



What is the Schools and Staffing Survey?

The School and Staffing Survey (SASS) is a sample survey sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics, the Department of Education, and collected by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Schools and Staffing Survey is designed to provide policy makers, researchers, teachers, and parents with facts about the Nation's schools, such as in 2003-04:

- 18% of public school teachers had 3 or fewer years of full-time teaching experience;
- The average annual salary for public school principals was \$75,500; and
- 86% of private schools had vacancies for general elementary teachers.



SASS has been administered five times – 1987-88, 1990-91, 1993-94, 1999-2000, and 2003-04. SASS is on a 4-year cycle with the current data being collected during the 2007-08 school year.

Why is SASS important?

SASS is the largest, most extensive survey of K-12 school districts, schools, teachers, and administrators in the United States today. Its data are used by a wide variety of people interested in K-12 education, including teacher professional organizations, private school associations, education advocacy groups, legislators, researchers, and journalists. SASS provides a unique resource for information on elementary and secondary education.

How are the data collected?

SASS mails questionnaires to a sample of about 10,000 public schools representing all 50 States and the District of Columbia; about 3,000 private schools representing Catholic, other religious and nonsectarian schools. The questionnaires are sent to approximately: 13,000 principals, 5,000 school districts, 63,000 school teachers, in both the sampled public and private schools, and about 7,500 school library media centers in the sampled public schools.

Why was my school selected?

SASS represents all types of schools and their staff across the country – elementary, middle, and secondary, small and large, urban and rural, traditional public, public charter, and all types of private schools. Because there are so many schools in the United States, only a portion can be surveyed at one time. Your school helps represent facts about your state or your type of school, as well as for the level and size of your school. Your school's participation is important so that the results can represent the diversity of schools across the country. Make your school's data count!

What types of questions are asked?

- District policies and characteristics;
- Characteristics of schools and programs offered;
- Principal characteristics and opinions;
- Teacher characteristics and background, workload, and opinions; and
- School library staff characteristics, collection, technology, and services.





U.S. Department of Education
ED Pubs
8242-B Sandy Court
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Schools and Staffing Survey

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the United States and other nations.



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NCES 2007-###

Does my school's name and individual staff data remain confidential?

Yes, those are protected by Public Law 107-279, the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I, Part E, Section 183. No respondent's name, address, or any other personally-identifying information can be made public, with a penalty of imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine for offenders.

To see our publications and other information on SASS, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass>

Recent reports and public-use data can be ordered free of charge from ED Pubs online at <http://www.edpubs.org> or by calling 1-877-4-ED-PUBS, while supplies last.

