

# 2027 School District Review Program (SDRP) Quick Start Guide

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## Getting Started

- Review this Quick Start Guide and the SDRP Annotation Phase Respondent Guide.
- Gather information on any changes to a state's school districts effective on or before January 1, 2027.
- Coordinate with school district officials, state education officials, county planners, and State Data Centers to make sure school district boundaries and attributes are up to date.

## Conducting a School District Boundary Review

- Compare the Census Bureau's school district boundaries with local school district boundary sources.
- Review school district names, levels, codes, grade ranges, and relationships using the listing files.
- Inform the Census Bureau at [<geo.school@census.gov>](mailto:geo.school@census.gov) if no updates are necessary. Otherwise, review the table on the second page to determine which updates are reported using the Submission Log or the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) Web.

## Preparing Updates for the Census Bureau

The **Submission Log** is a Microsoft Excel file used to report all changes except boundary changes. The file is available for download from [Annotation Phase Program Materials](#).

- Enter the changes on the Submission Log and confirm that attribution for all mandatory fields is accurate and complete.
- Zip the Submission Log file, and any supporting documentation, and name it "Submission\_Log.zip."
- Review Part 3 in the respondent guide for more information on using the Submission Log.
- Submit Submission Log zip file using the Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM). SWIM is the official web portal for sending data to the Census Bureau. Review Part 5 of the respondent guide for instructions on using SWIM.

**GUPS Web** is a customized, web-based, geographic information systems (GIS) software application developed by the Census Bureau.

- Use GUPS Web to report school district boundary changes.
- Visit the Help Center in GUPS Web for more information.

## SDRP Schedule

- **September 2026**—Notify the mapping coordinators by email that Annotation Phase materials are available to download and review.
- **October 2026**—Provide free training webinar on responding to the SDRP to mapping coordinators.
- **December 31, 2026**—Deadline for submission of updated school districts. All school district updates must be received by this date to participate in the 2027 SDRP Verification Phase. We encourage you to submit changes as soon as possible rather than waiting until the deadline.
- **April 2027**—Review of Verification Phase materials by mapping coordinators.
- **December 2027**—Release of preliminary poverty estimates based on the updated school districts.

## SDRP Contact Information

- Email: [<geo.school@census.gov>](mailto:geo.school@census.gov)
- Phone: 301-763-1099
- SDRP website: [<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sdrp.html>](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sdrp.html)

## Types of School District Boundary Updates

The table below lists the eleven types of school district updates accepted through the SDRP; a description of the type of update; the recommended submission method; and where to find more information on each in the respondent guide.

**Table 1: Types of Updates**

| Type of Update         | Update Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Submission Method     | Respondent Guide Section |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Boundary Change        | Occurs when a school district adds or removes area from the same school district level or across school district levels.                                                                                                                                                                       | GUPS Web              | Part 4                   |
| Complex Consolidation  | Occurs when two or more school districts merge to create a new school district with a new name and new School District Local Education Agency (SDLEA) code, along with additional boundary changes. Note: The Census Bureau expects accompanying boundary changes for the new school district. | Submission Log        | 3.5                      |
| Complex Dissolution    | Occurs when a single school district dissolves its area between two or more existing school districts, with or without additional boundary changes. Complex dissolutions do not create new school districts, and the names and SDLEA code of the receiving school districts remain unchanged.  | Submission Log        | 3.6                      |
| SDLEA Code Change      | Occurs when correcting an SDLEA code.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Submission Log        | 3.3                      |
| Grade Range Change     | Occurs when a school district changes the grades it covers; for example, changing from covering 9–12 to 7–12.                                                                                                                                                                                  | Submission Log        | 3.2                      |
| Level Change           | Occurs when a school district changes classification; for example, changing from elementary to unified.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Submission Log        | 3.4                      |
| Name Change            | Occurs when a school district changes its name; for example, changing from Oak Union Unified School District to Oak Union School District.                                                                                                                                                     | Submission Log        | 3.1                      |
| New District           | Occurs when transferring area from one or more existing school districts to form a completely new school district.                                                                                                                                                                             | Submission Log        | 3.7                      |
| Pseudo School District | Occurs when one school district pays for the educational services for a set of grades in a different geographic area than its own.                                                                                                                                                             | Contact Census Bureau | Appendix A1              |
| Simple Consolidation   | Occurs when two or more school districts merge to create a new school district with a new name and new SDLEA code, with no additional boundary changes.                                                                                                                                        | Submission Log        | 3.5                      |
| Simple Dissolution     | Occurs when one or more existing school districts are entirely absorbed by one other existing school district. Note: Simple dissolutions retain the name and SDLEA code of the receiving school district, and do not create a new school district.                                             | Submission Log        | 3.6                      |