

# **2020-21 National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS 2020-21)**

**OMB# 1850-0598 v.32**

**Supporting Statement**

**Part A**

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

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## **A.1 Circumstances Making Collection of Information Necessary**

### **A.1.1 Purpose of This Submission**

The National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), conducted every two or three years by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), is a system of related questionnaires that provides descriptive data on the context of elementary and secondary education. Redesigned from the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) with a focus on flexibility, timeliness, and integration with other ED data, the NTPS system allows for school, principal, and teacher characteristics to be analyzed in relation to one another.

SASS, the predecessor to NTPS, was conducted by NCES seven times between 1987 and 2011. SASS was an integrated study of public school districts, public and private schools, principals, teachers, and library media centers, designed to provide descriptive data on a wide range of topics including teacher demand, teacher and principal characteristics, general conditions in schools, principals' and teachers' perceptions of school climate and problems in their schools, teacher compensation, and district hiring and retention practices. After 2011-12, NCES redesigned SASS and named it the National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) to reflect the redesigned study's focus on the teacher and principal labor market and on the state of K-12 school staff. NCES first conducted NTPS during the 2015-16 school year, and then again during the 2017-18 school year. The next collection will take place during the 2020-21 school year.

NTPS recruitment and data collection is administered for NCES by the U.S. Census Bureau. As with prior NTPS administrations, OMB approval for NTPS 2020-21 is being requested in two parts: 1) a clearance for preliminary field activities including contacting and obtaining research approvals from public school districts with an established research approval process ("special contact districts"), where applicable, and notifying sampled schools of their selection for the survey and verifying their mailing addresses (OMB# 1850-0598 v.26 approved in July 2019); and 2) a clearance for all other data collection activities (this request). Cognitive interviews to test new NTPS 2020-21 content (OMB #1850-0803 v.218) and focus groups to test revised recruitment materials for NTPS 2020-21 (OMB #1850-0803 v.237) were completed in 2018. This request is to conduct NTPS 2020-21, including all of its recruitment and data collection activities. In December 2019, NCES will request OMB approval (OMB#1850-0803 v. 259) for cognitive interviews to test new and revised items about virtual schools and online course offerings. Any subsequent non-substantive changes to questionnaire wording will be included in a change request in April 2020.

This submission includes Supporting Statement Part A, Part B, and Part C (item justification); Appendix A (communication materials); Appendix B (questionnaires); and Appendix C (online screener and respondent portal).

### **A.1.2 Legislative Authorization**

NCES conducts NTPS in close consultation with other offices and organizations within and outside the U.S. Department of Education. NCES is authorized to conduct NTPS by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

### **A.1.3 Prior and Related Studies**

NTPS 2020-21 is the latest in a 30-year series of NCES studies on our nation's schools and staffing. SASS was first fielded in school year 1987-88, collected every 3 years through 1993-94, and then underwent a 6-year pause for major survey design revisions, which resulted in the 1999-2000 data collection. After that, SASS was on a 4-year data collection cycle, with each SASS data collection followed one year later by the Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) and, beginning in 2008-09, the Principal Follow-up Survey (PFS). The most recent administration of SASS was in 2011-12. At the conclusion of the 2011-12 collection, NCES redesigned SASS and named it NTPS. NCES first conducted NTPS in 2015-16, and then again in 2017-18. In 2016-17, NCES conducted the latest PFS, a follow-up to NTPS 2015-16. In 2021-22, NCES will conduct both PFS and TFS as a follow-up to NTPS 2020-21.

#### A.1.4 NTPS Study Design

The sample for NTPS 2020-21 will include approximately 9,920 public schools and principals and 49,250 public school teachers. The respondent universe for public schools will continue to consist of all public schools in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (DC) that offer instruction in any of grades 1-12. The NTPS 2020-21 will also include a private school sample, as was done in 2017-18, with approximately 3,000 private schools and principals and approximately 6,300 private school teachers.

Data collection will begin with the sampled school. A notification letter, intended to inform the school of their selection for the survey and to verify their mailing address, will be sent to sampled schools in the summer of 2020. About a month later, the principal will be contacted by mail and asked to complete a short Screener Survey online, which will confirm the school's eligibility for the NTPS and will establish a survey coordinator at the school to whom contacts will be made throughout data collection. Teachers will be randomly sampled from rosters obtained either through a Teacher Listing Form (TLF) submitted by sampled schools to the Census Bureau, collected through a clerical look up operation, or purchased from a vendor – either after the school has had an opportunity to verify the vendor roster or directly from the vendor roster. Teachers are ineligible for NTPS if they are short-term substitutes, student teachers, teacher's aides, or do not teach any of grades K-12 or comparable ungraded levels.

NTPS collects information from schools, principals, and teachers in four data collection instruments: the Teacher Listing Form, the School Questionnaire, the Principal Questionnaire, and the Teacher Questionnaire. The School, Principal, and Teacher Questionnaire instruments have separate question paths for public and private schools. The final versions of the NTPS 2020-21 questionnaires are provided in Appendix B.

**Teacher Listing Form (NTPS-1).** The TLF is designed to produce a roster of the teachers in each sampled school who are eligible for NTPS. At the start of data collection, an invitation to complete the TLF electronically using the NTPS Respondent Portal internet instrument is sent to schools. A paper version of the TLF will be sent to schools in subsequent mailings. For each teacher, the TLF requests name, subject taught (in eight categories: special education, general elementary, math, science, English/language arts, social studies, Vocational/Technical, and other), and teacher email address. For a subsample of schools for which acceptable vendor teacher roster data are available, the TLF (both the electronic version in the NTPS Respondent Portal and the paper TLF used in follow-up mailings) will be pre-populated with vendor teacher roster data, and the school will be asked to verify the teacher information rather than provide it from scratch. For schools for which acceptable vendor teacher roster data is not available, the school will be asked to provide their teacher roster information using the TLF application in the NTPS Respondent Portal or a blank paper TLF.

The Census Bureau will follow up with nonresponding schools by mail, email, telephone, and in-person visits, as needed, throughout the collection period. If collection efforts with the school are unsuccessful, NTPS staff will either use the vendor list to serve as a replacement for a completed TLF (for schools for which acceptable vendor teacher roster data is available) or will perform a clerical look up of teacher lists from internet sources to serve as a replacement for a completed TLF (for schools for which acceptable vendor teacher roster data are not available).

**Principal Questionnaire (NTPS-2).** The Principal Questionnaire (PQ) is targeted towards the principals of sampled schools and consists of the following core modules and rotating modules:

##### *Core Modules*

1. *Principal Experience and Training.* Includes items on experience prior to becoming a principal and as a principal, participation in a development program for aspiring school principals, highest degree earned, license or certification in school administration, and current teaching status.
2. *Goals and Decision Making.* Asks principals to rate their three most important educational goals and to indicate how much influence they think they have as principals on decisions concerning school policies and processes.

3. *School Climate and Safety.* Asks principals to indicate to the best of their knowledge how often various types of problems occur at the school; to report on measures of parent involvement in school; whether teachers are required to help students with academic, social, and emotional needs outside of regular school hours; and whether the school has a formal teacher induction program for beginning teachers.
4. *Principal Demographic Information.* Asks about gender, race, ethnicity, year of birth, and current annual salary for the principal's position at the sampled school.
5. *Contact Information.* Asks principals for name; home address; work, cell, and home telephone numbers; work and home e-mail addresses; the date of questionnaire completion; and how many minutes it took to complete the questionnaire. This information will be used during the Principal Follow-up Survey (PFS).

#### *Rotating Modules*

6. *Working Conditions and Principal Perceptions.* Asks principals to report the number of hours they spend on all school-related activities during a typical full week, the percentage of time spent on various tasks including administration, teaching, and student/parent interaction, the number of days he or she is required to work under contract, whether he or she is represented under a meet-and-confer or collective bargaining agreement, the principal's agreement with measures of job satisfaction, and how long he or she plans to remain a principal.
7. *Teacher Evaluation.* Asks about the principal's general knowledge and perceptions of teacher evaluations, formal evaluations on tenured and non-tenured teachers, the impact of student achievement on evaluations, and the influence of evaluations on the teaching practice within the school.
8. *Teacher Professional Development.* Asks about the principal's knowledge and perceptions of teacher professional development.
9. *Principal Evaluation.* Asks about principals' knowledge and perceptions of principal evaluations, whether they received feedback, and the impact of student achievement on their evaluations.
10. *Principal Professional Development.* Asks about the principal's knowledge about and participation in various principal professional development activities.
11. *Principal Engagement.* Asks about principals' engagement and connection with the school and with colleagues.

In addition to the core modules, the following rotating module will be included in the NTPS 2020-21 Principal Questionnaire: *Working Conditions and Principal Perceptions.*

**School Questionnaire (NTPS-3).** The School Questionnaire (SQ) is targeted towards an administrator or administrative assistant in sampled schools and consists of the following core and rotating modules:

#### *Core Modules*

1. *General Information about This School.* Includes items on grade levels served, enrollment, average daily attendance, length of school year, type of school<sup>1</sup>, kindergarten programs, library media centers, courses taught entirely online, presence of before- or after-school programs, and instruction for English-language learners.
2. *Community Service Requirements.* Asks whether the school grants high school diplomas and has a community service requirement for a standard diploma. If so, the section asks for the number of community service hours required for high school graduation.

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<sup>1</sup> School Questionnaire survey item(s) to identify virtual/online schools are currently undergoing development and testing. The resulting final item will appear on the 2020-21 NTPS School Questionnaire in the "General Information about This School" core module and will be submitted as a modification to this package in spring of 2020.

3. *Special Programs and Services.* Asks about Individual Education Plans and services for students with disabilities, prekindergarten, participation in the National School Lunch Program, and participation in Title 1.
4. *Contact Information.* Asks for contact information for the person who completed most of the questionnaire, including the date completed and how many minutes it took to complete the form.

#### *Rotating Modules*

5. *School Staffing.* Defines the types of teachers sought in NTPS reporting and then asks for the total number of teachers by full- and part-time teaching status; full- and part-time staffing counts for various categories, including principals, librarians, student support staff, and aides; whether any of the teachers or staff at the school have special assignments or coaching responsibilities in academic subjects; teaching vacancies in the school in various subject fields and whether the vacancies were easy or difficult to fill; and the number of newly-hired and first-year teachers at the school.
6. *Instructional Time.* Asks about how much students receive instruction in certain subjects, such as reading and math, in a typical week.
7. *Classroom Organization.* Asks about the method in which the school organizes classes or students.

In addition to the core modules, the following rotating module will be included in the NTPS 2020-21 School Questionnaire: *School Staffing.*

**Teacher Questionnaire (NTPS-4).** The Teacher Questionnaire (TQ) is targeted towards teachers sampled for NTPS based on school-level teacher rosters. It consists of the following core and rotating modules:

#### *Core Modules*

1. *General Information.* Includes items confirming eligibility for the teacher sample, including their position at the school and whether they are teaching in any of grades K-12 or comparable ungraded levels. It also contains items on year began teaching (for the first time and at the sampled school), number of schools taught in, and number of years teaching.
2. *Class Organization.* Asks the teacher to report grades taught, number of students with an IEP and of limited-English proficiency, main teaching assignment subject field, looping, use of instructional software, how classes are organized, number of students taught and class size, hours spent teaching various academic subjects (for self-contained classroom teachers), and details on each class period or section taught (for subject-matter teachers).
3. *Education and Training.* Asks details about major and, if applicable, minor fields of study for all levels of educational attainment from vocational certificate through doctorate degrees; courses taken on teaching methods, including classroom management and using student performance data; and student teaching including number of classrooms and number of weeks.
4. *Certification.* Asks detailed information about the content area(s) and grade range(s) in which sample members are certified to teach, and whether the teacher entered teaching through an alternative route to certification program.
5. *General Employment and Background Information.* Includes items on earnings, student loans, union membership, and tenure.
6. *Teacher Demographic Information.* Includes items on race, ethnicity, gender, and year of birth.
7. *Contact Information.* Asks for contact information for the sample teacher, including spouse's information (if applicable), phone numbers, and email addresses. This information is used in the TFS to track sample members.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The TFS and PFS are conducted every four years as a follow up to sample members from the prior year's NTPS. There will be a TFS and PFS administration following up on the NTPS 2019-20. conducted during the 2020-21 school year.

## *Rotating Modules*

8. *Early Career Experiences*. Targeted towards teachers in their first five years of teaching. It asks about their main activity prior to teaching, how well prepared they felt for various teaching-related tasks, whether they participated in a formal teacher induction program, and whether they received various kinds of support during their first year of teaching (including whether and how a master or mentor teacher supported them that year).
9. *Teacher Working Conditions*. Asks teachers to report the number of hours they are required to work under contract per week; how many of those hours are spent on delivering instruction; how many total hours (paid and unpaid) are spent each week on all teaching and school-related activities; whether the teacher serves as a coach, club sponsor, or in other department- or school-wide roles; and how much the teacher spent of his or her own money on school supplies in the last school year.
10. *School Climate and Teacher Attitudes*. Asks a series of questions about how much influence teachers think they have over school policies, how much control they have in their classroom, whether they agree with various measures of job satisfaction, the extent to which various conditions are a problem at the school, how long they plan to remain in teaching, and whether they have ever been threatened or physically attacked by a student from the school.
11. *Teacher Evaluations*. Asks about teachers' knowledge and perceptions of teacher evaluations, the type of feedback they received, and the influence of evaluations on their teaching.
12. *Teacher Professional Development*. Asks about the current methods/modes of teacher professional development and other opportunities to learn, and their implications on teachers' approaches to teaching.
13. *Teacher Engagement*. Asks about teachers' engagement and connection with the school and with colleagues.

In addition to the core modules, the following three rotating modules will be included in the NTPS 2020-21 Teacher Questionnaire: *Early Career Experiences*, *Teacher Working Conditions*, and *School Climate and Teacher Attitudes*.

### **A.2 Purposes and Uses of the Data**

NTPS 2020-21 will provide rich data that are generally designed to serve two purposes: descriptive and exploratory. The overall objective of NTPS is to collect the information necessary for a comprehensive picture of elementary and secondary education in the United States. The data collected permit detailed analyses of the characteristics of schools, principals, and teachers. The linkages among the NTPS questionnaires enable researchers to examine the relationships among these elements of education. Collection of these data provide critical information to policymakers and researchers on a variety of topics including school organization, decision making, and recruitment and retention of teachers and principals.

#### **A.2.1 Research Issues Addressed in NTPS 2020-21**

NTPS builds upon and extends the series of SASS data collections that occurred seven times over the period between 1987 and 2012. Many questions from SASS continue to be asked in the NTPS questionnaires, allowing researchers to examine trends on these topics over time. In addition, the linkages of NTPS/SASS with TFS and PFS create a small longitudinal component. A subset of teachers who respond to NTPS are surveyed during the following school year, as part of TFS, including teachers who changed schools, left the teaching profession, and teachers who stayed at the same school over the two school years. TFS allows researchers to study the antecedents of teacher attrition. TFS was most recently conducted in 2012-13 and will be conducted again in 2021-22, following the 2020-21 NTPS.

In turn, PFS, conducted in 2008-09, 2012-13, 2016-17, and upcoming in 2021-22, provides information about principal attrition. All principal respondents in the base-year NTPS are surveyed during the school year following the NTPS.

The large NTPS sample allows extensive disaggregation of data according to important characteristics of teachers, principals, and schools. For example, researchers can compare urban and rural settings, and the working conditions of teachers and principals of differing demographic backgrounds. The sections below provide examples of how NTPS data have been used to study our nation's schools, teachers, and principals.

#### **A.2.1.1 Characteristics of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, School Principals, and Teachers in the United States**

The results of each NTPS collection are used to create First Look reports that are released to the public on the NCES website and which introduce new data from each NTPS collection through statistical tables containing descriptive information. The selected findings chosen for these reports demonstrate the range of information available on the NTPS restricted use data files. The most recent First Look reports available for the NTPS are as follows: *Characteristics of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in the United States: Results From the 2017-18 National Teacher and Principal Survey First Look (NCES 2019-140)*; *Characteristics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Principals in the United States: Results From the 2017-18 National Teacher and Principal Survey First Look (NCES 2019-141)*; and *Characteristics of Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in the United States: Results From the 2017-18 National Teacher and Principal Survey First Look (NCES 2020-142)*.

#### **A.2.1.2 Teacher Additional Earnings from Summer Jobs**

The NTPS teacher questionnaire asks sampled teachers several detailed questions about earnings, including questions about their earnings from a summer job. The *Summer Jobs for Regular, Full-Time Public School Teachers (NCES 2018-222REV)* report describes the findings about the percentage of public school teachers who earn additional income by working during the summer. The findings are broken out by type of summer employment and U.S. region.

#### **A.2.1.3 Teacher Satisfaction**

NTPS includes numerous measures of how satisfied teachers were with their jobs and their working conditions. The *Teacher Satisfaction with Salary and Current Job (NCES 2018-116)* report describes the percentage of teachers who are satisfied with their salary for teaching and compares the job satisfaction of teachers who are satisfied and dissatisfied with their teaching salary.

#### **A.2.1.4 Teacher Spending on Classroom Supplies**

The NTPS teacher questionnaire asks sampled teacher about how much of their own money, if any, then spent on classroom supplies without reimbursement. In *Public School Teacher Spending on Classroom Supplies (NCES 2018-097)*, NCES examines public school teachers' personal spending on school supplies and differences in this spending among teachers from different community types and instructional level.

#### **A.2.1.5 Principal Perception of Influence**

The NTPS principal questionnaire asks sampled principals about how much actual influence they perceive to have as a principal on a number of decisions and policies within the school. In *Public School Principals' Perceptions of Influence by School Level and Community Type (NCES 2018-014)*, NCES examines public schools principals' perception of their influence on their schools' curriculum and budget and the differences among principals from different school instructional levels and community types.

#### **A.2.1.6 Teacher and Principal Attrition**

The SASS and NTPS, and their longitudinal components, the TFS and the PFS, provide detailed information on the year to year transitions made by teachers and principals.

*Teacher Attrition and Mobility: Results From the 2012-13 Teacher Follow-up Survey (NCES 2014077)* describes the number and characteristics of teachers who remained at the same school, moved to another school, or left the profession in the year following the SASS administration.

*Principal Attrition and Mobility: Results From the 2016-17 Principal Follow-up Survey (NCES 2018066)*



explores how many principals in the 2015-16 school year still worked as a principal in the same school in the 2016-17 school year, how many had moved to become a principal in another school, and how many had left principalship.

### **A.3 Use of Improved Information Technology**

Technology will be applied appropriately to keep respondent burden to a minimum. Prior to school data collection, the principal will be asked to complete a short screener interview online using the NTPS Screener internet instrument. During this interview, a survey coordinator will be selected, whose role throughout data collection will be to facilitate the completion of the NTPS questionnaires.

To lessen the response burden on sampled schools, speed up the teacher sample selection, and reduce data processing costs, NTPS will continue to collect TLF information electronically via the TLF application within the NTPS Respondent Portal internet instrument (paper version will be provided upon request). Whenever possible, schools will be provided TLFs that have been pre-populated with vendor-purchased teacher information, in both the electronic and paper TLFs. This will allow schools to verify the teacher roster information rather than have to provide the requested information for every teacher in their school. Schools will be assured that all teacher data will be stored on secure online servers controlled by the U.S. Census Bureau. Questionnaires within each sampled school will be tracked using an online tool called the NTPS Respondent Portal, which was also used in NTPS 2015-16 and NTPS 2017-18 and has been significantly improved between each survey administration. Voluntary school-based “survey coordinators” will be invited to access this web-based tool at the onset of data collection activities.

Following successful implementation in both the 2015-16 NTPS and the 2017-18 NTPS, the Internet response option for principals, schools, and teachers will serve as the primary mode of collection in 2020-21. Nonresponding schools, principals, and teachers will eventually be offered the option to respond by paper.

Principal email addresses (purchased from the vendor) and school-based coordinator email addresses (collected using the Screener survey instrument at the time the coordinator is established) will be utilized during data collection. Invitations to complete the principal and school questionnaires via the Internet response option will be sent to the principal and/or school-based coordinator by email. If they do not respond, they will also be given the option to respond by paper.

Finally, following successful implementation in the 2015-16 NTPS and the 2017-18 NTPS, schools will once again be asked to provide (or verify) teacher email addresses on TLF. Teachers will be invited by mail and by email, if available, to respond to the Teacher Questionnaire through an Internet response option. If they do not respond, they will also be given the option to respond by paper. Independently, as part of the NTPS questionnaires, in addition to asking all teachers and principal whether they consent to receive text messages for follow-up purposes, we will ask them for their email addresses and cell phone numbers to be used during the 2021-22 school year for the TFS and PFS.

### **A.4 Efforts to Identify Duplication**

A key element of the NTPS design principle was to leverage trusted data sources instead of asking schools or districts to report items on NTPS that they or their state have already provided through other collections. At the start of the SASS redesign to the NTPS, all SASS items were cross-walked against a variety of ED’s and external data sources. From this review, a number of duplicate or near duplicate items were identified. As a result, NCES plans to append to the NTPS files data from the Common Core of Data (CCD) and Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) in order to enrich and not duplicate data collection on these topics. In some cases a duplicate item was kept on NTPS because the extant variable from another source was not suitable for NTPS (e.g. due to an issue with periodicity, availability, item wording, reliability, or the item being needed for confirmation purposes).

### **A.5 Method Used to Minimize Burden on Small Businesses**

Burden on small schools is minimized during the NTPS through the sample design that specifies the selection of schools as a function of size defined by the number of teachers. Small schools, therefore, will be sampled at

lower rates than larger schools because they comprise a smaller proportion of the teacher population per school. A large component of the NTPS redesign was intended specifically to improve the data collected and minimize burden imposed on respondents. NTPS questionnaires are shorter than their respective SASS questionnaires. In addition, the questionnaires have been designed with a module approach, so as to not cause undue burden on respondents. Some sections are included in every NTPS administration (core modules), while other sections are included during every other cycle (rotating modules).

#### **A.6 Frequency of Data Collection**

NCES originally planned to be collected on a two year cycle, resources permitting. A major component of the redesign of SASS into NTPS was revising the collection periodicity. NCES received extensive feedback from experts and researchers in the field that the data collected from SASS every four years were not timely enough to capture more frequent changes in the characteristics of teachers and principals in K-12 education. In response to this feedback, the goal is for NTPS to be conducted every two years. If NTPS were fielded less often, there would be a significant delay in the observation of critical changes in trends that address the key research issues affecting the teacher and principal workforces.

However, because of resource constraints. NTPS will not be conducted during the 2019–20 school year, as originally planned, and will instead be collected during the 2020-21 school year, pushing the NTPS to a three-year cycle.

#### **A.7 Special Circumstances of Data Collection**

No special circumstances for this information collection are anticipated.

#### **A.8 Consultants outside the Agency**

Since its inception, the development of SASS has relied on the substantive and technical review and comments of people both inside and outside the Department of Education. Outside experts who were convened to offer comments on proposed revisions for the NTPS and their affiliation at the start of the project include:

Kelly Burling, Ph.D., Vice President and Director of the Center for Educator Effectiveness, Pearson  
Steve Glazerman, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research  
Heather Hill, Ph.D., Professor in Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Patricia Hinchey, Ed.D., Professor of Education, Pennsylvania State (Worthington-Scranton)  
Richard Ingersoll, Ph.D., Board of Overseers, Professor of Education and Sociology, U. of Pennsylvania  
Anthony Milanowski, Ph.D., Senior Study Director, Westat  
Angela Minnici, Ph.D., Managing Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)  
Jennifer Oliver, M.A., TAP Director, U. of Indianapolis, Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning  
Eric Camburn, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education  
Matthew Clifford, Ph.D., Principal Research Scientist, American Institutes for Research (AIR)  
Laura Desimone, Ph.D., Professor, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education  
H. Alix Gallagher, Ph.D., Associate Director, SRI International  
Stephanie Hirsh, Ph.D., Executive Director, Learning Forward  
Kwang Suk Yoon, Ph.D., Principal Research Scientist, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

The following experts served as part of the NTPS team in previous rounds of administration:

David Marker, Statistician, Westat  
Rebecca Goldring, Statistician, Westat  
Lou Rizzo, Statistician, Westat

The NTPS design has benefited from consultation with the following federal experts:

Andy Zukerberg, Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics  
Cleo Redline, Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics  
Deanne Swan, Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics

Maura Spiegelman, Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics  
Sharon Boivin, Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics  
Stephen Broughman, Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics  
Shawna Cox, Survey Director, Education Surveys Team, U.S. Census Bureau  
Walter Holmes, Assistant Survey Director, Education Surveys Team, U.S. Census Bureau  
James Farber, Mathematical Statistician, Demographic Survey Methods Division, U.S. Census Bureau  
Aaron Gilary, Mathematical Statistician, Demographic Survey Methods Division, U.S. Census Bureau  
Mary Davis, Statistician, Center for Behavioral Science Methods, U.S. Census Bureau  
Stephanie Coffey, Center for Optimization and Data Science, U.S. Census Bureau  
Allison Zotti, Center for Optimization and Data Science, U.S. Census Bureau

## **A.9 Provision of Payments or Gifts to Respondents**

Some districts charge a fee (~\$50-200) to process research application requests, which we pay as necessary. Details about the results of the NTPS 2017-18 incentive experiments and planned NTPS 2020-21 incentive experiments are summarized below.

The 2017-18 NTPS included an incentive experiment designed to examine the effectiveness of offering teachers a monetary incentive to boost overall teacher response. Teachers in the experimental treatment received a prepaid cash incentive at the first contact by mail; the experimental treatment was assigned at the school level, with all sampled teachers from a school receiving the same treatment. This treatment was evaluated against the control group, which did not receive any incentive. The results indicated that the teacher incentive significantly increased the final response rates for both public and private school teacher questionnaires. Within the domains of interest for public school teachers, the incentive significantly increased the response rate in all but two domains (Charter school and schools with enrollment less than 100); within the domains of interest for private schools, the incentive significantly increased the response rate in roughly half of the domains of interest. In addition to boosting the response rate, the incentivized public school teachers completed their questionnaire in an average of 6 fewer days than those who were not offered an incentive.

Due to the favorable results from the teacher incentives for the NTPS 2017-18, the NTPS 2020-21 will include the use of incentives, once again, with the goal of maximizing overall teacher response. Two types of incentives will be offered in an experimental manner – a prepaid cash monetary incentive and a non-monetary incentive. Teachers in the experimental treatment will receive a canvas tote bag at the first contact by mail. The tote bag will be NTPS-branded. The treatment will be further separated into two groups – one where each of the teachers and the survey coordinator receive a tote bag, and the other where only each of the teachers receives a tote bag. The thought is that, since the survey coordinator is tasked with distributing the teacher packages, (s)he may benefit from receiving the item, as well, given that it is going to be apparent that there is something other than a letter in each envelope. The treatments will be evaluated against one another and the control group, which will not receive any incentive.

The 2017-18 NTPS also included a contingency plan with monetary boosts to combat potential low response rates from teachers in the later teacher mailing waves. The contingency plan was executed and the results indicated that, overall, the contingency incentive significantly increased the response rate within the selected contingency incentive domains for public school teachers. Therefore, a contingency plan will also be included in the NTPS 2020-21 for additional monetary incentives to teachers and will be executed as needed based on monitoring data collection status. The contingency incentive will be administered across the board for teachers in the agreed upon at-risk domains rather than experimentally, since an experiment was conducted during the NTPS 2017-18 that showed the effectiveness of contingency incentives in increasing response rates to the NTPS Teacher Questionnaire.

Further details about the use of incentives and the contingency plan are provided in sections B.2.3 and B.3.2 of Supporting Statement Part B.

## **A.10 Assurance of Confidentiality**

Data security and confidentiality protection procedures have been put in place for NTPS 2020-21 to ensure that all contractors and agents working on NTPS 2019-20 comply with all privacy requirements including, as applicable:

1. The Inter-agency agreement with NCES for this study and the statement of work of NTPS contract;
2. *Privacy Act of 1974* (5 U.S.C. §552a);
3. *Privacy Act Regulations* (34 CFR Part 5b);
4. *Computer Security Act of 1987*;
5. *U.S.A. Patriot Act of 2001* (P.L. 107-56);
6. *Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002* (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9573);
7. *Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015* (6 U.S.C. §151);
8. *Foundations of Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Title III, Part B, Confidential Information Protection*
9. The U.S. Department of Education General Handbook for Information Technology Security General Support Systems and Major Applications Inventory Procedures (March 2005);
10. The U.S. Department of Education Incident Handling Procedures (February 2009);
11. The U.S. Department of Education, ACS Directive OM: 5-101, Contractor Employee Personnel Security Screenings;
12. NCES Statistical Standards; and
13. All new legislation that impacts the data collected through the inter-agency agreement and contract for this study.

The U.S. Census Bureau will collect data under an interagency agreement with NCES, and maintain the individually identifiable questionnaires per the agreement, including:

1. Provisions for data collection in the field;
2. Provisions to protect the data-coding phase required before machine processing;
3. Provisions to safeguard completed survey documents;
4. Authorization procedures to access or obtain files containing identifying information; and
5. Provisions to remove printouts and other outputs that contain identification information from normal operation (such materials will be maintained in secured storage areas and will be securely destroyed as soon as practical).

U.S. Census Bureau and contractors working on NTPS 2020-21 will comply with the Department of Education's IT security policy requirements as set forth in the Handbook for Information Assurance Security Policy and related procedures and guidance, as well as IT security requirements in the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) publications, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards and guidance. All data products and publications will also adhere to: the revised NCES Statistical Standards, as described at the website: <https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2012/>.

By law (20 U.S.C. §9573), a violation of the confidentiality restrictions is a felony, punishable by imprisonment of up to 5 years and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. All government or contracted staff working on the NTPS study and having access to the data, including NTPS field staff, are required to sign an NCES Affidavit of Nondisclosure and have received public-trust security clearance. These requirements include the successful certification and accreditation of the system before it can be implemented. Appropriate memoranda of understanding and interconnection security agreements will be documented as part of the certification and accreditation process.

From the initial contact with the participants in this survey through all of the follow-up efforts, potential survey respondents will be informed that (a) the U.S. Census Bureau administers NTPS on behalf of NCES; (b) NCES

is authorized to conduct NTPS by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543); (c) all of the information they 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 (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151); and (d) that their participation is voluntary.

The following language will be included in respondent contact materials and on data collection instruments:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, conducts NTPS as authorized by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

All of the 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 (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this voluntary information collection is 1850-0598. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated at [XX] minutes per response based on the mean and median times in the previous collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this collection, or comments or concerns about the contents or the status of your individual submission of this questionnaire, please e-mail: [ntps@census.gov](mailto:ntps@census.gov), or write directly to: National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), National Center for Education Statistics, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC 20202.

#### **A.11 Sensitive Questions**

The teacher and principal questionnaires collect data on salary. While these items might be considered sensitive, they have been used in the past, and response rates for these items are traditionally high, at 95.2% for principals and ranging from 85.0% to 93.62% for teachers.

Based on public comments received for NTPS 2017-18, cognitive testing was conducted in 2017 and 2018 (OMB #1850-0803 v.218) to test new NTPS 2020-21 content, including questions designed to ask public school principals and teachers about their sexual orientation and gender identity. The results indicated that principals and teachers understood these questions, but speculated that others may be uncomfortable reporting their sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly when contacted through their school. As a result, these items will not be included in the NTPS 2020-21 questionnaires, though NCES will continue to explore, through separate research, whether their inclusion in the NTPS Public School Teacher Questionnaire would increase item or unit nonresponse rates. The final versions of the NTPS 2020-21 questionnaires are provided in Appendix B.

## **A.12 Estimated Response Burden**

Preliminary activities for NTPS 2020-21, namely: (a) contacting and seeking research approvals from public school districts with an established research approval process (“special contact districts”), (b) notifying districts that their school(s) have been selected for NTPS 2020-21, and (c) notifying sampled schools of their selection for the survey and verifying their mailing addresses, were approved in July 2019 (OMB# 1850-0598 v.26) and are in this submission due to timing overlap.

Based on an initial assessment of previous NTPS data collections, we estimate that roughly 300 special contact districts will be in the sample. The special contact districts are those known to require completion of a research application before they will allow schools under their jurisdiction to participate in a study. Contacting special districts begins with updating district information based on what can be gleaned from online sources and what is known from previous cycles of collection. Individual districts will be contacted as needed to fill in gaps about where and to whom to send the completed required research application forms. The estimated number of such districts represents those with particularly detailed application forms and lengthy processes for approval. This operation will begin in the winter of 2019-20 to allow sufficient time for special districts’ review processes. Special district operations will begin by contacting up to 100 “certainty” special contact districts for which, due to their size, it is certain that at least one school from their jurisdiction will be randomly sampled. Other special contact districts will be contacted after the sample is drawn in the spring of 2020. We will continue to work with the districts until we receive a final response (approval or denial of request) as long as there is sufficient time for sampled schools, principals, and teachers to respond to NTPS.

The projected number of respondents is based on the NTPS 2020-21 sample size, and takes into account eligibility and response rates from NTPS 2017-18. Not all districts initially flagged as special contact districts will respond in the recruitment effort because they may not have a formal research application process and are not actually a special contact district, as such, the estimated number of responding special districts is lower than the estimated sample size for the special district operation.

The already approved total response burden estimate for special district IRB approvals is based on 360 minutes for IRB review by one staff member, and 60 minutes per member for special district IRB panel review, assuming each panel would on average be composed of six panel members. The burden per school for reading and potentially following up on the NTPS notification letter is estimated to average about 3 minutes.

This request is for the sample size, expected response rate, projected number of responses, estimated average response time, and the total estimates of respondent burden for the remainder of NTPS 2020-21 recruitment and data collection activities for public and private schools as provided in Table 1.

The 2020-21 NTPS data collection will begin in July 2020 with an advance letter mailing to all sampled school principals. Throughout this section, “school” is used to refer to both public and private schools, unless stated otherwise. The burden estimate accounts for principals spending time to read the letter and logging into the NTPS Screener internet instrument to complete a short “Screener Interview” designed to determine the school’s eligibility to participate in NTPS 2020-21 and to establish a survey coordinator. Principals who do not self-screen will be contacted by telephone in mid to late August 2020.

The next step will be to collect the school level questionnaires – the TLF, School Questionnaire, and Principal Questionnaire – from sampled schools. There are two paths of data collection, and the path that each school will take is dependent upon the availability of acceptable teacher roster data from the vendor. The majority of sampled schools are expected to have acceptable vendor data available. For further details about the data collection procedures for schools without versus with vendor data available, refer to sections B.2.2.1 and B.2.2.2 of Supporting Statement Part B.

All sampled schools will be mailed an initial mailout package. The timing of this mailing is about 2 weeks later for schools that did not complete the screener early, as to allow these schools additional time to establish a survey coordinator during the screener telephone operation. If the principal established a survey coordinator during the Screener Interview, this package will be addressed to the coordinator; otherwise, it will be addressed to the principal. The package contains a letter for the principal or coordinator, along with three

separate, sealed envelopes that contain the login information for completing the TLF, Principal Questionnaire, and School Questionnaire online using the corresponding internet instrument. The TLF envelope is intended for the staff member who can best provide information about the school's teachers. The Principal Questionnaire envelope is intended for the school principal. The School Questionnaire envelope is intended for the school staff member who can best answer questions about school enrollment and programs and services offered at the school. The principal or coordinator is expected to read the letter and distribute these three envelopes to the relevant staff, so that the staff can log into the internet instrument(s) to complete their questionnaire(s) online. The letter also provides staff with instructions for tracking the status of their school's questionnaires using the NTPS Respondent Portal (web instrument).

Just following the initial mailing, all schools without vendor data available and "priority schools" with vendor data available will receive a mail confirmation telephone call during which a telephone interviewer will contact the survey coordinator (if one was established during the screener) or principal to confirm the receipt of the initial package and answer questions as needed. A propensity model run prior to data collection identifies "priority schools", and these schools have characteristics of those which have been historically difficult to collect data from and have a potential high impact on weighting. The goal of this telephone operations is to help ensure that the package is seen by the school, stress the importance of the survey project, and address any questions that the school contact may have about the survey.

All schools that do not respond to the initial survey request will receive up to three additional requests by both mail and email. Paper questionnaires will be included in the third and fourth mailings, as needed. Schools that do not respond to these mailings will also be contacted during a series of telephone reminder calls, follow-up calls, or personal visit throughout the collection period.

Following the second mailing, schools without acceptable vendor data will be sent down a slightly more aggressive data collection path whose main focus will be on the collection of the TLF, which is needed to draw a sample for the Teacher Questionnaire. These schools do not have vendor teacher roster data to fall back on for teacher sampling, so it is important that we put forth effort to obtain a TLF from these schools. These schools will receive a personal visit in the fall aimed at the collection of the TLF; during the personal visit, the survey coordinator or principal will also be encouraged to complete the NTPS School Questionnaire and Principal Questionnaire, as appropriate.

Once TLFs are received, processed, and the sample is selected, invitations to complete the teacher questionnaires will be sent out to teachers on a flow basis by email and mailed paper letters. Teachers who do not respond to the initial survey request will receive up to four additional requests by both mail and email. Teacher will receive a paper version of the questionnaire in the third and fourth mailings, as needed. As with the schools, teachers who do not respond to the mailings and emails will also be contacted by telephone or personal visit throughout the data collection period.

The standard procedure for estimating burden time response cost is to multiply the estimated average length of time it takes to complete the survey by the average salary. The estimated average hourly earnings of teachers is \$30.38<sup>3</sup>, and of principals/administrators is \$47.47<sup>4</sup> in elementary and secondary schools in the May 2017 National Occupational and Employment Wage Estimates sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Therefore, based on 3,330 total burden hours for the already approved NTPS 2020-21 preliminary activities, the associated total estimated burden time cost to respondents is \$158,075, and based on an additional 42,328 total burden hours for the rest of NTPS 2020-21 activities, the total estimated burden time is 45,658 hours and the associated total estimated burden time cost to respondents is \$1,714,620.

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<sup>3</sup> The average hourly earnings of primary and secondary teachers in the May 2018 National Occupational and Employment Wage Estimates sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is \$30.38. Source: BLS Occupation Employment Statistics, <http://data.bls.gov/oes/> data type: Occupation code: Elementary and Middle School Teachers (25-2020) and Secondary School Teachers (25-2030); accessed on September 4, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> The average hourly earnings of principals/education administrators in the May 2018 National Occupational and Employment Wage Estimates sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is \$47.47. Source: BLS Occupation Employment Statistics, <http://data.bls.gov/oes/> data type: Occupation code: Education Administrators, Elementary and Secondary Schools (11-9032); accessed on September 4, 2019.

**Table 1. Estimates of respondent burden for the 2020-21 NTPS**

Activity	Sample Size	Estimated Response Rate	Estimated Number of Respondents	Estimated Number of Responses	Average Burden Time per Respondent (Minutes)	Total Burden Hours
<b>Preliminary Activities (already approved)</b>						
District IRB Staff Review	300	80%	240	240	360	1,440
District IRB Panel Review	300*6	80%	1,440	1,440	60	1,440
Notification letter – public schools	10,600	65%	6,890	6,890	3	345
Notification letter – private schools	3,000	70%	2,100	2,100	3	105
<b>Total Preliminary Activities</b>	--	--	<b>10,670</b>	<b>10,670</b>	--	<b>3,330</b>
<b>Main Data Collection Activities</b>						
<b>Public School Staff</b>						
Electronic Teacher listing form	9,920	5%	496	496	30	248
Electronic Teacher listing form (pre-populated)	9,920	31%	3,075	3,075	15	769
Paper Teacher Listing form (pre-populated)	9,920	25%	2,480	2,480	15	620
Paper Teacher Listing form (blank)	9,920	4%	397	397	30	198
Coordinator duties	9,920	60%	5,952	5,952	22	2,182
School questionnaire	9,920	72%	7,142	7,142	35	4,166
<b>Public School Principals</b>						
Screening interview	9,920	60%	5,952	5,952	5	<b>496</b>
Principal questionnaire	9,920	68%	6,700	6,700	30	3,350
<b>Public School Teachers</b>						
Teacher Questionnaire	49,250	70%	34,700	34,700	40	23,133
<b>Total Public Schools</b>	--	--	<b>66,894</b>	<b>66,894</b>	--	<b>35,163</b>
<b>Private School Staff</b>						
Electronic Teacher listing form	3,000	20%	600	600	30	300
Electronic Teacher listing form (pre-populated)	3,000	13%	390	390	15	98
Paper Teacher Listing form (pre-populated)	3,000	11%	330	330	15	83
Paper Teacher Listing form (blank)	3,000	16%	480	480	30	240
Coordinator duties	3,000	60%	1,800	1,800	22	660
School questionnaire	3,000	65%	1,950	1,950	40	1,300
<b>Private School Principals</b>						
Screening interview	3,000	60%	1,800	1,800	5	150
Principal questionnaire	3,000	65%	1,950	1,950	30	975
<b>Private School Teachers</b>						
Teacher Questionnaire	6,300	80%	5,040	5,040	40	3,360
<b>Total Private Schools</b>	--	--	<b>14,340</b>	<b>14,340</b>	--	<b>7,165</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	--	--	<b>91,904</b>	<b>91,904</b>	--	<b>45,658</b>

\* Duplicative counts of individuals not included in respondent totals. Due to rounding, numbers presented in this table may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

### A.13 Estimates of Cost to Respondents

There are no costs to respondents beyond their time to participate. No equipment, printing, or postage charges will be incurred by the participants.



## A.14 Cost to the Federal Government

The estimated cost to the federal government for NTPS 2020-21 is \$18.0 million. The estimated cost to the federal government for the preliminary activities is \$290,000.

**Table 2. Estimates of Costs to the Federal Government**

Activity	Estimated Costs
Survey Development	\$3,900,000
Survey Collection	\$12,000,000
Data Processing	\$1,300,000
Data Reporting	\$800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,000,000</b>

## A.15 Reasons for Changes in Response Burden

Estimated respondent burden in this request shows an increase from the last approved estimated response burden because the last approval was for the 2020-21 NTPS preliminary activities only, while this request is for all of the 2020-21 NTPS, including preliminary activities, recruitment, and data collection.

## A.16 Publication Plans and Time Schedule

Information relevant to the data collection will be part of the reports resulting from NTPS 2020-21. A data file will be produced and made available to researchers through an online NCES data analysis tool, PowerStats, as well as in a restricted-use data file. Researchers who are approved by NCES's data confidentiality office for a restricted-use license can access restricted-use data files. Codebooks and user's manuals will be produced for use with the restricted-use data files. All of the NTPS data files will be linked through the sampled school record. NTPS 2019-20 reports and publications will include a detailed methodological report describing all aspects of the data collection effort. The operational schedule for NTPS 2020-21 is provided in Table 3.

**Table 3. Operational schedule for NTPS 2020-21**

Activity	Tentative Dates
Begin contacting Special Districts to begin approval process	December 2019
Complete and deliver special district applications and packages	February 2020 – February 2021 (earliest cut-off)
Draw the NTPS 2020-21 school sample	April 2020
Complete and deliver applications and packages to newly identified special districts	April 2020 – February 2021 (earliest cut-off)
Mail school notification letters where approved or no approval needed	June 2020
Mail advance screener letter to school principals	July 2020
Screener Telephone Operations to establish survey coordinator	August 2020
Begin NTPS 2020-21 Questionnaire Data Collection	September 2020
Mail questionnaires/internet invitations to schools, request teacher lists	September 2020
Mail confirmation telephone operation to Priority schools	September – October 2020
Mail second package to non-responding schools	October 2020
Field Operation to obtain TLF, and school and principal questionnaires (schools without acceptable vendor teacher rosters)	October – November 2020
Telephone reminder operation, Phase 1	December 2020
Telephone reminder operation, Phase 2	January – February 2021
Mail fourth package to non-responding schools	February 2021
Telephone follow-up to obtain school, principal, and teacher questionnaires	February – March 2021 April – May 2021 (late sampled teachers)
Field Operation to obtain teacher, school, and principal questionnaires	March – May 2021
Send initial and reminder emails to school principals and coordinators	September 2020 – March 2021
Mail initial Teacher Questionnaire invitations as teacher samples are drawn	October 2020 – March 2021
Mail up to 3 reminder packages to teachers	November 2020 – June 2021
Send initial and reminder emails to teachers	November 2020 – June 2021
End NTPS 2017-18 Data Collection	July 2021
Data capture of all questionnaires	September 2020 – July 2021
Data processing	March 2021 – January 2022

**A.17 Approval for Not Displaying the Expiration Date for OMB Approval**

No exemption from the requirement to display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection is being requested for NTPS 2020-21.

**A.18 Exceptions to the Certification Statement**

No exceptions to the certification statement apply to NTPS 2020-21.