor must be included with your application.

Completed applications should be submitted no later than **April 30, 2007**. Space is limited for this seminar. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be notified by **May 11, 2007**.

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