Respondent Contact Materials

1. Prenotice letter 2. Initial screener mailing cover letters Pilot cover letter (same letter used in 2009) Screenout screener cover letter* Engaging screener cover letter 3. 1st Nonresponse follow-up screener cover letters Pilot cover letter (same letter used in 2009) Screenout screener cover letter* Engaging screener cover letter 4. 2nd Nonresponse follow-up screener cover letters Pilot cover letter (same letter used in 2009) Screenout screener cover letter* Engaging screener cover letter 5. Reminder postcards Screener **Topical** 6. Topical first mailing cover letters ECPP* PFI* Homeschool* 7. 1st Nonresponse follow-up topical cover letters ECPP* PFI* Homeschool* 8. 2nd Nonresponse follow-up topical cover letters ECPP* PFI*

Homeschool*

^{*}A Spanish version will be created after OMB approval

Prenotification letter (front)

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

January XX, 2011

Dear _____ Resident:

I am pleased to inform you that the U. S. Department of Education has selected your household to participate in the 2011 National Household Education Survey. This survey collects information on the education of people in the United States. The study provides vital information that is used to improve education for everyone – information that is not available anywhere else. The results will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our diverse population in changing times. This survey is about all of us!

Your household was chosen at random as part of this scientific study and we cannot replace you with someone else. Although your participation is voluntary, your answers will make sure that households like yours are counted. Every type of household in America needs to be included in the survey.

You should receive the survey in the mail within the next week.

- It usually takes 5 minutes or less to fill out the survey.
- We will include a small token of our appreciation for your participation in this study in the envelope.

If you would like more information on the study, please visit http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/ or contact Westat, the company conducting this study on our behalf, at 1.800.880.3033.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important study.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky

Shuffeley

Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

Statistics

Prenotification letter (back)

Authorization and Confidentiality of Information

The National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education is authorized to conduct this survey under Section 9543, 20 U.S. Code. Westat, a private research company has been contracted to conduct this study for the U.S. Department of Education. Your participation is voluntary. Be assured that your answers will only be used for statistical purposes and that your individual responses will be protected to the fullest extent allowable under law (Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code). Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce statistics about the educational experiences of all Americans.

January XX, 2011

Dear [CITY] Household:

The U.S. Department of Education is conducting an important national research study about families and education and we need your help. The brief questionnaire enclosed will help us find households with children and youths. We will be asking households around the country about:

- the ways that schools and families work together to promote learning;
- the learning experiences of young children who have not yet started school:
- the learning experiences and resources available to homeschoolers.

Your household was chosen as part of this scientific study and we cannot replace you with someone else. Although your participation is voluntary, your answers will make sure that households liké yours are counted.

This short questionnaire is the first step in a study that provides vital information that is used to improve education for people of all ages information that is not available anywhere else. The results will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our diverse population in changing times. This survey is about all of our families.

Please be assured that all information you provide may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code). Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce statistics about all Americans' educational experience.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage paid envelope provided.

- It usually takes 5 minutes or less to fill out these initial questions, and
- only a few seconds if no one in your household is age 20 or younger. If your household does not include anyone age 20 or younger, fill out the first question in the enclosed form and return it in the envelope that is provided.

We have enclosed \$2 as a token of our appreciation. If you have questions or need assistance, please call Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) at 1-888-880-3033. You can find more information about this study online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

We understand and appreciate that people have many demands on their time, so we are grateful for your generous cooperation. Thank you.

Enclosure

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education Statistics

Month XX. 2011

Dear [CITY] Household:

The U.S. Department of Education is conducting an important national research study, and we need your help. This survey is the first step in a study that provides vital information that is used to improve education for people of all ages – information that is not available anywhere else.

Please fill out this survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope that is provided.

- It usually takes only a few minutes to fill out.
- The brief questionnaire enclosed will help us find households with children and youths. This information is used to later ask those households about their educational experiences.
- Even if you have no children in your household it is important that you return this survey so that every type of household in America is represented.
- The results of this study will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our diverse population in changing times.

Your household was chosen as part of this voluntary scientific study, and we cannot replace you with someone else. All information you provide may only be used for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code).

We have enclosed a cash token of our appreciation. Westat, a survey research group, is conducting this survey on our behalf. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact them at 1-888-880-3033. You can find more information about this study online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Thank you for taking part in this important study.

Enclosure

Stuart Kerachsky
Deputy Commissioner
National Center for Education
Statistics

January XX, 2011

Dear [CITY] Household:

The U.S. Department of Education is conducting an important national research study, and we need your help. This survey is the first step in a study that provides vital information that is used to improve education for people of all ages – information that is not available anywhere else.

Please fill out this survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope that is provided.

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Thank you for taking part in this important study.

Enclosure

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education Statistics

February XX, 2011

Dear [CITY] Household:

In early January, we mailed a survey to your address and asked that a member of your household complete and return the questionnaire. We have not yet received your response.

We are writing again because your household's response is important in ensuring that the U.S. Department of Education obtains accurate results about the educational experiences of children and youths.

As mentioned in our previous letter, this short questionnaire is the first step in a study that provides vital information that is used to improve education for people of all ages – information that is not available anywhere else. Your responses are voluntary. However, the results will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our diverse population in changing times. Every type of household in America needs to be included in the survey.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage paid envelope as soon as possible. The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law [Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002) Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code]. Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce statistics about all Americans' educational experience.

- It should only take about 5 minutes or less to fill out these initial questions, and only a few seconds if no one in your household is age 20 or younger.
- If your household does not include anyone age 20 or younger, answer the first question in the enclosed form and return it in the envelope that is provided.

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information about this study online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky

Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

Statistics

Enclosure

February XX, 2011

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- Even if you have no children in your household it is important to us that you return this survey. Every type of household in America needs to be included.

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The results of this study will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our diverse population in changing times. Thank you for taking part in this important study.

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Stuart Kerachsky
Deputy Commissioner
National Center for Education
Statistics

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Please fill out this survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope that is provided.

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- Even if you have no children in your household it is important to us that you return this survey. Every type of household in America needs to be included.

Your household was chosen as part of this voluntary scientific study, and we cannot replace you with someone else. All information you provide may only be used for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code).

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The results of this study will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our diverse population in changing times. Thank you for taking part in this important study.

Enclosure

Stuart Kerachsky
Deputy Commissioner
National Center for Education
Statistics

February XX, 2011

Dear [CITY] Household:

I am writing to request that a member of your household complete a brief questionnaire to help us find households with children and youth. I have written twice previously, but unfortunately we have not yet received your completed questionnaire.

We have mailed this third questionnaire using rush delivery because of the importance of <u>your</u> response.

As mentioned in earlier letters, this short questionnaire is the first step in a study that provides valuable information that is used to improve education for people of all ages – information that is not available anywhere else. The results will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our nation. Your household was selected to represent thousands of households like yours and every type of household in America needs to be included in the survey.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage paid envelope **as soon as possible**.

• If your household does not include anyone age 20 or younger, answer the first question and return the form in the envelope that is provided.

If you have questions or need assistance, Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) will be happy to help and can be reached by telephone at 1-888-880-3033. You can find more information about this study online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

National Center for Education Statistics

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February XX, 2011

Dear [CITY] Household:

I am writing to request that a member of your household complete a brief questionnaire. I have written twice previously, but unfortunately we have not yet received your completed questionnaire.

We have mailed this third questionnaire using rush delivery because of the importance of <u>your</u> response.

As mentioned in earlier letters, this short questionnaire is the first step in a study that provides valuable information that is used to improve education for people of all ages – information that is not available anywhere else. The results will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our nation. Your household was selected to represent thousands of households like yours and every type of household in America needs to be included in the survey.

Westat, a survey research group, is conducting this survey on our behalf. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact them at 1-888-880-3033. You can find more information about this study online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. Thank you for taking part in this important study.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky

Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

Statistics

Enclosure

Section 9543, 20 of the U.S. Code authorizes the National Center for Education Statistics to conduct this survey. Your responses are voluntary and will be used for statistical purposes only and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law [Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002) Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code].

February XX, 2011

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I am writing to request that a member of your household complete a brief questionnaire. I have written twice previously, but unfortunately we have not yet received your completed questionnaire.

We have mailed this third questionnaire using rush delivery because of the importance of <u>your</u> response.

As mentioned in earlier letters, this short questionnaire is the first step in a study that provides valuable information that is used to improve education for people of all ages – information that is not available anywhere else. The results will help policymakers, researchers, and educators understand the educational needs of our nation. Your household was selected to represent thousands of households like yours and every type of household in America needs to be included in the survey.

Westat, a survey research group, is conducting this survey on our behalf. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact them at 1-888-880-3033. You can find more information about this study online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. Thank you for taking part in this important study.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

Statistics

Enclosure

Section 9543, 20 of the U.S. Code authorizes the National Center for Education Statistics to conduct this survey. Your responses are voluntary and will be used for statistical purposes only and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law [Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002) Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code].

Reminder postcards

Screener

January 2011

Last week we mailed you a questionnaire for the National Household Education Survey, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. If someone in your household has already returned the survey, we thank you very much for your help.

If you have not completed and returned your survey, please do so right away. We need to hear from everyone and your help is very important to us. Your household was randomly selected to take part in this survey and cannot be replaced.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 1-888-880-3033 or visit our website http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky, Deputy Commissioner, National Center for Education Statistics

Topical

January 2011

Last week we mailed you a follow-up questionnaire for the National Household Education Survey, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. That questionnaire is the second and final step in learning more about your child's care or educational experiences.

If someone in your household has already returned the survey, thank you for your prompt response. If you have not completed and returned your survey, please do so right away. We need to hear from everyone and your help is very important to us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 1-888-880-3033 or visit our website http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky, Deputy Commissioner, National Center for Education Statistics

ECPP cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

A few weeks ago your household helped us by completing a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. Thank you for your response. I'm now asking you to help us by completing the final part of this important study. The study is used by educators, policymakers, and researchers to understand the educational experiences and needs of all children in the United States.

The survey you returned to us stated that the child listed below lives in this household. When completing the enclosed survey please answer about:

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

This national educational study will provide much needed information about children's early learning, the programs in which children participate, and how families prepare children for school. Although your participation is voluntary, your response to this survey is important as it will help provide a clear picture of children's educational experiences in the United States. Please be assured that all information you give may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 US Code). Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce national statistics about children's educational experiences.

The National Center for Education Statistics, within the Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey (Section 9543, 20 US Code). Westat, a research firm under contract with the U.S. Department of Education, is administering the survey. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. The enclosed survey should only take about 20 minutes to complete. Please return the survey in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions about the study or need replacement materials please call Westat toll-free at 1-888-880-3033.

Enclosure Statistics Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education

PFI cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

A few weeks ago your household helped us by completing a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. Thank you for your response. I'm now asking you to help us by completing the final part of this important study. The study is used by educators, policymakers, and researchers to understand the educational experiences and needs of all children in the United States.

The survey you returned to us stated that the child listed below lives in this household. When completing the enclosed survey please answer about:

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

This national educational study will provide much needed information on how schools and families work together to promote children's learning. Although your participation is voluntary, your response to this survey is important as it will help provide a clear picture of children's educational experiences in the United States. Please be assured that all information you give may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 US Code). Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce national statistics about children's educational experiences.

The National Center for Education Statistics, within the Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey (Section 9543, 20 US Code). Westat, a research firm under contract with the U.S. Department of Education, is administering the survey. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. The enclosed survey should only take about 20 minutes to complete. Please return the survey in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions about the study or need replacement materials please call Westat toll-free at 1-888-880-3033.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education

Enclosure Statistics

Homeschool cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

A few weeks ago your household helped us by completing a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. Thank you for your response. I'm now asking you to help us by completing the final part of this important study.

- This national education study is the only study that provides nationally representative information on homeschooling practices and resources in the United States.
- Although your participation is voluntary, your response to this survey is important. It will help provide a clear picture of all children's educational experiences in the United States.

The survey you returned to us stated that the child listed below lives in this household. When completing the enclosed survey please answer about:

{Child, age X}

Please be assured that all information you give may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Section 9573, 20 US Code). Your responses will be combined with those of others to produce national statistics about children's educational experiences.

The National Center for Education Statistics, within the Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey (Section 9543, 20 US Code). Westat, a research firm under contract with the U.S. Department of Education, is administering the survey. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://nces.ed.gov/nhes.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. The enclosed survey should only take about 20 minutes to complete. Please return the survey in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions about the study or need replacement materials please call Westat toll-free at 1-888-880-3033.

Enclosure Statistics Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education

ECPP 1st non response follow-up cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

About three weeks ago, we mailed a survey to be completed by a member of your household about the child listed below.

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

We have not yet received a response from your household. You were sent that survey (and the replacement enclosed with this letter) because your household returned a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. We are writing again because your household's response is important in ensuring that the U.S. Department of Education obtains accurate results.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. It should only take 20 minutes or less to fill out this survey.

As mentioned before, this survey is the final step in a study that provides vital information about children's early learning, the programs in which children participate, and how families prepare children for school.

If you have questions or need assistance, Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) will be happy to help and can be reached by telephone at 1-888-880-3033. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

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PFI 1st non response follow-up cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

About three weeks ago, we mailed a survey to be completed by a member of your household about the child listed below.

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

We have not yet received a response from your household. You were sent that survey (and the replacement enclosed with this letter) because your household returned a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. We are writing again because your household's response is important in ensuring that the U.S. Department of Education obtains accurate results.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. It should only take 20 minutes or less to fill out this survey.

As mentioned before, this is the final step in a study that provides vital information on how schools and families work together to promote children's learning.

If you have questions or need assistance, Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) will be happy to help and can be reached by telephone at 1-888-880-3033. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education

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Homeschool 1st non response follow-up cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

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We have not yet received a response from your household. You were sent that survey (and the replacement enclosed with this letter) because your household returned a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. We are writing again because your household's response is important in ensuring that the U.S. Department of Education obtains accurate results.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. It should only take 20 minutes or less to fill out this survey.

As mentioned before, this is the final step in a study that provides nationally representative information on homeschooling practices and resources in the United States.

If you have questions or need assistance, Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) will be happy to help and can be reached by telephone at 1-888-880-3033. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

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ECPP 2st non response follow-up cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

I had written in {MONTH} to request that your household complete a brief questionnaire about the child listed below. The child was selected based on an earlier survey that you filled out.

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

Unfortunately, we have not yet received your completed questionnaire. You were sent those surveys (and the replacement enclosed with this letter) because your household filled out a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. In that short survey, you told us this child lived here, and we have randomly selected that child to ask about in this follow-up survey.

We have mailed this third replacement questionnaire because of the importance of <u>your</u> response.

As mentioned before, this survey is the final step in a study that provides valuable information about children's early learning, the programs in which children participate, and how families prepare children for school. Your response to this survey will help provide a clear picture of children's educational experiences in the United States.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope **as soon as possible**.

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If you have questions or need assistance, Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) will be happy to help and can be reached by telephone at 1-888-880-3033. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

Enclosure Statistics

ECPP 2st non response follow-up cover letter - Back page

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PFI 2st non response follow-up cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

I had written in {MONTH} to request that your household complete a brief questionnaire about the child listed below. The child was selected based on an earlier survey that you filled out.

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

Unfortunately, we have not yet received your completed questionnaire. You were sent those surveys (and the replacement enclosed with this letter) because your household filled out a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. In that short survey, you told us this child lived here, and we have randomly selected that child to ask about in this follow-up survey.

We have mailed this third questionnaire using rush delivery because of the importance of <u>your</u> response.

As mentioned before, this survey is the final step in a study that provides valuable information on how schools and families work together to promote children's learning. Your response to this survey will help provide a clear picture of children's educational experiences in the United States.

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Enclosure Statistics Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner National Center for Education

PFI 2st non response follow-up cover letter - Back page

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Homeschool 2st non response follow-up cover letter

Resident Sample Member 12345 Sampled Ave Cooperation, MD 20850

{MONTH} XX, 2011

Dear Parent of {CHILD}:

I had written in {MONTH} to request that your household complete a brief questionnaire about the child listed below. The child was selected based on an earlier survey that you filled out.

{Child, age X, Xth grade}

Unfortunately, we have not yet received your completed questionnaire. You were sent those surveys (and the replacement enclosed with this letter) because your household filled out a short survey for the U.S. Department of Education. In that short survey, you told us this child lived here, and we have randomly selected that child to ask about in this follow-up survey.

We have mailed this third questionnaire using rush delivery because of the importance of <u>your</u> response.

As mentioned before, this survey is the final step in a study that provides important information on homeschooling practices and resources. Your response to this survey will help provide a clear picture of children's educational experiences in the United States.

Please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope **as soon as possible**.

It should only take 20 minutes or less to fill out this survey.

If you have questions or need assistance, Westat (the research company doing this survey for us) will be happy to help and can be reached by telephone at 1-888-880-3033. More details about the study are provided on the back of the enclosed survey and online at http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nhes/.

Stuart Kerachsky Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education

Enclosure Statistics

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Section 9543, 20 of the U.S. Code authorizes the National Center for Education Statistics to conduct this survey. Your responses are voluntary and will be used for statistical purposes only and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law [Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002) Section 9573, 20 U.S. Code].