

Private School Universe Survey (PSS) 2025-26 and 2027-28 Data Collections, and 2027-28 PSS Frame Development Activities

Appendix A-C Communication Materials

OMB# 1850-0641 v.17

Submitted by

**National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education**

September 2026

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Appendix A -- Frame Collection List Request Letters

PSS-LF-A(L)
(02-05-2026)

A1. Private School List Request Letter for Associations



Institute of
Education Sciences

400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

July 7, 2026

Dear <CONTACT NAME>:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) requests your assistance in improving the coverage and quality of our private school listings and statistics. Every two years, the NCES conducts the Private School Survey (PSS). The PSS data allow the NCES to report on enrollment trends; counts of private schools, students, teachers, and high school graduates; program emphasis; and types of private schools. Local, state, and federal policy makers use this information to understand the state of private education in the country. The PSS also serves as a list of private schools for updating the private school search tool on the NCES website, a publicly available tool for families searching for private school options that best fit their family needs. In order to conduct the 2027-2028 PSS, we must compile a complete and accurate list of all private schools in the United States. Please help us to identify all private or non-public schools that currently belong to your association.

What we request from you:

- ☐ A computer file (preferably a spreadsheet) of all private and non-public schools that 1) currently belong to your association and 2) provide instruction for at least one grade between kindergarten and grade twelve.
- ☐ If a computer list is not available, please share a hard copy paper listing.

Definition of eligible school:

- ☐ Please **include** all private schools, both religious and non-religious, or non-public schools, with any of the grades kindergarten through grade twelve.
 - Kindergarten is defined as: An educational program for children (primarily 5-year-olds) who would normally enter first grade in the following year, even if "kindergarten" is not in the name of the program.
 - Include programs such as transitional or developmental kindergarten if children are expected to enter the first grade upon completing the program.
- ☐ Please **exclude** all programs that:
 - Teach only adult education or postsecondary students;
 - Are designed only for 3- or 4-year-old children and do not include kindergarten (e.g., Head Start programs, pre-kindergarten, or nursery);
 - Provide only before- or after-school care for children who attend school in another facility;
 - Provide only child care and do not include kindergarten;
 - Are considered a homeschool that teaches family members only.

The file or list should include the following information for each school:

- ☐ school name
- ☐ mailing address
- ☐ location address
- ☐ telephone number
- ☐ grade range
- ☐ enrollment
- ☐ number of teachers
- ☐ school contact email address

Please supply the date the list was last updated.

Sending the list:

- ☐ The U.S. Census Bureau collects the private school lists for us. You may send your list to the Census Bureau by email or regular mail. Please send your list by August 11, 2026.

To transmit your file via email, please send a message to the following address:

dsmd.private.school.lists@census.gov

To send your list in hard copy format, please mail the file to the following address:

U.S. Census Bureau
ATTN: **SPB**
Bldg. 63-F-1
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

For additional information on the PSS and other surveys that NCES conducts, please visit our website <http://nces.ed.gov>. If you have any questions about our list updating, please contact the Survey Processing Branch toll free at 1.800.579.8520.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the accuracy of our private school data collection.

Sincerely,
Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1 hour per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

A2. Private School List Request Letter for States

PSS-LF-ST(L)
(02-05-2026)



400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

July 7, 2026

Dear <CONTACT NAME HERE>:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) requests your assistance in improving the coverage and quality of our private school listings and statistics. Every two years, the NCES conducts the Private School Survey (PSS). The PSS data allow the NCES to report on enrollment trends; counts of private schools, students, teachers, and high school graduates; program emphasis; and types of private schools. Local, state, and federal policy makers use this information to understand the state of private education in the country. The PSS also serves as a list of private schools for updating the private school search tool on the NCES website, a publicly available tool for families searching for private school options that best fit their family needs. In order to conduct the 2027-2028 PSS, we must compile a complete and accurate list of all private schools in the United States. Please help us to identify all private or non-public schools in your state.

What we request from you:

- ☐ A computer file (preferably a spreadsheet) of all private and non-public schools in your state that provide instruction for at least one grade between kindergarten and grade twelve.
- ☐ If a computer list is not available, please share a hard copy paper listing.

Definition of eligible school:

- ☐ Please **include** all private schools, both religious and non-religious, or non-public schools, with any of the grades kindergarten through grade twelve.
 - Kindergarten is defined as: An educational program for children (primarily 5-year-olds) who would normally enter first grade in the following year, even if "kindergarten" is not in the name of the program.
 - Include programs such as transitional or developmental kindergarten if children are expected to enter the first grade upon completing the program.
- ☐ Please **exclude** all programs that:
 - Teach only adult education or postsecondary students;
 - Are designed only for 3- or 4-year-old children and do not include kindergarten (e.g., Head Start programs, pre-kindergarten, or nursery);
 - Provide only before- or after-school care for children who attend school in another facility;
 - Provide only child care and do not include kindergarten;
 - Are considered a homeschool that teaches family members only.

The file or list should include the following information for each school:

- ☐ school name
- ☐ mailing address
- ☐ location address
- ☐ telephone number
- ☐ grade range
- ☐ enrollment
- ☐ number of teachers
- ☐ school contact email address

Please supply the date the list was last updated.

Sending the list:

- ☐ The U.S. Census Bureau collects the private school lists for us. You may send your list to the Census Bureau by email or regular mail. Please send your list by August 11, 2026.

To transmit your file via email, please send a message to the following address:
dsmd.private.school.lists@census.gov

To send your list in hard copy format, please mail the file to the following address:

U.S. Census Bureau
ATTN: **SPB**
Bldg. 63-F-1
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

For additional information on the PSS and other surveys that NCES conducts, please visit our website <http://nces.ed.gov>. If you have any questions about our list updating, please contact the Survey Processing Branch toll free at 1.800.579.8520.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the accuracy of our private school data collection.

Sincerely,
Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Paperwork Burden Statement

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A3. Early Childhood Care (ECC) List Request Letter

PSS-LF-ECC(L)
(02-05-2026)



400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

July 7, 2026

Dear <CONTACT NAME HERE>:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) requests your assistance in improving the coverage and quality of our private school listings and statistics. Every two years, the NCES conducts the Private School Survey (PSS). The PSS data allow the NCES to report on enrollment trends; counts of private schools, students, teachers, and high school graduates; program emphasis; and types of private schools. Local, state, and federal policy makers use this information to understand the state of private education in the country. The PSS also serves as a list of private schools for updating the private school search tool on the NCES website, a publicly available tool for families searching for private school options that best fit their family needs. In order to conduct the 2027-2028 PSS, we must compile a complete and accurate list of all private schools in the United States. Please help us to identify all Early Childhood Care programs in your state that include kindergarten. We are writing to you because your agency licenses these programs and is in the best position to help us identify them.

What we request from you:

- ☐ A computer file (preferably a spreadsheet) of all private and non-public Early Childhood Care programs licensed by your agency that provide instruction for at least one grade between kindergarten and grade twelve.
- ☐ If a computer list is not available, please share a hard copy paper listing.

Definition of eligible program:

- ☐ Please **include** all private, non-public, or religious programs with any of the grades kindergarten through grade twelve.
 - Kindergarten is defined as: An educational program for children (primarily 5-year-olds) who would normally enter first grade in the following year, even if "kindergarten" is not in the name of the program.
 - Include programs such as transitional or developmental kindergarten if children are expected to enter the first grade upon completing the program.
- ☐ Please **exclude** all programs that:
 - Teach only adult education or postsecondary students;
 - Are designed only for 3- or 4-year-old children and do not include kindergarten (e.g., Head Start programs, pre-kindergarten, or nursery);
 - Provide only before- or after-school care for children who attend school in another facility;
 - Provide only child care and do not include kindergarten;
 - Are considered a homeschool that teaches family members only.

The file or list should include the following information for each program:

- ☐ school or program name
- ☐ mailing address
- ☐ location address
- ☐ telephone number
- ☐ grade range
- ☐ enrollment
- ☐ number of teachers
- ☐ school contact email address

Please supply the date the list was last updated.

Sending the list:

- ☐ The U.S. Census Bureau collects the private school lists for us. You may send your list to the Census Bureau by email or regular mail. Please send your list by August 11, 2026.

To transmit your file via email, please send a message to the following address:

dsmd.private.school.lists@census.gov

To send your list in hard copy format, please mail the file to the following address:

U.S. Census Bureau
ATTN: **SPB**
Bldg. 63-F-1
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

For additional information on the PSS and other surveys that NCES conducts, please visit our website <http://nces.ed.gov>. If you have any questions about our list updating, please contact the Survey Processing Branch toll free at 1.800.579.8520.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the accuracy of our private school data collection.

Sincerely,
Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Paperwork Burden Statement

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Appendix B -- Frame Collection List Request Emails

B1. Private School List Request – Initial Email

Subject line: Private School List Request from the U.S. Department of Education

Dear <CONTACT NAME>:

Every two years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Private School Survey (PSS) on behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The PSS data allow NCES to report on enrollment trends; counts of private schools, students, teachers, and high school graduates; program emphasis; and types of private schools in the United States. Local, state, and federal policy makers use this information to understand the state of private education in the country. The PSS also serves as a list of private schools for updating the [private school search tool](#) on the NCES website, a publicly available tool for families searching for private school options that best fit their family needs.

In preparation for the 2027-28 PSS, we must compile a complete and accurate list of all private schools in the United States. Therefore, we are requesting your assistance in obtaining a list of private schools within <ORGANIZATION>. For your convenience, you may submit your list by responding directly to this email with an electronic file containing all private and non-public schools, preferably in spreadsheet format; however, any format is acceptable. **Lists are requested by August 11, 2026.**

Eligible schools include all private, both religious and non-religious, as well as non-public schools that provide instruction for at least one grade between kindergarten and grade twelve.

- Kindergarten is defined as: An education program for children (primarily 5-year-olds) who would normally enter first grade in the following year, even if “kindergarten” is not in the name of the program.
- Include programs such as transitional or developmental kindergarten if children are expected to enter the first grade upon completing the program and Early Childhood Care programs that include kindergarten.

Please do not include programs that:

- Teach only adult education or postsecondary students;
- Are designed only for 3- or 4-year-old children and do not include kindergarten (e.g., Head Start programs, pre-kindergarten, or nursery schools);
- Provide only before- or after-school care for children who attend school in another facility;
- Provide only childcare and do not include kindergarten;
- Are considered a homeschool that teaches family members only.

The file or list should include the following information for each school:

- School name
- Mailing address
- Location address
- Telephone number

- Grade range
- Enrollment
- Number of teachers
- School contact email address

If you prefer to send your list in hard copy format, please mail it to the following address:

U.S. Census Bureau
ATTN: SPB
Bldg. 63-F-1
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

For additional information on the PSS and other surveys that NCES conducts, please visit our website <http://nces.ed.gov>. If you have any questions about our list updating, please contact the Survey Processing Branch toll free at 1.800.579.8520.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the accuracy of our private school data collection.

Sincerely,
Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Paperwork Burden Statement

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B2. Private School List Request – First Reminder Email

Subject line: Private School List Request Reminder

Dear <CONTACT NAME>:

We recently contacted you to request a list of private schools within your organization so that we can build a complete and accurate list of all private schools in the United States for the upcoming Private School Survey (PSS). For your convenience, you may submit your list by responding directly to this email with an electronic file containing all private and non-public schools, preferably in spreadsheet format; however, any format is acceptable. **Lists are requested by August 11, 2026.**

The PSS data allow NCES to report on enrollment trends; counts of private schools, students, teachers, and high school graduates; program emphasis; and types of private schools in the United States. Local, state, and federal policy makers use this information to understand the state of private education in the country. The PSS also serves as a list of private schools for updating the [private school search tool](#) on the NCES website, a publicly available tool for families searching for private school options that best fit their family needs. Receiving this list from you ensures that schools within <ORGANIZATION> are represented.

As a reminder, eligible schools include all private, both religious and non-religious, as well as non-public schools that provide instruction for at least one grade between kindergarten and grade twelve.

- Kindergarten is defined as: An education program for children (primarily 5-year-olds) who would normally enter first grade in the following year, even if “kindergarten” is not in the name of the program.
- Include programs such as transitional or developmental kindergarten if children are expected to enter the first grade upon completing the program, and Early Childhood Care programs that include kindergarten.

Please exclude all programs that:

- Teach only adult education or postsecondary students;
- Are designed only for 3- or 4-year-old children and do not include kindergarten (e.g., Head Start programs, pre-kindergarten, or nursery schools);
- Provide only before- or after-school care for children who attend school in another facility;
- Provide only childcare and do not include kindergarten;
- Are considered a homeschool that teaches family members only.

The file or list should include the following information for each school:

- School name
- Mailing address
- Location address
- Telephone number

- Grade range
- Enrollment
- Number of teachers
- School contact email address

If you prefer to send your list in hard copy format, please mail it to the following address:

U.S. Census Bureau
ATTN: SPB
Bldg. 63-F-1
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

For additional information on the PSS and other surveys that NCES conducts, please visit our website <http://nces.ed.gov>. If you have any questions about our list updating, please contact the Survey Processing Branch toll free at 1.800.579.8520.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the accuracy of our private school data collection.

Sincerely,
Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Paperwork Burden Statement

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B3. Private School List Request – Second Reminder Email

Subject line: Respond by August 11th: Private School List Request

Dear <CONTACT NAME>:

We recently mailed you a written request for your assistance in improving the coverage and quality of private school listings and statistics. In preparation for the 2027-28 PSS, we must compile a complete and accurate list of all private schools in the United States, and we need your help. We are emailing you at this email address as our records indicate that you are the point-of-contact for <ORGANIZATION>. For your convenience, you may submit your list by responding directly to this email with an electronic file containing all private and non-public schools within your organization, preferably in spreadsheet format; however, any format is acceptable. Lists are requested by August 11, 2026.

Eligible schools include all private, both religious and non-religious, as well as non-public schools that provide instruction for at least one grade between kindergarten and grade twelve.

- Kindergarten is defined as: An education program for children (primarily 5-year-olds) who would normally enter first grade in the following year, even if “kindergarten” is not in the name of the program.
- Include programs such as transitional or developmental kindergarten if children are expected to enter the first grade upon completing the program, and Early Childhood Care programs that include kindergarten.

Please exclude all programs that:

- Teach only adult education or postsecondary students;
- Are designed only for 3- or 4-year-old children and do not include kindergarten (e.g., Head Start programs, pre-kindergarten, or nursery schools);
- Provide only before- or after-school care for children who attend school in another facility;
- Provide only childcare and do not include kindergarten;
- Are considered a homeschool that teaches family members only.

The file or list should include the following information for each school:

- School name
- Mailing address
- Location address
- Telephone number
- Grade range
- Enrollment
- Number of teachers
- School contact email address

If you prefer to mail your list in hard copy format, please mail it to the following address:

U.S. Census Bureau
ATTN: SPB
Bldg. 63-F-1
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

For additional information on the PSS and other surveys that NCES conducts, please visit our website <http://nces.ed.gov>. If you have any questions about our list updating, please contact the Survey Processing Branch toll free at 1.800.579.8520.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the accuracy of our private school data collection.

Sincerely,
Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Paperwork Burden Statement

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Appendix C -- School Communication Materials
C1. Telephone Script for Screener Calls to Verify School Information
during PSS Frame Development

USE 8 - Area Code - Phone Number

Hello, this is _____ with the United States Census Bureau. We are updating our list of private schools and I would like to obtain or verify some information.

(1) Are you a private school?

If not private school = Thank them and hang up.

If Private = Continue

(2) Do you teach ANY grades Kindergarten through 12th grade?

(If they say they have Kindergarten = verify they TEACH Kindergarten and NOT a Day Care or Before/After school Facility)

If "No" = Thank them and hang up.

If "Yes" = **What grades do you teach?**

(3) What is the TOTAL number of teachers at your school?

(4) What is the total number of students at your school?

a. Ask for number of students enrolled in any grades K-12.

(We do not want to include any O/S grades such as PreK or Postsecondary)

VERIFY while on phone:

NAME OF SCHOOL

MAILING ADDRESS OF SCHOOL

Including City, State, and ZIP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

NOTE: If you reach an answering machine or need to leave a message for someone to return your call, leave this toll-free number with your EXTENSION and/or NAME.

1-800-579-8520 + Extension and/or name

C2. Internet Option First Letter – Endorser Control Example



PSS-5(L)
(06-2023)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education requests your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), a national data collection effort administered every two years to private schools across the country. The purpose of the PSS is to obtain current information from all private elementary and secondary schools in recognition of the importance of private education in the United States. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey and ensures that your school is represented in important national data on private schools.

Please complete the survey online within two weeks. You can access the secure website using the information provided below.

Respond at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID:

The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures that your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES website.

If you have any questions about this voluntary survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time). You can also contact the U.S. Census Bureau via e-mail at: pss@census.gov.

This data collection is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau for NCES. To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important effort.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-5(L)
(06-2023)

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States.

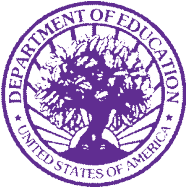
If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

C3. Internet Option First Letter – Classic Endorser List Group & FAQ



**PSS-5(L)
(06-2023)**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education requests your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), a national data collection effort administered every two years to private schools across the country. The purpose of the PSS is to obtain current information from all private elementary and secondary schools in recognition of the importance of private education in the United States. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey and ensures that your school is represented in important national data on private schools.

Please complete the survey online within two weeks. You can access the secure website using the information provided below.

Respond at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID:

The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures that your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES website.

If you have any questions about this voluntary survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time). You can also contact the U.S. Census Bureau via e-mail at: pss@census.gov.

This data collection is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau for NCES. To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important effort.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-5(L)
(06-2023)

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

Endorsed by:

Agudath Israel of America
American Association of Christian Schools
American Montessori Society
Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
Association of Military Colleges and Schools
Christian Schools International
Council for American Private Education
Council of Islamic Schools in North America
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Islamic School League of America
Jesuit Schools Network
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Episcopal Schools
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Private Special Education Centers
National Catholic Educational Association
National Christian School Association
National Council for Private School Accreditation
National Independent Private Schools Accreditation
Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship
The Association of Boarding Schools
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**FAQs – Included with each letter mailout
to all groups**

2025–26 Private School Survey

The 2025–26 Private School Survey is intended to include all —

► **Private schools that teach ANY of the following —**

- At least one of grades 1–12
- Ungraded students between 5 and 18 years old
- Kindergarten – traditional year of school primarily for 5-year-olds prior to first grade
- Transitional (or readiness) kindergarten – extra year of school for kindergarten-age children who are judged not ready for kindergarten
- Transitional first (or prefirst) grade – extra year of school for children who have attended kindergarten but have been judged not ready for first grade

► **Private early childhood programs and day care centers that have ANY of the following —**

- Kindergarten
- Transitional (or readiness) kindergarten
- Transitional first (or prefirst) grade

► **All non-public elementary and secondary schools that include ANY of the following —**

- Private schools that receive tuition for some students from public school districts
- Residential treatment centers with an education program
- Private schools that provide special education services to public school districts
- Special education schools

This survey is NOT intended for the following types of schools or programs —

- Public schools, including public charter schools
- Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools
- State-run schools
- Department of Defense schools
- Adult education or postsecondary programs
- Tutoring programs
- Homeschool umbrella organizations

WHO AUTHORIZES THIS SURVEY?

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The U.S. Census Bureau will administer this survey on behalf of the NCES.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY?

The 2025-26 Private School Survey includes all private schools and early childhood programs that provide educational instruction to students in kindergarten or *at least* one grade from 1 to 12.

WHY IS MY SCHOOL'S RESPONSE IMPORTANT?

Private education is a critical part of the U.S. education system. Without accurate information about the nation's private schools, policy makers have an incomplete picture of education more broadly and cannot make effective decisions on a range of important issues including those around the topic of school choice. A response to this survey ensures that YOUR school is represented in key data and reports produced by the National Center for Education Statistics about private education and school choice. The National Center for Education Statistics is the primary source of statistical information on education for the country.

HOW DOES THIS HELP MY SCHOOL?

The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. While NCES also uses the survey to update the private school search tool on our web site:

<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>, if you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school. This resource is used by parents looking to find a private school for their children. Importantly, your response to this survey ensures that your school's voice will be heard in policy decisions.

WHAT ARE RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS SURVEYS?

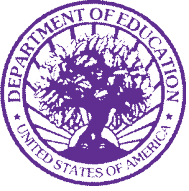
NCES produces summaries of the data that help parents, educators, and policy makers understand the current state of education in the United States. For example, results from the 2023-24 Private School Survey show that:

- Approximately X percent of all elementary and secondary schools in the United States are private institutions; these schools enroll approximately X percent of the nation's children and employ X percent of the nation's teachers.
- The pupil/teacher ratio was X at private schools, which was lower than the ratio of X at public schools.
- Of the X private elementary and secondary schools in the United States, X schools have a membership in at least one private school association, X percent have a religious orientation, and X percent emphasized regular elementary or secondary programs.

In addition to the reports that NCES produces, researchers use the data in their own studies of private schools and policy makers use the data to inform decisions.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT RESPOND?

There is no penalty for not responding. However, if you do not respond, your school, teachers, and the students you serve will be missing from the education picture. A high response rate is very important to make sure the data represent the private education sector accurately. Accurate representation of the private education sector is critical to the design and interpretation of education research for governmental, university based, and private research. The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES site. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.



PSS-5(L)
(06-2023)

C4. Internet Option First Letter – Endorser Insert Group

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education requests your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), a national data collection effort administered every two years to private schools across the country. The purpose of the PSS is to obtain current information from all private elementary and secondary schools in recognition of the importance of private education in the United States. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey and ensures that your school is represented in important national data on private schools.

Please complete the survey online within two weeks. You can access the secure website using the information provided below.

Respond at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID:

The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures that your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES website.

If you have any questions about this voluntary survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time). You can also contact the U.S. Census Bureau via e-mail at: pss@census.gov.

This data collection is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau for NCES. To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important effort.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-5(L)
(06-2023)

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States.

If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

We thank the following organizations for endorsing the Private School Survey

American Association of Christian Schools



American Association of School Librarians



American Montessori Society



American School Counselor Association



Association for Middle Level Education



Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development



Association Montessori Internationale



Association of American Educators



Association of Christian Schools International



Association of Christian Teachers and Schools



Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States



Christian Schools International



Council for American Private Education



Council of Islamic Schools in North America



Education Department, General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Education Association



Islamic Schools League of America



National Alliance of Christian Schools



National Association for the Education of Young Children



National Association of Elementary School Principals



National Association of Episcopal Schools



National Association of Independent Schools



National Association of Private Special Education Centers



National Association of Secondary School Principals



National Catholic Educational Association



National Christian School Association



National Council for Private School Accreditation



National Independent Private Schools Association



National Parent Teacher Association



Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship



The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

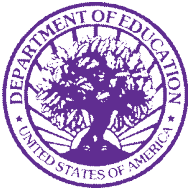


United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod





PSS-7(L)
(06-2023)

C5. Internet Option Second Letter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

We recently sent you a request to complete the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so as soon as possible. Data from this survey will be instrumental in assisting government agencies with policy decisions, in research conducted by private organizations, and in reports generated by news and media organizations to inform the public about the status of private education in the United States.

The internet link to the secure survey website and your personalized User ID are below. Your response is vital to provide a complete picture of private school education in this country.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID:

If you would prefer to complete the Private School Survey on paper rather than online, please complete and return the enclosed paper questionnaire in the postage-paid return envelope.

As a reminder, the Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Without your response to this survey your school's NCES ID cannot remain active and will no longer be listed on the NCES site.

If you have any questions about this voluntary survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this national survey recognizing the importance of private education in the United States.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-7(L)
(06-2023)

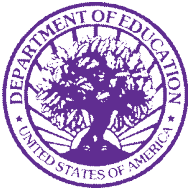
The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

Endorsed by:

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American Association of Christian Schools
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Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
Association of Military Colleges and Schools
Christian Schools International
Council for American Private Education
Council of Islamic Schools in North America
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Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship
The Association of Boarding Schools
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



PSS-9(L)
(06-2023)

C6. Internet Option Third Letter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

We recently sent you several requests to complete the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). Your participation will help us continue to provide comprehensive data on private school education in the United States. Completing this survey will ensure that your school's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ID number and information stay active on our website.

If you have not had the opportunity to take the survey yet, please complete the enclosed paper questionnaire as soon as possible and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope. Alternatively, you may still complete the PSS online using the secure survey website and your personalized User ID.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID:

NCES produces summaries of the data that help parents, educators, and policy makers understand the current state of education in the United States. For example, results from the 2023-24 Private School Survey show that:

- Approximately X percent of all elementary and secondary schools in the United States are private institutions; these schools enroll approximately X percent of the nation's children and employ X percent of the nation's teachers.
- The pupil/teacher ratio was X at private schools, which was lower than the ratio of X at public schools.
- Of the X private elementary and secondary schools in the United States, X schools have a membership in at least one private school association, X percent have a religious orientation, and X percent emphasized regular elementary or secondary programs.

In addition to the reports that NCES produces, researchers use the data in their own studies of private schools and policy makers use the data to inform decisions. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau by phone at 1-888-329-5890 or by e-mail at: pss@census.gov. To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this very important effort.

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-9(L)
(06-2023)

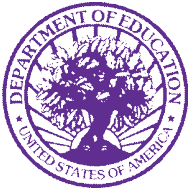
The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

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The Association of Boarding Schools
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



PSS-8(L)
(06-2023)

C7. Non-Internet Option First Letter & FAQ

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education requests your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), a national data collection administered every two years to private schools across the country. The purpose of the PSS is to obtain current information from all private elementary and secondary schools in recognition of the importance of private education in the United States. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey and ensures that your school is represented in important national data on private schools.

Take the time now to ensure your school is counted. **Please complete the enclosed questionnaire as soon as possible and return it in the postage-paid envelope.**

The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES site. Your response also helps provide a complete picture of private education in the United States.

This data collection is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau for NCES. If you have any questions about this voluntary survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important data collection effort!

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-8(L)
(06-2023)

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

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The Association of Boarding Schools
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**FAQs – Included with each letter mailout
to all groups**

2027–28 Private School Survey

The 2025–26 Private School Survey is intended to include all —

► **Private schools that teach ANY of the following —**

- At least one of grades 1–12
- Ungraded students between 5 and 18 years old
- Kindergarten – traditional year of school primarily for 5-year-olds prior to first grade
- Transitional (or readiness) kindergarten – extra year of school for kindergarten-age children who are judged not ready for kindergarten
- Transitional first (or prefirst) grade – extra year of school for children who have attended kindergarten but have been judged not ready for first grade

► **Private early childhood programs and day care centers that have ANY of the following —**

- Kindergarten
- Transitional (or readiness) kindergarten
- Transitional first (or prefirst) grade

► **All non-public elementary and secondary schools that include ANY of the following —**

- Private schools that receive tuition for some students from public school districts
- Residential treatment centers with an education program
- Private schools that provide special education services to public school districts
- Special education schools

This survey is NOT intended for the following types of schools or programs —

- Public schools, including public charter schools
- Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools
- State-run schools
- Department of Defense schools
- Adult education or postsecondary programs
- Tutoring programs
- Homeschool umbrella organizations

WHO AUTHORIZES THIS SURVEY?

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The U.S. Census Bureau will administer this survey on behalf of the NCES.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY?

The 2025-26 Private School Survey includes all private schools and early childhood programs that provide educational instruction to students in kindergarten or *at least* one grade from 1 to 12.

WHY IS MY SCHOOL'S RESPONSE IMPORTANT?

Private education is a critical part of the U.S. education system. Without accurate information about the nation's private schools, policy makers have an incomplete picture of education more broadly and cannot make effective decisions on a range of important issues including those around the topic of school choice. A response to this survey ensures that YOUR school is represented in key data and reports produced by the National Center for Education Statistics about private education and school choice. The National Center for Education Statistics is the primary source of statistical information on education for the country.

HOW DOES THIS HELP MY SCHOOL?

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WHAT ARE RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS SURVEYS?

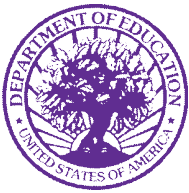
NCES produces summaries of the data that help parents, educators, and policy makers understand the current state of education in the United States. For example, results from the 2023-24 Private School Survey show that:

- Approximately X percent of all elementary and secondary schools in the United States are private institutions; these schools enroll approximately X percent of the nation's children and employ X percent of the nation's teachers.
- The pupil/teacher ratio was X at private schools, which was lower than the ratio of X at public schools.
- Of the X private elementary and secondary schools in the United States, X schools have a membership in at least one private school association, X percent have a religious orientation, and X percent emphasized regular elementary or secondary programs.

In addition to the reports that NCES produces, researchers use the data in their own studies of private schools and policy makers use the data to inform decisions.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT RESPOND?

There is no penalty for not responding. However, if you do not respond, your school, teachers, and the students you serve will be missing from the education picture. A high response rate is very important to make sure the data represent the private education sector accurately. Accurate representation of the private education sector is critical to the design and interpretation of education research for governmental, university based, and private research. The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES site. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.



PSS-10(L)
(06-2023)

C8. Non-Internet Option Second Letter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Dear Administrator:

We recently sent you several requests to complete the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). Your participation will help us continue to provide comprehensive data on private school education in the United States and completing this survey will ensure that your school's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ID number and information remain active.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you for your participation in this important national data collection effort. If you have not had the opportunity to take the survey yet, please complete the enclosed paper questionnaire as soon as possible and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope.

NCES produces summaries of the PSS data that help parents, educators, and policy makers understand the current state of education in the United States. For example, results from the 2023-24 Private School Survey show that:

- Approximately X percent of all elementary and secondary schools in the United States are private institutions; these schools enroll approximately X percent of the nation's children and employ X percent of the nation's teachers.
- The pupil/teacher ratio was X at private schools, which was lower than the ratio of X at public schools.
- Of the X private elementary and secondary schools in the United States, X schools have a membership in at least one private school association, X percent have a religious orientation, and X percent emphasized regular elementary or secondary programs.

In addition to the reports that NCES produces, researchers use the data in their own studies of private schools and policy makers use the data to inform decisions. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this national survey recognizing the importance of private education in the United States.

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, DC 20208 5652

PSS-10(L)**(06-2023)**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

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Endorsed by:

Agudath Israel of America
American Association of Christian Schools
American Montessori Society
Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
Association of Military Colleges and Schools
Christian Schools International
Council for American Private Education
Council of Islamic Schools in North America
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Islamic School League of America
Jesuit Schools Network
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Episcopal Schools
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Private Special Education Centers
National Catholic Educational Association
National Christian School Association
National Council for Private School Accreditation
National Independent Private Schools Accreditation
Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship
The Association of Boarding Schools
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

C9. CATI Follow-up Script

This is [*name of caller*] from the U.S. Census Bureau. I'm calling regarding the Private School Survey.

The purpose of this survey is to obtain current information about private schools in the United States.

This call may be monitored to evaluate my performance. The interview should take approximately 20 minutes.

From here, screens and script in the Blaise instrument vary depending on response.

NOTE: If you reach an answering machine or need to leave a message for someone to return your call, leave this message:

"This is the U.S. Census Bureau. Please return our call at this toll-free number 1-877-749-4938. Please refer to case #_____. Thank you."

JUST A REMINDER

Recently the U.S. Census Bureau contacted you about this year's Private School Survey (PSS) that we are conducting.

If you have received the questionnaire but have not yet had time to complete it, please do so as soon as possible. Your response is critical to having an accurate picture of private education in the United States.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank You.

0948-PC (5-2023)

JUST A REMINDER

Recently the U.S. Census Bureau contacted you about this year's Private School Survey (PSS) that we are conducting.

If you have received the questionnaire but have not yet had time to complete it, please do so as soon as possible. Your response is critical to having an accurate picture of private education in the United States.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank You.

0948-PC (5-2023)

**C11. Reminder Email #1
Mid-Mailing Email to Schools –
Endorser Control Example**

Subject line: U.S. Department of Education Survey Reminder

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

We at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education request your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). Data from this survey will be instrumental in assisting government agencies with policy decisions, in research conducted by private organizations, and in reports generated by news and media organizations to inform the public about the status of private education in the United States.

We have attempted to reach your school by mail and have not yet received your response. **If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so within the next two weeks.**

The secure link to the website and your personalized User ID are below. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

As a reminder, the Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Without your response to this survey your school's NCES ID cannot remain active and will no longer be listed on the NCES site.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this national survey recognizing the importance of private education in the United States.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States.

If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

**C12. Reminder Email #1
Mid-Mailing Email to Schools –
Classic Endorser List Group Example**

Subject line: U.S. Department of Education Survey Reminder

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

We at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education request your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). Data from this survey will be instrumental in assisting government agencies with policy decisions, in research conducted by private organizations, and in reports generated by news and media organizations to inform the public about the status of private education in the United States.

We have attempted to reach your school by mail and have not yet received your response. **If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so within the next two weeks.**

The secure link to the website and your personalized User ID are below. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

As a reminder, the Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Without your response to this survey your school's NCES ID cannot remain active and will no longer be listed on the NCES site.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this national survey recognizing the importance of private education in the United States.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States.

If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

Endorsed by:

Agudath Israel of America
American Association of Christian Schools
American Montessori Society
Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
Association of Military Colleges and Schools
Christian Schools International
Council for American Private Education
Council of Islamic Schools in North America
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Islamic School League of America
Jesuit Schools Network
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Episcopal Schools
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Private Special Education Centers
National Catholic Educational Association
National Christian School Association
National Council for Private School Accreditation
National Independent Private Schools Accreditation
Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship
The Association of Boarding Schools
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**C13. Reminder Email #1
Mid-Mailing Email to Schools –
Endorser Insert Group Example**

Subject line: U.S. Department of Education Survey Reminder

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

We at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education request your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). Data from this survey will be instrumental in assisting government agencies with policy decisions, in research conducted by private organizations, and in reports generated by news and media organizations to inform the public about the status of private education in the United States.

We have attempted to reach your school by mail and have not yet received your response. **If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so within the next two weeks.**

The secure link to the website and your personalized User ID are below. We encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

As a reminder, the Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Without your response to this survey your school's NCES ID cannot remain active and will no longer be listed on the NCES site.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this national survey recognizing the importance of private education in the United States.

Sincerely,

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States.

If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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:

pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Ave SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

We thank the following organizations for endorsing the Private School Survey

American Association of Christian Schools



American Association of School Librarians



American Montessori Society



American School Counselor Association



Association for Middle Level Education



Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development



Association Montessori Internationale



Association of American Educators



Association of Christian Schools International



Association of Christian Teachers and Schools



Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States



Christian Schools International



Council for American Private Education



Council of Islamic Schools in North America



Education Department, General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Education Association



Islamic Schools League of America



National Alliance of Christian Schools



National Association for the Education of Young Children



National Association of Elementary School Principals



National Association of Episcopal Schools



National Association of Independent Schools



National Association of Private Special Education Centers



National Association of Secondary School Principals



National Catholic Educational Association



National Christian School Association



National Council for Private School Accreditation



National Independent Private Schools Association



National Parent Teacher Association



Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship



The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



C14. Reminder Email #2
Pre-CATI Email to Schools

Subject line: Expect a call soon about the U.S. Department of Education Survey

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

We recently contacted you regarding the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), which obtains current information about private schools across the country in recognition of the importance of private education in the United States. We understand that you are busy and thank you in advance for your participation in this important national data collection. The survey will only take about 20 minutes to complete.

In January, we will begin calling schools that have not responded to provide the opportunity to respond over the phone. Our convenient online instrument allows you to respond on a secure website, without the need for survey staff to call your school.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

Data from this survey will be instrumental in assisting government agencies with policy decisions, and to construct reports that describe the status of private schools in the United States. Researchers in private organizations use the data to conduct analyses for projects and studies. Reports and tabulations generated from PSS data are also used by news and media organizations to inform the public about the status of private education in the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about PSS, visit <https://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss>.

Sincerely,
The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

C15. Reminder Email #3
Pre-Field NRFU Email to Schools

Subject line: Expect In-Person Visit for U.S. Dept. of Education Survey

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

We have been trying to contact your school by mail and phone to participate in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), but we do not yet have your response.

Census Bureau representatives will begin visiting schools in April to provide a replacement paper questionnaire and the opportunity to respond in person. Or our online instrument is still available for you to respond without the need for survey staff to visit your school in person.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

Your participation is vital to the success of this survey as higher response rates give us confidence that the findings are accurate.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about PSS, visit <https://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss>. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important national data collection effort!

Sincerely,
The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, Potomac Center Plaza, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

C16. Reminder Email #4
Final Email to Schools

Subject line: U.S. Dept. of Education Survey FINAL NOTICE

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

This is your school's last chance to participate in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS).

We must receive your completed response as soon as possible. The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES [private school search tool](#). Your response also helps provide a complete picture of private education in the United States.

It is critical that you respond now by clicking on the secure link below and logging in with your personalized User ID.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

Census Bureau representatives are currently visiting schools to provide the opportunity to respond on a paper questionnaire. However, you can still respond online using the secure website above without the need for survey staff to visit your school in person.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about PSS, visit <https://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss>.

Sincerely,
The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

C17. Non-Internet Thank You Postcard

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

c/o U.S. Census Bureau
1201 E 10th St
Jeffersonville IN 47132-0001

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

0949-PC (05-02-2023)

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

c/o U.S. Census Bureau
1201 E 10th St
Jeffersonville IN 47132-0001

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

0949-PC (05-02-2023)

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58

THANK YOU

Thank you for your participation in this year's Private School Survey (PSS). Your response ensures that your school is represented in important national data on private schools and helps to provide a complete picture of private education in the United States.

We look forward to your continued participation in the PSS, which will be administered in the fall of 2027. If you have any questions about the current or future survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-800-221-1204. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

0948-PC(A) (5-2023)

THANK YOU

Thank you for your participation in this year's Private School Survey (PSS). Your response ensures that your school is represented in important national data on private schools and helps to provide a complete picture of private education in the United States.

We look forward to your continued participation in the PSS, which will be administered in the fall of 2027. If you have any questions about the current or future survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-800-221-1204. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

0948-PC(A) (5-2023)

C18. Reminder Postcard #2



0948-PS
(05-2023)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

JUST A REMINDER

We recently contacted you about the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS). If you have not yet had time to complete the survey, please do so as soon as possible. The link to the secure survey website and your personalized User ID is listed below.

Please complete the survey online within two weeks.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID:

Completing the PSS will also ensure that your school's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ID number and information stay current on our website. This ID is required for many private and federal grant application processes. Without the most current information based on your survey response, your school's NCES ID cannot remain active and will no longer be listed on the NCES site.

If you have any questions about this voluntary survey, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Staff will be available to take your call Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank You.

The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States.

If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

WASHINGTON, DC 20208-5652

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
c/o U.S. Census Bureau
1201 E 10th St
Jeffersonville IN 47132-0001

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

0948-PS (5-2023)

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58

C19. Initial Email to Schools

Subject line: U.S. Department of Education Survey

Dear <ADMINISTRATOR>:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education requests your participation in the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS), a national data collection effort administered every two years to private schools across the country.

We encourage you to participate in this voluntary 20-minute survey, which includes questions about school characteristics including the number of students and teachers. The secure link to the website and your personalized User ID is below.

Respond now at <https://respond.census.gov/pss>

Log in using this User ID: <USERID>

We are collecting data from all private elementary and secondary schools. The Private School Survey is used to generate an NCES ID number for your school which many private and federal grants require as part of their application process. Your response to this survey ensures that your school retains this NCES ID and is listed on the NCES site.

If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890 or by email at pss@census.gov. Staff will be available to take your call or answer your email from Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm (Eastern Time).

To learn more about the PSS, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this national survey recognizing the importance of private education in the United States.

Sincerely,
The Private School Survey Team
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data will be used to produce a web-based private school search tool and statistical summaries about the providers of private education in the United States. If you choose to provide directly identifying personal information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and not reported with information about your school.

Paperwork Burden Statement

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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Universe Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202.

C20. Login page for the internet version of the PSS



Private School Survey (PSS) 2025-26 School Year



Welcome to the 2025-26 Private School Survey (PSS)

→ Enter the 8-digit User ID provided in the letter that we sent you.

User ID:

Login

Email us: pss@census.gov

Call us: 1-888-329-5890

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543).

Basic school information such as school name, address, phone number, school type or program emphasis, religious orientation or affiliation of the school, association membership, grades taught and the number of students by grade, number of students by race/ethnicity, and the number of full-time-equivalent teachers are published on <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>. If you choose to provide personally identifying information such as your name, it will be kept confidential and will not be reported with information about your school. The remaining information is 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 1850-0641. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, 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: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey Team, U.S. Census Bureau, ADDP/Education Surveys, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233.

U.S. Census Bureau Notice and Consent Warning

You are accessing a United States Government computer network. Any information you enter into this system is confidential. It may be used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes and to improve the website.

Use of this system indicates your consent to collection, monitoring, recording, and use of the information that you provide for any lawful government purpose. So that our website remains safe and available for its intended use, network traffic is monitored to identify unauthorized attempts to access, upload, change information, or otherwise cause damage to the web service. Use of the government computer network for unauthorized purposes is a violation of Federal law and can be punished with fines or imprisonment (PUBLIC LAW 99-474).

This information system may contain Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) that is subject to safeguarding or dissemination controls in accordance with law, regulation, or Government-wide policy.

OMB No.: 1850-0641

OMB Expiration Date: 09/30/2026

[Accessibility](#) | [Security](#)