



## What is the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)?

The SASS is an integrated set of sample surveys that collects information on a wide range of topics about the characteristics of schools, staff and student populations, school climate, and staff perceptions. The School District questionnaire focuses on hiring and recruitment, high school graduation requirements, and enrollment and teacher counts. The School questionnaire asks about school programs and services and staffing. The Principal questionnaire collects data on principals' prior experience, training, school climate and school policies. The Teacher questionnaire seeks information such as teacher preparation and assignment, years of experience, perceptions of working conditions and demographic characteristics. The School Library Media Center questionnaire asks for information about the school library holdings, staffing, services, and policies.



## Why is SASS important?

The SASS is the largest, most extensive survey of K-12 school districts, schools, teachers, and administrators in the United States today. Its data are used by a wide variety of people interested in K-12 education, including teacher professional organizations, private school associations, education advocacy groups, legislators, researchers, and journalists. SASS provides a unique resource for information on elementary and secondary education.

The SASS is designed to provide policymakers, researchers, teachers, and parents with facts about the nation's schools, such as in 2003-04:

- 18% of public school teachers had 3 or fewer years of full-time teaching experience;
- The average annual salary for public school principals was \$75,500; and
- 86% of private schools had vacancies for general elementary teachers.

## What types of questions are asked?

- District policies and characteristics;
- Characteristics of schools and programs offered;
- Principal characteristics and opinions;
- Teacher characteristics and background, workload, and opinions; and
- School library staff characteristics, collection, technology, and services.

## How are the data collected?

In the SASS, questionnaires are mailed to a sample of about 10,000 public schools representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and about 3,000 private schools representing Catholic, other religious, and nonsectarian schools. The questionnaires are sent to approximately 13,000 principals, 5,000 school districts, and 63,000 school teachers, in both the sampled public and private schools, and about 7,500 school library media centers in the sampled public schools.

## Why was my school selected?

The SASS represents all types of schools and their staff across the country—elementary, middle, and secondary, small and large, urban and rural, traditional public, public charter, and all types of private schools. Because there are so many schools in the United States, only a portion can be surveyed at one time. Your school helps represent facts about your state or your type of school, as well as for the level and size of your school. Your school's participation is important so that the results can represent the diversity of schools across the country. Make your school's data count!





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## Schools and Staffing Survey

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the United States and other nations.



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### Do individual staff data remain confidential?

They are protected by Public Law 107-279, the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I, Part E, Section 183. No respondent's individual survey answers can be made public. A penalty of imprisonment and up to a fine of \$250,000 will be imposed on offenders.

### Where do I get more information?

To see our publications and other information on SASS, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass>.

Recent reports and public-use data can be ordered free of charge from ED Pubs online at <http://www.edpubs.org> or by calling 1-877-4-ED-PUBS, while supplies last.

