

# **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2019-20 to 2021-22**

## **Supporting Statement Part B**

**OMB No. 1850-0582 v.24**

***Submitted by:***

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)  
Institute of Education Sciences  
U.S. Department of Education

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## SECTION B. Description of Statistical Methodology

### B.1. Respondent Universe

In 2017-18, IPEDS collected data from 6,642 postsecondary institutions in the United States and the other jurisdictions that are eligible to participate in Title IV Federal financial aid programs. By law, all Title IV institutions are required to respond to IPEDS (Section 490 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 [P.L. 102-325]). IPEDS allows other (non-title IV) institutions to participate on a voluntary basis; approximately 200 non-title IV institutions elect to respond each year. Institution closures and mergers have led to a decrease in the number of institutions in the IPEDS universe over the past few years. Due to these fluctuations, combined with the addition of new institutions, NCES uses rounded estimates for the number of institutions in the respondent burden calculations for the upcoming years (estimated 6,400 Title IV institutions plus 200 non-title IV institutions for a total of 6,600 institutions estimated to submit IPEDS data during the 2019-20 through 2021-22 IPEDS data collections).

Table 1 provides the number of institutions that submitted data during the 2017-18 IPEDS data collection and the number of institutions estimated to submit data during the 2019-20 through 2021-22 IPEDS data collections, disaggregated by the type of institution (Title IV institutions are disaggregated by highest level of offering: 4-year award or above, 2-year award, less than 2-year award). Note that based on yet unpublished numbers from the 2018-19 data collection, NCES has decreased the estimates for the number of institutions that are expected to report to IPEDS in the 2019-20 through 2021-22 data collections.

**Table 1. Actual 2017-18 and Estimated 2019-20 through 2021-22 Number of Institutions Submitting IPEDS Data**

Institution Type	2017-18 Institution Counts*	Estimates Used in Burden Calculations for the 2019-20 to 2021-22 Collections
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,842</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<i>Title IV institutions</i>	6,642	6,400
4-year	2,902	2,800
2-year	1,932	1,800
Less than 2-yr	1,808	1,800
<i>Non-Title IV institutions</i>	200	200

\* For Title IV institutions: Ginder, S.A., Kelly-Reid, J.E., and Mann, F.B. (2018). Postsecondary Institutions and Cost of Attendance in 2017–18; Degrees and Other Awards Conferred, 2016–17; and 12-Month Enrollment, 2016–17: First Look (Provisional Data) (NCES 2018-060rev). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 2 provides the number of experienced and new keyholders that submitted data for a given IPEDS component during the 2017-18 IPEDS data collection, disaggregated by the type of institution. These experienced vs. new keyholder designation is drawn directly from self-reported data in the data collection system, where users indicate whether they are submitting data for the first time when they register.

**Table 2. 2017-18 Counts of Experienced and New Keyholders Submitting IPEDS Data, by Institution Type and IPEDS Component**

Survey component	Total		4-year institutions		2-year institutions		Less than 2-year institutions	
	Experienced	New	Experienced	New	Experienced	New	Experienced	New
IC	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
C	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
E12	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
SFA	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
OM	3,166	792	2,016	505	1,150	287	0	0
GR	4,727	1,182	1,893	473	1,487	372	1,347	337
GR200	4,398	1,099	1,642	411	1,461	365	1,295	323

Survey component	Total		4-year institutions		2-year institutions		Less than 2-year institutions	
ADM	1,656	414	1,430	357	138	34	88	23
EF	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
F	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
HR	5,474	1,368	2,382	595	1,569	392	1,523	381
AL	3,239	810	2,099	525	1,139	285	0	0

\* Note: These counts do not match any published numbers because they include the non-Title IV institutions that voluntarily submit data to IPEDS.

Table 3 provides the actual response rates, by survey component and the type of institution, for the 2017-18 IPEDS data collection. Because IPEDS is a mandated federal data collection, and institutions can be fined for non-response, all response rates approximate 100%.

**Table 3. IPEDS 2017-18 Title IV Institutions Response Rates, by Institution Type and IPEDS Component**

Survey component	4-year institutions	2-year institutions	Less than 2-year institutions
IC	100.00%	99.95%	99.94%
C	100.00%	99.90%	99.94%
E12	99.97%	99.90%	99.89%
SFA	99.36%	99.84%	99.61%
OM	99.33%	99.79%	N/A
GR	99.28%	99.89%	99.58%
GR200	99.42%	99.84%	99.57%
ADM	99.89%	100.00%	100.00%
EF	99.34%	99.84%	99.39%
F	99.18%	99.64%	99.11%
HR	99.35%	99.90%	99.44%
AL	99.34%	99.80%	N/A

## **B.2. Statistical Methodology**

No sampling is utilized for any of the IPEDS survey components. Because of the institutional compliance requirements outlined in Part A sections A.1 and A.2 of this submission, and per extensive discussions at the IPEDS Technical Review Panel meetings, with other areas of the Department of Education, including the Office for Civil Rights, the Office of Postsecondary Education, the office of Federal Student Aid, and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, and with other Federal Agencies such as Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), IPEDS must collect data from the universe of Title IV institutions.

## **B.3. Methods to Maximize Response Rates**

IPEDS response rates for institutions receiving federal financial aid are consistently 99.8% and higher. IPEDS targets the Title IV institutions (others may respond, but no follow-up is done) and the web-based survey system incorporates an automated e-mail module that automatically generates follow-up e-mail to “keyholders” (individuals appointed by the CEOs as responsible for IPEDS data submission). As shown in Table 19 of Part A section A.16 of this submission, frequent communications occur with the institutions over the course of the data collection to ensure compliance with this statutorily mandated collection. Follow-up e-mails are generated if an institution does not attempt to enter data or if, at two weeks and one week before closeout, the components are not locked. The CEOs of non-responding institutions are also contacted by standard mail and with follow up phone calls if, two weeks prior to closeout, the school has not entered any data. New institutions and institutions with new keyholders receive additional telephone and email prompts. This has proven to be very successful in past years. In addition, the names of institutions that do not respond to the IPEDS surveys, and a history of all regular contact with these institutions, is provided

to the Federal Student Aid office for appropriate action.

#### **B.4. Tests of Procedures and Methods**

The data collection procedures and data items described in this submission have been tested in a number of ways. Most of the data elements requested have already been collected in previous IPEDS surveys and prior to that, similar data elements had been collected for over 20 years in the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), the predecessor to IPEDS.

However, data quality is an overriding concern that NCES must continue to assess and evaluate. One approach is to assess relevant data from different IPEDS components and from different survey years to evaluate the consistency and reliability of reported data. These interrelationships among surveys and over time were used to develop the automated tests used to edit each IPEDS data submission. Edit checks currently help to identify potential problems and provide opportunities to correct them early in the data collection. As the number of institutions that automate their responses to IPEDS increases, it becomes increasingly difficult to fully validate their responses. However, by implementing a web-based data collection effort that requires error resolution and correction *prior to* data submission, NCES has been gathering cleaner data in a more timely fashion. The web-based system still accommodates intermediate reporting units such as community college boards, state university systems offices, and corporate offices.

The web-based data collection method was tested in a successful pilot collection of Institutional Price and Student Financial Aid information in August 1999, and has been in full-scale implementation since the fall of 2000. Throughout the implementation of the web-based system, as a result of discussions with data providers and associations that use the data, NCES has revised the data collection items, definitions, and instructions based on the recommendations of IPEDS constituents, and following appropriate public comment periods.

#### **B.5. Reviewing Individuals**

Listed below are individuals who have reviewed, in whole or in part, the IPEDS surveys, and/or participated in Technical Review Panel meetings charged with revising and refining the surveys and data items collected.

##### Representatives from the National Center for Education Statistics

Aida Ali Akreyi, Survey Director<sup>1</sup>  
Samuel Barbett, Mathematical Statistician<sup>1</sup>  
Peggy Carr, Associate Commissioner, NCES<sup>1</sup>  
Elise Christopher, Project Officer, High School Longitudinal Studies<sup>1</sup>  
Christopher Cody, Survey Director<sup>1</sup>  
Michelle Coon, Technical Adviser<sup>1</sup>  
Amanda Dean, American Institutes for Research<sup>1</sup>  
Moussa Ezzeddine, Statistician<sup>1</sup>  
Tracy Hunt-White, Education Statistician<sup>1</sup>  
Gigi Jones, Education Research Scientist<sup>1</sup>  
Kashka Kubzdela, OMB Liaison<sup>1</sup>  
Tara Lawley, Team Lead, IPEDS Operations<sup>1</sup>  
Bao Le, Associate Education Research Scientist<sup>1</sup>  
Marie Marcum, Program Director, Administrative Data Division: Elementary and Secondary Branch  
Andrew Mary, Statistician<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Individual attended multiple Technical Review Panels at different times and in differing capacities, as an NCES representative and as a representative for another organization.

Stefanie McDonald, IC/SFA Survey Director<sup>1</sup>  
Richard Reeves, IPEDS Program Director<sup>1</sup>  
David Richards, Education Statistician<sup>1</sup>  
Ross Santy, Associate Commissioner, Administrative Data Division, NCES<sup>1</sup>  
Marilyn Seastrom, Chief Statistician and Staff Director<sup>1</sup>  
Thomas Snyder, Director, Annual Reports and Information Staff<sup>1</sup>  
Ted Socha, Mathematical Statistician  
Imani Stutely, Survey Director<sup>1</sup>  
Jie Sun, SAS Programmer<sup>1</sup>  
James L. Woodworth, Commissioner  
Kelly Worthington, Administrative Data Division: Elementary and Secondary Branch

Representatives from Associations, Postsecondary Institutions/Systems, and Other Federal Offices

Seth Allen, Pomona College<sup>2</sup>  
LaJanis Allen, Douglas J Aveda Institute<sup>2</sup>  
Michelle Appel, University of Maryland<sup>2</sup>  
Eric Atchison, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning<sup>2</sup>  
Frank Balz, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)<sup>2</sup>  
Dianne Barker, Technical College System of Georgia  
Sandy Baum, Urban Institute<sup>2</sup>  
Angela Bell, Board of Regents of University System of Georgia<sup>2</sup>  
Alexandra Bernadotte, Beyond 12  
Jon Boeckenstedt, DePaul University  
Sharon Boivin, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking  
Rachel Boon, Iowa Board of Regents  
Victor Borden, Indiana University<sup>2</sup>  
Eileen Brennan, Henry Ford College<sup>2</sup>  
Camille Brown, SC Commission on Higher Education<sup>2</sup>  
Julia Carpenter-Hubin, Ohio State University<sup>2</sup>  
Meghan Carr, University of Missouri  
E. Ann Carson, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)<sup>2</sup>  
Benjamin Castleman, University of Virginia  
Andrés Castro Samayoa, Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions  
Stephanie Cellini, George Washington University<sup>2</sup>  
Diane Cheng, The Institute for College Access & Success<sup>2</sup>  
Henry Childers, University of Arizona  
Matthew Chingos, Urban Institute  
Marin Clarkberg, Cornell University  
Cory Clasemann-Ryan, Ivy Tech Community College  
John Clayton, Johnson County Community College  
Melissa Clinedinst, National Association for College Admission Counseling<sup>2</sup>  
Elizabeth Clune-Kneuer, Prince George's Community College<sup>2</sup>  
William Congdon, Social and Behavioral Sciences Team  
Bryan Cook, The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities<sup>2</sup>  
Kim Cook, National College Access Network<sup>2</sup>  
Mary Ann Coughlin, Springfield College<sup>2</sup>  
Gloria Crisp, Oregon State University  
Alicia Crouch, Kentucky Community and Technical College System  
Archie Cubarrubia, Miami Dade College<sup>2</sup>  
Alisa Cunningham, rpkGroup<sup>2</sup>  
Cassandria Dortch, Congressional Research Service (CRS)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Individual attended multiple Technical Review Panels at different times and in differing capacities, as a representative from more than one organization.

Rebecca Drennen, Berkeley College<sup>2</sup>  
Julie Edmunds, SERVE Center at University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Marne Einarson, Cornell University  
Gillian Emmons, Boston University<sup>2</sup>  
Jaqueline Falkenheim, National Science Foundation  
Gayle Fink, Bowie State University<sup>2</sup>  
John Fink, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University<sup>2</sup>  
Nancy Floyd, North Carolina State University  
Dan Foley, National Science Foundation  
Marissa Fox, Career Education Corporation<sup>2</sup>  
Donyell Francis, Technical College System of GA<sup>2</sup>  
Khadish Franklin, The Pell Institute  
Doug Franklin, University of Illinois Springfield<sup>2</sup>  
Pam Frugoli, Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration  
Brian Fu, U.S. Department of Education<sup>2</sup>  
Chris Furguele, University of California Office of the President<sup>2</sup>  
Tanya Garcia, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce<sup>2</sup>  
Marybeth Gasman, Penn Center for Minority-Serving Institutions<sup>2</sup>  
Michael Gass, University of North Carolina at Asheville  
Luke Gentala, Liberty University<sup>2</sup>  
Eric Godin, Division of Florida Colleges  
Carlos Gonzalez, Education Management Corporation (EDMC)<sup>2</sup>  
Mary Goodhue Lynch, Massasoit Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Kurt Gunnell, Western Governors University<sup>2</sup>  
Lou Guthrie, LED Fast Start - Louisiana Community & Technical College System  
Lakia Hairston, P&A Scholars Beauty School<sup>2</sup>  
Mark Hamburg, U.S. Department of Education (FSA)<sup>2</sup>  
Eric Hardy, U.S. Department of Education, FSA  
Thomas Harnisch, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)<sup>2</sup>  
Stephen Haworth, Adtalem Global Education<sup>2</sup>  
Heidi Hedegard, University System of New Hampshire System Office  
Dennis Hengstler, University of Tennessee System Office  
Nicholas Hillman, University of Wisconsin-Madison<sup>2</sup>  
Teri Hinds, Student Affairs Administrators in higher Education (NASPA)<sup>2</sup>  
Braden Hosch, Stony Brook University<sup>2</sup>  
Lisa Hudson, Sample Surveys Division: Cross-Sectional Surveys Branch, NCES<sup>2</sup>  
John Ingram, Community College of Allegheny County  
Michael Itzkowitz, Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)<sup>2</sup>  
Manju Iyer, Lincoln Tech<sup>2</sup>  
Matt Jans, Abt Associates  
Carrie Jones, Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Jolanta Juskiewicz, American Association of Community Colleges  
Darby Kaikkonen, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges<sup>2</sup>  
James Karangu, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid<sup>2</sup>  
Robert Kelchen, Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy<sup>2</sup>  
Jonathan Keller, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education<sup>2</sup>  
Heather Kelly, University of Delaware<sup>2</sup>  
Patrick Kelly, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)<sup>2</sup>  
Dawn Kenney, Central New Mexico Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Wendy Kilgore, American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)  
Stephen Kimata, University of Virginia<sup>2</sup>  
Sandra Kinney, Georgia Institute of Technology<sup>2</sup>  
Jeremy Kintzel, Missouri Department of Higher Education<sup>2</sup>

Kimberly Kirkpatrick, Louisiana Board of Regents<sup>2</sup>  
Duane Knudson, Texas State University  
Laurie Koehler, George Washington University  
Tammy Kolbe, University of Vermont<sup>2</sup>  
Sophia Laderman, SHEEO  
Erez Lenchner, CUNY John Jay College<sup>2</sup>  
Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education  
Marc LoGrasso, Bryant & Stratton College<sup>2</sup>  
Adam Looney, U.S. Department of the Treasury  
Susan Lounsbury, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)<sup>2</sup>  
Mona Lucas, University of Connecticut<sup>2</sup>  
Jennifer Ma, The College Board<sup>2</sup>  
Marta Maldonado, Education Corporation of America<sup>2</sup>  
Noah Mann, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)<sup>2</sup>  
Tod Massa, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia<sup>2</sup>  
Carolyn Mata, Georgia Independent College Association<sup>2</sup>  
Michael Matier, Academic Analytics (AcA).<sup>2</sup>  
Jordan Matsudaira, Cornell University  
Lisa Mazure, Lansing Community College  
Clare McCann, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD)<sup>2</sup>  
Deborah McNeal, Coahoma Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Allan Medwick, Urisdae Analytics<sup>2</sup>  
Patrick Meldrim, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA)<sup>2</sup>  
Susan Menditto, National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)<sup>2</sup>  
Soon Merz, Austin Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Ivan Metzger, U.S. Department of Education  
Erie Meyer, The White House  
John Milam, Lord Fairfax Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Abby Miller, Coffey Consulting, LLC<sup>2</sup>  
Ben Miller, Center for American Progress<sup>2</sup>  
Jack Miner, The Ohio State University  
Ted Mitchell, U.S. Department of Education<sup>2</sup>  
Julie Morgan, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation<sup>2</sup>  
Christopher Mullin, Strong Start to Finish<sup>2</sup>  
Denise Nadasen, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities<sup>2</sup>  
Amanda Nagle, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)  
Ayushi Narayan, Council of Economic Advisers  
Christopher Nellum, The Education Trust–West (ETW)<sup>2</sup>  
Andrew Nichols, The Education Trust  
Danyelle Norman, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU)  
Jon O'Bergh, Office of the Under Secretary (OUS)<sup>2</sup>  
Karen O'Brien, Penn State University, University Budget Office<sup>2</sup>  
Martha Oburn, Houston Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Peter Oldershaw, American Institutes for Research/NCES<sup>2</sup>  
Iris Palmer, New America  
Anthony Parandi, Indiana Wesleyan University  
Emily Parker, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)<sup>2</sup>  
Amelia Parnell, Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education  
Audrey Peek, American Institutes for Research<sup>2</sup>  
Patrick Perry, California State University<sup>2</sup>  
Kent Phillippe, American Association of Community Colleges<sup>2</sup>  
Shawn Potter, Tulane University  
Kristina Powers, K Powers Consulting Inc<sup>2</sup>

Brian Prescott, The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)<sup>2</sup>  
David Price, Ancora Education Inc.<sup>2</sup>  
Sam Quinney, U.S. Department of Education  
Jason Ramirez, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities<sup>2</sup>  
Kenneth Redd, National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)<sup>2</sup>  
Nerissa Rivera, Duke University<sup>2</sup>  
Jamey Rorison, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
D'Juana Scarborough, Centura/AIM/Tidewater Tech Corporate<sup>2</sup>  
Oliver Schak, Department of Education / OPEPD / PPSS<sup>2</sup>  
Abigail Seldin, America Forward<sup>2</sup>  
Rajat Shah, Lincoln Tech<sup>2</sup>  
Jessica Sharkness, Tufts University  
Learty Shaw, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Daniel Shephard, U.S. General Services Administration  
Lena Shi, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development (OPEPD)<sup>2</sup>  
Christy Siegerdt, State University System of Florida - Board of Governors<sup>2</sup>  
Donna Silber, Maricopa Community College District<sup>2</sup>  
Sean Simone, NJ Longitudinal Data System<sup>2</sup>  
Robert Sivinski, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)<sup>2</sup>  
Sharon Snyder, Department of Homeland Security - ICE  
Matthew Soldner, Institute of Education Sciences<sup>2</sup>  
Mike Sperko, Kent State University<sup>2</sup>  
Shafali Srivastava, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis  
Jamiene Studley, Deputy Under Secretary of Education<sup>2</sup>  
Jennifer Sutton, National Institutes of Health  
David Tandberg, State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)  
Jason Taylor, University of Utah  
Jessica Teal, The White House  
Charles Tegen, Clemson University<sup>2</sup>  
Dawn Terkla, Tufts University<sup>2</sup>  
Kimberly Thompson, University of Phoenix-Central Office<sup>2</sup>  
Jessica Thompson, Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)  
Philip Tizzani, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)  
Amelia Topper, Coffey Consulting, LLC  
Christine Tracy, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)<sup>2</sup>  
Red Tremmel, Tulane University  
Jill Triplett, Spelman College  
David Troutman, University of Texas System<sup>2</sup>  
Jonathan Turk, American Council on Education (ACE)<sup>2</sup>  
Laura Uerling, Roxbury Community College<sup>2</sup>  
Mamie Voight, Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)<sup>2</sup>  
Lindsay Wayt, National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)<sup>2</sup>  
Jeffrey West, University of Utah<sup>2</sup>  
Christina Whitfield, State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)<sup>2</sup>  
Sabrina Williams, The White House  
Michael Williams, Ruffalo Noel Levitz  
Nathan Wilson, Illinois Community College Board<sup>2</sup>  
Jennifer Zinth, Education Commission of the States