

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

Appendix D PSS 2025-26 Survey

OMB# 1850-0641 v.17

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

September 2026

This document includes the instrument for the PSS 2025-26. The instrument for the PSS 2027-28 is expected to be mostly identical, excepting updates to dates. In 2026/2027, NCES will submit the PSS 2027-28 instrument as part of either a revision requesting 30 days of public comment or a non-substantive change request, as appropriate.

PRIVATE SCHOOL SURVEY

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



Please note:

The 2025-26 Private School Survey is intended to include all -

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

- **At least** one grade from 1 to 12
- Ungraded students from 5 to 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

For example:

An early childhood center that has a nursery school, a prekindergarten program, and a kindergarten would be eligible for this survey, since it includes a kindergarten.

But an early childhood center that has a nursery school and a prekindergarten program **ONLY** would **NOT** be eligible for this survey, since it does not include kindergarten. You would mark box 2 in item 2b.

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH ITEM 1 ON PAGE 3.

Conducted by:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Administered by:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

FORM **PSS-1**
(06/25/2024) Draft

OMB No. 1850-0641: Approval Expires 06/30/2027



DEAR ADMINISTRATOR:

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

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. Your school's response is needed to provide a complete picture of U.S. educational institutions.

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. NCES also uses the survey to update the private school search tool on our web site: <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>. 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 previous Private School Surveys show that approximately 23 percent of all elementary and secondary schools in the United States are private institutions; these schools enroll approximately 8 percent of the nation's children and employ 13 percent of the nation's teachers. 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.

WHERE SHOULD YOU MAIL YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE?

Please return your completed questionnaire using the enclosed envelope. If you do not have the return envelope, please mail your questionnaire to:

**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
ATTN: DCB 60A
1201 E. 10TH STREET
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47132-0001**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT EFFORT.

SINCERELY,

**THE PRIVATE SCHOOL SURVEY TEAM
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS (NCES)
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 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 email: pss@census.gov, or write directly to: Private School Survey (PSS), National Center for Education Statistics, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12th Street SW, Room #4010, Washington, DC 20202.



1. Please print your name, title, school telephone number, and school email.

YOUR NAME

TITLE

SCHOOL
TELEPHONE
NUMBER
 - -
SCHOOL
EMAIL

2a. Is this institution or organization still in operation?

☐ Yes

MM

DD

YYYY

☐ No - Please record the date when closed.

b. Are there any grades K to 12 or comparable ungraded levels taught by this institution or organization?

☐ Yes → **Which grades?**
☐ Mark (X) all that apply, then GO TO item 2c below.

☐ No

☐ Kindergarten

☐ 4th

☐ 8th

☐ 12th

☐ 1st

☐ 5th

☐ 9th

☐ Ungraded

☐ 2nd

☐ 6th

☐ 10th

☐ 3rd

☐ 7th

☐ 11th

(1) Which of the following describes the reason(s) this institution or organization does NOT teach any of grades K-12 or comparable ungraded levels?

☐ Mark (X) all that apply, then GO TO item 3 below.

☐ Adult education or postsecondary education

☐ Tutoring program or before and after school program

☐ Prekindergarten, nursery school, early childhood center, or day care center

☐ Other - Please describe. →

c. Is this a private school or program?

☐ For this survey, all non-public elementary or secondary schools are considered private schools. For example, Roman Catholic schools, Hebrew day schools, Lutheran schools, private boarding schools, nonsectarian private schools, private schools that provide special education services to public school districts, private schools that receive tuition for some students from public school districts.

☐ Yes

☐ No → **Which of the following best describes your school or program?**
☐ Mark (X) only one box, then GO TO item 3 below.

☐ Public school, including public charter, state-run, Bureau of Indian Education, or Department of Defense school

☐ Other → Please describe the type of school or program. ↗

3. If you marked "No" for any of items 2a-c, do not complete this questionnaire. Please return it in the enclosed envelope. If you do not have the return envelope, mail your questionnaire to:

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ATTN: DCB 60A
1201 E. 10TH STREET
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47132-0001

If you marked "Yes" for all of items 2a-c above, continue with item 4 on page 4.



INSTRUCTIONS

The data you enter on this form will be captured through the use of imaging technology. Please print all information clearly in ordinary characters, using a black ballpoint pen.

CORRECT marking example X
(Use care to keep characters
in their designated spaces.)

☐ 3 ☐ 5

☒ Yes
☐ No

INCORRECT marking example X

☐ 35

☐ 3 ☐ 5

☐ Yes
☒ No

OR

☒ Yes
☐ No

- a. If you are unsure about how to answer a question, please give the best answer you can rather than leaving it blank.
- b. If you have any questions, call the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-888-329-5890. Someone will be available to take your call Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Ungraded levels. The term "ungraded levels" refers to schools that classify students by an alternative means other than particular grade levels (e.g., Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, etc.).

Report only for the school or program named on the front of this questionnaire. The term "school" will be used for the school or program throughout the survey.

4. Around October 1, 2025, how many students were enrolled in each of the following grade levels?

- 🍏 Do NOT include postsecondary or adult education students, or children who are enrolled only in day care at this school.
- 🍏 In column (1), mark (X) 'Yes' or 'No' for each grade level.
- 🍏 In column (2), record the number of students for each grade level with 'Yes' marked in column (1).

Grade levels	(1) Does this school have students in this grade?	(2) Number of students in this grade
a. Ungraded (including ungraded special education students)	☐ Yes → ☐ No	
b. Nursery and prekindergarten	☐ Yes → ☐ No	
c. Kindergarten (traditional year of school primarily for 5-year-olds prior to first grade)	☐ Yes → ☐ No	
d. Transitional (or readiness) kindergarten (extra year of school for kindergarten-age children who are judged not ready for kindergarten)	☐ Yes → ☐ No	
e. Transitional first (or prefirst) grade (extra year of school for children who have attended kindergarten but have been judged not ready for first grade)	☐ Yes → ☐ No	



4. *Continued* – Around October 1, 2025, how many students were enrolled in each of the following grade levels?

Grade levels	(1) Does this school have students in this grade?	(2) Number of students in this grade
f. 1st	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
g. 2nd	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
h. 3rd	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
i. 4th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
j. 5th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
k. 6th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
l. 7th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
m. 8th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
n. 9th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
o. 10th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
p. 11th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,
q. 12th	☐ Yes → ☐ No	,

5. Around October 1, 2025, what was the total number of students enrolled in this school?

🍏 Please sum lines 4(a) through 4(q).

,

Enrolled students



6. Around October 1, 2025, how many students enrolled in grades K-12 and comparable ungraded levels are –

🍎 Do NOT include nursery, prekindergarten, postsecondary, or adult education students.

🍎 Do NOT include children who are enrolled only in day care at this school.

🍎 Mark 'None' if there are no students in this school of a given racial and ethnic origin.

a. Hispanic or Latino, regardless of race?

☐ None or , K-12 students

b. White, not of Hispanic or Latino origin?

☐ None or , K-12 students

c. Black or African American, not of Hispanic or Latino origin?

☐ None or , K-12 students

d. Asian, not of Hispanic or Latino origin?

☐ None or , K-12 students

e. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, not of Hispanic or Latino origin?

☐ None or , K-12 students

e. American Indian or Alaska Native, not of Hispanic or Latino origin?

☐ None or , K-12 students

g. Two or more races, not of Hispanic or Latino origin?

☐ None or , K-12 students

7a. Is this school coeducational?

☐ Yes

☐ No, it is an all-female school

☐ No, it is an all-male school

} **GO TO item 8a on page 7.**

b. Around October 1, 2025, how many students enrolled in K-12 and comparable ungraded levels are MALE?

🍎 Do NOT include nursery, prekindergarten, postsecondary, or adult education students.

🍎 Do NOT include children who are enrolled only in day care at this school.

🍎 Mark 'None' if there are no male students enrolled in this school.

☐ None or , Male students



8a. During the LAST school year (2024-25), were any students enrolled in 12th grade?

☐ Yes
☐ No → GO TO item 9a below.

b. How many students were enrolled in 12th grade around October 1, 2024?

, 12th graders

c. How many students graduated from the 12th grade with a diploma LAST school year (2024-25)?

- 🍏 Include 2025 summer graduates.
- 🍏 Do not include students who received only vocational certificates, certificates of attendance, or certificates of completion.
- 🍏 Mark 'None' if no students graduated from the 12th grade with a diploma LAST school year.

☐ None → GO TO item 9a below.

, Graduates LAST school year

d. Of those who graduated with a diploma LAST school year (2024-25), approximately what percentage went to four-year colleges?

- 🍏 Round to the nearest whole percent.
- 🍏 Mark 'None' if no students who graduated LAST school year went to a four-year college.

☐ None or % % of graduates who went to four-year colleges

9a. How long is the school day for a kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, or transitional first grade student?

- 🍏 Mark (X) only one box.

☐ School does not offer kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, or transitional first grade → GO TO instructions for item 10 at top of page 8.

☐ Full day (4 hours or more per day)
☐ Half day (less than 4 hours per day)
☐ Both offered

b. How many days are in a TYPICAL SCHOOL WEEK for kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, or transitional first grade students in this school?

- 🍏 If the number of days per week varies, record the most days that a student would attend in a week.

Days per typical school week



INSTRUCTIONS AND AN EXAMPLE FOR ITEM 10

In item 10, we ask for the number of teachers for grades K-12 and/or comparable ungraded levels by the amount of time they teach at THIS school.

Example:

The following is an example to illustrate how to report teachers in this item for a school that includes prekindergarten through grade 8.

If this school has eight full-time teachers for grades 1-8, one full-time teacher who teaches kindergarten $\frac{1}{2}$ time and prekindergarten $\frac{1}{2}$ time, a music teacher who teaches two days each week, a physical education teacher who teaches three days each week, and a teaching principal who teaches one 30 -minute class each day, you would complete item 10 as follows:

a. Teach full-time

 8

None

☐

b. Teach at least $\frac{3}{4}$ time but less than full time

None

☒

c. Teach at least $\frac{1}{2}$ time but less than $\frac{3}{4}$ time

 2

None

☐

This number includes the one full-time teacher who teaches kindergarten $\frac{1}{2}$ time and prekindergarten $\frac{1}{2}$ time. The time he or she spends teaching prekindergarten is not counted in item 10.

This number also includes the physical education teacher who teaches three days a week.

d. Teach at least $\frac{1}{4}$ time but less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time

 1

None

☐

This includes the music teacher who teaches two days a week.

e. Teach less than $\frac{1}{4}$ time

 1

None

☐

This includes the principal who teaches one 30-minute class each day. The time he or she spends working as a principal is not included in item 10.

f. TOTAL TEACHERS

 1 2


10. Around October 1, 2025, how many persons were teaching in grades K-12 and/or comparable ungraded levels at this school in the following time categories?

🍏 Consider only the amount of time an individual works as a teacher of grades K-12 and comparable ungraded levels during a typical week at THIS school.

🍏 **INCLUDE:**

- Regular classroom teachers
- Teachers who teach subjects such as music, art, physical education, and special education
- Teaching principals or administrators who teach a regularly scheduled class at this school

🍏 **DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- Teachers who teach ONLY nursery, prekindergarten, postsecondary, or adult education
- Student teachers, teacher aides, day care aides, or short-term substitute teachers
- Counselors, library media specialists or librarians, speech therapists, social workers, or administrators UNLESS they also teach a regularly scheduled class at THIS school

🍏 Mark 'None' if no person is teaching in a particular time category.

a. Teach full-time

None

☐

b. Teach at least $\frac{3}{4}$ time but less than full time

None

☐

c. Teach at least $\frac{1}{2}$ time but less than $\frac{3}{4}$ time

None

☐

d. Teach at least $\frac{1}{4}$ time but less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time

None

☐

e. Teach less than $\frac{1}{4}$ time

None

☐

f. **TOTAL TEACHERS**

11. Which types of classes are currently available to students at this school?

a. IN-PERSON CLASSES.

Classes in which the teacher delivering instruction is in the same physical space as the students. These classes may offer some online resources (for example, homework submission, online textbooks, learning management systems [LMS] or supplemental online programs).

☐ Yes

☐ No

b. VIRTUAL CLASSES.

Classes in which the teacher delivering instruction is not in the same physical space as the students, and students may be in a classroom or in their own homes. Students and teachers may still meet in person for field trips, school-sponsored social events, or assessment purposes.

☐ Yes

☐ No

c. HYBRID CLASSES.

Classes that include a COMBINATION of in-person instruction and virtual instruction.

☐ Yes

☐ No



12. Which of the following best describes this school?

🍏 *Mark (X) only one box.*

- ☐ REGULAR school – elementary or secondary
- ☐ MONTESSORI school
- ☐ SPECIAL PROGRAM EMPHASIS school – such as a science or math school, performing arts school, talented or gifted school, world language immersion school, etc.
- ☐ SPECIAL EDUCATION school – primarily serves students with disabilities
- ☐ CAREER/TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL school – primarily serves students being trained for occupations
- ☐ EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM OR DAY CARE CENTER – such as kindergarten only, prekindergarten and kindergarten only, kindergarten and transitional first grade only, day care and transitional kindergarten only, etc.
- ☐ ALTERNATIVE/OTHER school – offers a curriculum designed to provide alternative or nontraditional education; does not specifically fall into the categories of regular, special program emphasis, special education, or vocational school – *Please describe.* ↗

13a. Is a major role of this school to support homeschooling?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

b. Is this school located in a private home that is used primarily as a family residence?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14a. Does this school have a religious orientation or purpose?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → [GO TO item 15 on page 12.](#)

b. Is this school affiliated with a religious organization or institution?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



14c. What is this school's religious orientation or affiliation?

🍏 *Mark (X) only one box.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Roman Catholic | → Is this school – |
| ☐ African Methodist Episcopal | 🍏 <i>Mark (X) only one box.</i> |
| ☐ Amish | ☐ Parochial (or inter-parochial) |
| ☐ Assembly of God | ☐ Diocesan |
| ☐ Baptist | ☐ Private |
| ☐ Brethren | |
| ☐ Calvinist | |
| ☐ Christian (no specific denomination) | |
| ☐ Church of Christ | |
| ☐ Church of God | |
| ☐ Church of God in Christ | |
| ☐ Church of the Nazarene | |
| ☐ Disciples of Christ | |
| ☐ Episcopal | |
| ☐ Friends | |
| ☐ Greek Orthodox | |
| ☐ Islamic | |
| ☐ Jewish | |
| ☐ Latter Day Saints | |
| ☐ Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod | |
| ☐ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (formerly AELC, ALC, or LCA) | |
| ☐ Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod | |
| ☐ Other Lutheran | |
| ☐ Mennonite | |
| ☐ Methodist | |
| ☐ Pentecostal | |
| ☐ Presbyterian | |
| ☐ Seventh-Day Adventist | |
| ☐ Other – <i>Specify</i> ➤ | |



15. To which of the following associations or organizations does this school belong?

🍏 *Mark (X) all that apply.*

☐ This school or program does NOT belong to ANY associations or organizations

RELIGIOUS

- ☐ Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) (or School of Tomorrow)
- ☐ Agudath Israel of America (AIA)
- ☐ American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS)
- ☐ Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- ☐ Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS)
- ☐ Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS)
- ☐ Christian Schools International (CSI)
- ☐ Council of Islamic Schools in North America (CISNA)
- ☐ Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA)
- ☐ Friends Council on Education (FCE)
- ☐ General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC)
- ☐ Islamic School League of America (ISLA)
- ☐ Jesuit Schools Network (JSN)
- ☐ National Alliance of Christian Schools (NACS)
- ☐ National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES)
- ☐ National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)
- ☐ National Christian School Association (NCSA)
- ☐ National Society for Hebrew Day Schools (Torah Umesorah)
- ☐ Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF)
- ☐ Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools (PRIZMAH)
- ☐ Other religious school association(s) – *Specify* ➤



15. Continued – To which of the following associations or organizations does this school belong?

🍏 *Mark (X) all that apply.*

SPECIAL EMPHASIS

- ☐ American Montessori Society (AMS)
- ☐ Association Montessori International (AMI)
- ☐ Other Montessori association(s)
- ☐ Association of Military Colleges and Schools (AMCS)
- ☐ Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)
- ☐ National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC)
- ☐ Other association(s) for exceptional children
- ☐ European Council for International Schools (ECIS)
- ☐ National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- ☐ National Association of Laboratory Schools (NALS)
- ☐ National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS)
- ☐ Other special emphasis association(s) – *Specify* ➤

OTHER SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS

- ☐ Alternative School Network (ASN)
- ☐ National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- ☐ State or regional independent school association
- ☐ National Independent Private Schools Association (NIPSA)
- ☐ The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS)
- ☐ Other school association(s) – *Specify* ➤



16. How many days are in the SCHOOL YEAR for students in this school?

Days per school year

17. How long is the SCHOOL DAY for students in this school?

- 🍏 Report BOTH hours and minutes, e.g., 06 hours and 00 minutes, 05 hours and 45 minutes, etc.
- 🍏 If the length of day varies by grade level, record the longest day.

Hours

AND

Minutes

18. Does this school have a library media center?

- 🍏 A "library media center" is an organized collection of printed and/or audiovisual and/or computer resources which is administered as a unit, is located in a designated place or places, and makes resources and services available to students, teachers, and administrators. A library media center may be called a school library, media center, resource center, information center, instructional materials center, learning resource center, or any other similar name.

☐

Yes

☐

No

19. Please enter the date you completed this questionnaire.

MM

DD

YYYY



20. Please verify this school's name and mailing address that are printed below. If any part of the name and mailing address is incorrect, enter the correction(s), as necessary, in the appropriate space(s) below.

School name

Mailing address

City

State

ZIP Code

- 21a. Is the physical or street address of this school the same as the mailing address?

☐ Yes

☐ No ↗

- b. Please print this school's physical or street address.

Street

City

State

ZIP Code

**Thank you for participating in this important survey.
Your time and effort are appreciated.**

**Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope.
If you do not have the return envelope, mail your questionnaire to:**

**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
ATTN: DCB 60A
1201 E. 10TH STREET
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47132-0001**



To learn more about the Private School Survey (PSS) and to access reports from earlier collections, see the PSS website at:
<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss>

Additional data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) on a variety of topics in elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and international education are available from NCES' website at:
<https://nces.ed.gov>

For additional data collected by various Federal agencies, including the Department of Education, visit the Federal Statistics clearinghouse at:
<https://www.usa.gov/statistics>

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