



A

ACT assessment: An examination administered by ACT, Inc. (formerly the American College Testing Program) and used to predict the facility with which an individual will progress in earning college-level subjects. The ACT differs from the SAT in that it assesses students' knowledge in the curricular areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

Adult education: College, vocational, or occupational programs, continuing education or noncredit courses, correspondence courses and tutoring, as well as courses and other educational activities provided by employers, community groups, and other providers.

Advanced degree: Any formal degree attained after the bachelor's degree. Advanced degrees include master's degrees, doctoral degrees, and first-professional degrees.

Alternative schools: Alternative schools serve students whose needs cannot be met in a regular, special education, or vocational school. They provide nontraditional education and may serve as an adjunct to a regular school. These schools fall outside the categories of regular, special education, and vocational education, although they may provide similar services or curriculum. Some examples of alternative schools are schools for potential dropouts, residential treatment centers for substance abuse (if they provide elementary or secondary education), schools for chronic truants, and schools for students with behavioral problems. Between 3 and 4 percent of schools in the Common Core of Data files are vocational schools.

Associate's degree: A degree granted for the successful completion of a subbaccalaureate program of studies, usually requiring at least 2 years (or the equivalent) of full-time col-

lege-level study. This includes degrees granted in a cooperative or work-study program.

B

Baccalaureate degree: (See Bachelor's degree.)

Bachelor's degree: A degree granted for the successful completion of a baccalaureate program of studies, usually requiring at least 4 years (or the equivalent) of full-time collegelevel study. This includes degrees granted in a cooperative or work-study program.

C

Capital outlay: The expenditures for property and for buildings and alterations completed by school district staff or contractors.

Care from a center-based program: Includes care on a regular basis that occurs at Head Start, day care centers, nursery schools, or preschools.

Care from a nonrelative: Includes care on a regular basis by home child care providers, regular sitters, or neighbors. Excludes Head Start, day care centers, nursery schools, or preschools.

Care from a relative: Includes care on a regular basis from nonparental and nonguardian relatives (e.g., grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles) that occurs in or outside the child's home.

Carnegie unit: A standard of measurement used for secondary education that represents the completion of a course that meets one period per day for 1 year.

Center-based programs: Includes Head Start, nursery schools, prekindergartens, day care centers, and preschools.

Certificate: An award granted for the successful completion of a subbaccalaureate program of studies, which usually requires less than 2 years of full-time postsecondary study.

Child cares for self: Includes self-care only.

Cohort: A group of individuals who have a statistical factor in common, for example, year of birth.

College: A postsecondary school that offers a general or liberal arts education, usually leading to an associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctor's, or first-professional degree. Junior colleges and community colleges are included under this terminology.

Combined schools: A combined school has one or more of grades K-6 and one or more of grades 9-12. For example, schools with grades K-12, 6-9, or 1-12 are classified as combined schools. Schools in which all students are ungraded (i.e., not classified by standard grade levels) are also classified as combined.

Community service: Volunteer activities undertaken in the school or community. Such community service includes any one-time or ongoing activity such as tutoring students, visiting senior citizens, and so on, but it does not include work for pay. It might be something done through one's school, church or synagogue, or on one's own.

Comprehensive reform: Efforts to improve education for all students by establishing high content and performance standards and redesigning the various components of the educational system in a coordinated and coherent fashion to support students' learning to the standards.

Constant dollars: Dollar amounts that have been adjusted by means of price and cost

indexes to eliminate inflationary factors and allow direct comparison across years.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): This price index measures the average change in the cost of a fixed-market basket of goods and services purchased by consumers.

Control of institutions: A classification of institutions of elementary/secondary or postsecondary education by whether the institution is operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) or by privately elected or appointed officials and derives its major source of funds from private sources (private control).

Core New Basics curriculum: The most commonly implemented form of the New Basics curriculum, which includes 4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of science, and 3 years of social studies, but not the one-half year of computer science included in the New Basics curriculum. (See also New Basics curriculum.)

Cost of college attendance: Cost of living for students attending postsecondary institutions, including tuition and fees, books, room and board, child care, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Current dollars: Dollar amounts that have not been adjusted to compensate for inflation.

Current expenditures per pupil in enrollment: Current expenditures for the regular school term divided by the total number of students registered in a given school unit at a given time, generally in the fall of a year.

Current expenditures (elementary/secondary): The expenditures for operating local public schools, excluding capital outlay and interest on school debt. These expenditures include such items as salaries for school per-

sonnel, fixed charges, student transportation, school books and materials, and energy costs. Beginning in 1980–81, expenditures for state administration are excluded.

D

Dependent student: A student who, under federal criteria, is considered to be financially dependent on his or her parents or guardians. Most full-time students are considered dependent until they are 24 years old.

Distance education: Instructional programs or courses in which the instructor and students need not be in the same physical place, particularly those relying on computers, audio, or video technology as the medium for delivery and, sometimes, for two-way interaction.

Doctor's degree: An earned degree carrying the title of Doctor. The Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) is the highest academic degree and requires mastery within a field of knowledge and demonstrated ability to perform scholarly research. Other doctorates are awarded for fulfilling specialized requirements in professional fields, such as education (Ed.D.), musical arts (D.M.A.), business administration (D.B.A.), and engineering (D.Eng. or D.E.S.). Many doctor's degrees in both academic and professional fields require an earned master's degree as a prerequisite. First-professional degrees, such as M.D. and D.D.S., are not included under this heading. (See First-professional degree.)

Dropout: The term is used to describe both the event of leaving school before graduating and the status of an individual who is not in school and who is not a graduate. Transferring from a public to a private school, for example, is not regarded as a dropout event. A person who drops out of school may later return and graduate but is called a "dropout" at the time he or she left school. At the time the person returns to school, he or she is

called a "stopout." Measures to describe these often complicated behaviors include the event dropout rate (or the closely related school persistence rate), the status dropout rate, and the high school completion rate. (See Status dropout and Event dropout.)

E

Educational and general expenditures: The sum of current-fund expenditures for instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, institutional support, operation and maintenance of plant, and awards from restricted and unrestricted funds. (See Expenditures.)

Educational attainment: The highest grade of regular school attended and completed.

Elementary: Grades K-8.

Elementary school: A school classified as elementary by state and local practice and composed of any span of grades not above grade 8. Preschool or kindergarten is included under this heading only if it is an integral part of an elementary school or a regularly established school system.

Elementary/secondary schools: As reported in this publication, includes only regular schools (i.e., schools that are part of state and local school systems, and also most private, not-for-profit elementary/secondary schools, both religiously affiliated and nonsectarian). Schools not reported include subcollegiate departments of institutions of higher education, residential schools for exceptional children, federal schools for American Indians, and federal schools on military posts and other federal installations.

English: A group of instructional programs that describes the English language arts, including composition, creative writing, and the study of literature.

Enrollment: The total number of students registered in a given school unit at a given time, generally in the fall of a year.

Event dropout: Event rates calculated using the October 1999 CPS data measure the proportion of students who dropped out between October 1998 and October 1999. These dropouts are 15- through 24-year-olds who were enrolled in high school in October 1998 but had not completed high school and were not enrolled in grades 10-12 a year later. According to this definition, a young person could complete high school by either earning a high school diploma or receiving an alternative credential such as a GED. Specifically, the numerator of the event rate for 1999 is the number of persons ages 15-24 surveyed in 1999 who were enrolled in high school in October 1998, were not enrolled in October 1999, and also did not complete high school (i.e., had not received a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate) between October 1998 and October 1999. The denominator of the event rate is the sum of the dropouts (i.e., the numerator) and the number of all persons ages 15-24 who attended grades 10-12 in 1998 and were still enrolled in 1999 or had graduated or completed high school.

Expenditures: Charges incurred, whether paid or unpaid, which are presumed to benefit the current fiscal year. For elementary/ secondary schools, these include all charges for current outlays plus capital outlays and interest on school debt. For postsecondary education institutions, these include current outlays plus capital outlays. For government, these include charges net of recoveries and other correcting transactions other than for retirement of debt, investment in securities, extension of credit, or as agency transactions. Also, government expenditures include only external transactions, such as the provision of prerequisites or other payments in kind.

Aggregates for groups of governments exclude intergovernmental transactions among the governments.

Expenditures per pupil: Charges incurred for a particular period of time divided by a student unit of measure, such as enrollment, average daily attendance, or average daily membership.



Family and consumer sciences education: Consists of courses intended to prepare students for roles outside the paid labor market, including home economics, child development, foods and nutrition, and clothing courses.

Family income: The combined income of all family members age 14 and above living in the household for the period of 1 year. Income includes money income from jobs; net income from business, farm, or rent; pensions; dividends; interest; social security payments; and any other money income.

Federal aid: Student financial aid provided through the federal government. This aid can either be provided by or administered by a federal agency. Federal agencies providing aid include the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and the National Science Foundation. Federal aid can be in the form of grants, loans, and work-study aid.

Federal funds: Amounts collected and used by the federal government for the general purposes of the government. There are four types of federal fund accounts: the general fund, special funds, public enterprise funds, and intragovernmental funds. The major federal fund is the general fund, which is derived from general taxes and borrowing. Federal funds also include certain earmarked

collections, such as those generated by and used to finance a continuing cycle of business-type operations.

First-professional degree: A degree that signifies both completion of the academic requirements for beginning practice in a given profession and a level of professional skill beyond that normally required for a bachelor's degree. This degree is usually based on a program requiring at least 2 academic years of work before entrance and a total of at least 6 academic years of work to complete the degree program, including both prior-required college work and the professional program itself. By NCES definition, first-professional degrees are awarded in the fields of dentistry (D.D.S or D.M.D.), medicine (M.D.), optometry (O.D.), osteopathic medicine (D.O.), pharmacy (D.Phar.), podiatric medicine (D.P.M.), veterinary medicine (D.V.M.), chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), law (J.D.), and theological professions (M.Div. or M.H.L.).

Fiscal year: The yearly accounting period for the federal government, which begins on October 1 and ends on the following September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, fiscal year 1992 begins on October 1, 1991 and ends on September 30, 1992. (From fiscal year 1844 to fiscal year 1976, the fiscal year began on July 1 and ended on the following June 30.)

Foreign languages: A group of instructional programs that describes the structure and use of language that is common or indigenous to individuals of the same community or nation, the same geographical area, or the same cultural traditions. Programs cover such features as sound, literature, syntax, phonology, semantics, sentences, prose, and verse, as well as the development of skills and attitudes used in communicating and evaluat-

ing thoughts and feelings through oral and written language.

Free-lunch eligibles: The National School Lunch Program's assistance program for low-income children. Families with school-age children who fall below the poverty level and have no other significant assets are eligible to receive government assistance in the form of free or reduced-price school lunches.

Full-time enrollment: The number of students enrolled in higher education courses with a total credit load equal to at least 75 percent of the normal full-time course load.

Full-time instructional faculty: Those members of the instruction/research staff who are employed full time as defined by the institution, including faculty with release time for research and faculty on sabbatical leave. The full-time category excludes faculty who are employed to teach less than two semesters, three quarters, two trimesters, or two 4month sessions; replacements for faculty on sabbatical leave or those on leave without pay; faculty for preclinical and clinical medicine; faculty who are donating their services; faculty who are members of military organizations and who are paid on a different pay scale from civilian employees; academic officers whose primary duties are administrative; and graduate students who assist in the instruction of courses.

Full-time worker: One who is employed for 35 or more hours per week, including paid leave for illness, vacation, and holidays. Hours may be reported either for a survey reference week, or for the previous calendar year, in which case they refer to the usual hours worked.

Full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment: For institutions of higher education, enrollment of full-time students, plus the full-time equivalent of part-time students as reported by institutions. In the absence of an equiva-

lent reported by an institution, the FTE enrollment is estimated by adding one-third of part-time enrollment to full-time enrollment.

G

GED recipient: A person who has obtained certification of high school equivalency by meeting state requirements and passing an approved exam, which is intended to provide an appraisal of the person's achievement or performance in the broad subject matter areas usually required for high school graduation.

General labor market preparation: Consists of courses that teach general employment skills, including keyboarding, word processing, industrial arts and technology education, career exploration, and general work experience.

Graduate: An individual who has received formal recognition for the successful completion of a prescribed program of studies.

Grants: Also known as scholarships, these are funds for postsecondary education that do not have to be repaid.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): Gross national product less net property income from abroad. Both gross national product and gross domestic product aggregate only the incomes of residents of a nation, corporate and individual, derived directly from the current production of goods and services. However, gross national product also includes net property from abroad. (See Gross National Product [GNP].)

Gross National Product (GNP): A measure of the money value of the goods and services available to the nation from economic activity. GNP can be viewed in terms of expenditure categories, which include purchases of goods and services by consumers and government, gross private domestic investment, and net exports of goods and services. The goods and services included are largely those bought for final use (excluding illegal transactions) in the market economy. A number of inclusions, however, represent imputed values, the most important of which is rental value of owner-occupied housing. GNP, in this broad context, measures the output attributable to the factors of production, labor, and property supplied by U.S. residents.

Group of Seven (G-7): This group is composed of seven industrialized nations with large economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Н

Hearing impairment: An impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance, in the most severe case because the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing.

High school: A secondary school offering the final years of high school work necessary for graduation, usually including grades 10, 11, 12 (in a 6-3-3 plan) or grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 (in a 6-2-4 plan).

HOPE Scholarship Tax Credit: This federal income tax credit is designed to help tax-payers pay the cost of the first 2 years of postsecondary education.

Humanities: Instructional programs in the following fields: area and ethnic studies, foreign languages, letters, liberal/general studies, multi/interdisciplinary studies, philosophy and religion, theology, and the visual and performing arts.



Instruction: This category includes expenditures of the colleges, schools, departments,

and other instructional divisions of postsecondary education institutions and expenditures for departmental research and public service, which are not separately budgeted. Includes expenditures for both credit and noncredit activities. Excludes expenditures for academic administration where the primary function is administration (e.g., academic deans).

Instructional expenditures (elementary/secondary): Current expenditures for activities directly associated with the interaction between teachers and students. These include teacher salaries and benefits, supplies (such as textbooks), and purchased instructional services.

Instructional staff: Full-time-equivalent number of positions, not the number of different individuals occupying the positions during the school year. In local schools, includes all public elementary and secondary (junior and senior high) day-school positions that are in the nature of teaching or in the improvement of the teaching-learning situation. Includes consultants or supervisors of instruction, principals, teachers, guidance personnel, librarians, psychological personnel, and other instructional staff. Excludes administrative staff, attendance personnel, clerical personnel, and junior college staff.

K

Kindergarten: Includes transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and pre-first-grade students.

L

Labor force: Individuals employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the armed services during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is composed of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Life sciences: Life sciences are instructional programs that describe the systematic study

of living organisms. Life sciences include biology, biochemistry, biophysics, and zoology.

Loan: Borrowed money that must be repaid.

Local Education Agency (LEA): (See School district.)

M

Master's degree: A degree awarded for successful completion of a program generally requiring 1 or 2 years of full-time college-level study beyond the bachelor's degree. One type of master's degree, including the Master of Arts degree, or M.A., and the Master of Science degree, or M.S., is awarded in the liberal arts and sciences for advanced scholarship in a subject field or discipline and demonstrated ability to perform scholarly research. A second type of master's degree is awarded for the completion of a professionally oriented program, for example, an M.Ed. in education, an M.B.A. in business administration, an M.F.A. in fine arts, an M.M. in music, an M.S.W. in social work, and an M.P.A. in public administration. A third type of master's degree is awarded in professional fields for study beyond the first-professional degree, for example, the Master of Laws (LL.M.) and Master of Science in various medical specializations.

Metropolitan population: The population residing in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). (See Metropolitan Statistical Area [MSA].)

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): A large population nucleus and the nearby communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. Each MSA consists of one or more entire counties (or county equivalents) that meet specified standards pertaining to population, commuting ties, and metropolitan character. In New England, towns and cities, rather than coun-

ties, are the basic units. MSAs are designated by the Office of Management and Budget. An MSA includes a city and, generally, its entire urban area and the remainder of the county or counties in which the urban area is located. An MSA also includes such additional outlying counties that meet specified criteria relating to the metropolitan character and level of commuting of workers into the central city or counties. Specified criteria governing the definition of MSAs recognized before 1980 are published in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 1975, issued by the Office of Management and Budget. New MSAs were designated when 1980 and 1990 counts showed that they met one or both of the following criteria:

- (1) Included a city with a population of at least 50,000 within their corporate limits; or
- (2) Included a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area (which must have a population of at least 50,000) and a total MSA population of at least 100,000 (or, in New England, 75,000).

Minority: Any racial/ethnic group that is nonwhite and not Hispanic is considered minority.

Modal grade: The modal grade is the year of school in which the largest proportion of students of a given age are enrolled. Enrolled persons are classified according to their relative progress in school; that is, whether the grade or year in which they were enrolled was below, at, or above the modal (or typical) grade for persons of their age at the time of the survey.

Multiple disabilities: Concomitant impairments (such as mental retardation-blindness, mental retardation-orthopedic impairment,

etc.), the combination of which causes such severe educational problems that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness.

N

Natural sciences: A group of fields of study that includes the life sciences, physical sciences, and mathematics.

New Basics curriculum: A minimum curriculum recommended by the National Commission of Excellence in Education (NCEE) in 1983 to be completed by high school graduates that consists of 4 years of English; 3 years each of mathematics, science, and social studies; and one-half year of computer science. Collegebound high school graduates are also advised to complete 2 years of foreign language. (See also Core New Basics curriculum.)

Nonmetropolitan residence group: The population residing outside metropolitan statistical areas. (See Metropolitan Statistical Area [MSA].)

Nonsectarian school: A private school whose curriculum and operation are independent of religious orientation and influence in all but incidental ways.

Nonsupervisory instructional staff: Persons such as curriculum specialists, counselors, librarians, remedial specialists, and others possessing education certification but not responsible for the day-to-day teaching of the same group of pupils.

Nontenure-track faculty: Faculty members who were either not on the tenure track or whose faculty status lacked a tenure system at the sampled institution.

Nursery school: (See Preprimary.)

0

Obligations: Amounts of orders placed, contracts awarded, services received, or similar legally binding commitments made by federal agencies during a given period that will require outlays during the same or some future period.

Occupational concentrator: Public high school graduate who earns 3.0 or more credits in a single occupational program area.

Occupational education: Vocational education programs that prepare students for a specific occupation or cluster of occupations, including agriculture, business, marketing, health care, protective services, trade and industrial, technology, food service, child care, and personal and other services programs. Also called occupationally specific education or specific labor market preparation.

Occupational investor: Public high school graduate who earns 3.0 or more credits in occupational education.

Odds ratio: Odds is the ratio of success to failure in probability calculation. Odds ratio is the ratio of one odds to another.

Orthopedic impairments: A severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g., clubfoot, absence of some member, etc.); impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc.); and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

Other expenditures: Other than support services and capital outlay, the sum of all other current fund expenditures for community ser-

vices, nonpublic school programs, adult education, community colleges, interest on school debt, and other expenditures.

Other support services staff (elementary and secondary school): All staff not reported in other categories. This group includes media personnel, social workers, data processors, health maintenance workers, bus drivers, security, cafeteria workers, and other staff.

Outlays: The value of checks issued, interest accrued on the public debt, or other payments made, net of refunds and reimbursements.

P

Parent: In the Current Population Survey, a parent is defined as a biological, adoptive, step-, or foster parent, or a legal guardian. In other words, "parents" have some biological or legal association to the child. A parent is not necessarily the head of the household. A parent's highest education level was determined by merging information from the parent's record with information from his or her children's record. When no parent resided in the household, information from the legal guardian's record was merged with information from the children's record.

Parental care only: Includes care on a regular basis by parents only. Excludes children who receive care from relatives, nonrelatives, center-based programs, or self on a regular basis.

Part-time enrollment: The number of students enrolled in higher education courses with a total credit load less than 75 percent of the normal full-time credit load.

Percentile (score): A value on a scale of zero to 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. For ex-

ample, a score in the 95th percentile is a score equal to or better than 95 percent of all other scores.

Personal income: Current income received by persons from all sources minus their personal contributions for social insurance. Classified as "persons" are individuals (including owners of unincorporated firms), nonprofit institutions serving individuals, private trust funds, and private noninsured welfare funds. Personal income includes transfers (payments not resulting from current production) from government and business such as social security benefits and military pensions, but excludes transfers among persons.

Postsecondary education: The provision of formal instructional programs with a curriculum designed primarily for students who have completed the requirements for a high school diploma or equivalent. This includes programs of an academic, vocational, and continuing professional education purpose and excludes vocational and adult basic education programs. (See also Supplemental Note 10.)

Prekindergarten: (See Preprimary.)

Preprimary: Elementary education programs for children who are too young for first grade. Includes center-based programs and kindergarten.

Private school or institution: A school or institution that is controlled by an individual or agency other than a state, a subdivision of a state, or the federal government, which is usually not supported primarily by public funds and is not operated by publicly elected or appointed officials.

Public service: Funds budgeted specifically for public service and expended for activities es-

tablished primarily to provide noninstructional services beneficial to groups external to the institution. Examples are seminars and projects provided to particular sectors of the community and expenditures for community services and cooperative extension services.

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) indices: Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) exchange rates, or indices, are the currency exchange rates that equalize the purchasing power of different currencies, meaning that when a given sum of money is converted into different currencies at the PPP exchange rates, it will buy the same basket of goods and services in all countries. PPP indices are the rates of currency conversion that eliminate the difference in price levels among countries. Thus, when expenditures on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for different countries are converted into a common currency by means of PPP indices, they are expressed at the same set of international prices, so that comparisons among countries reflect only differences in the volume of goods and services purchased.



Regular schools: (See Elementary/secondary schools.)

Remedial education: Instruction for a student lacking the reading, writing, or mathematics skills necessary to perform college-level work at the level required by the attended institution.

Revenues: All funds received from external sources, net of refunds, and correcting transactions. Noncash transactions such as receipt of services, commodities, or other receipts "in kind" are excluded, as are funds received from the issuance of debt, liquidation of investments, and nonroutine sale of property.

S

Salary: The total amount regularly paid or stipulated to be paid to an individual, before deductions, for personal services rendered while on the payroll of a business or organization.

Salary workers: Any person who worked one or more days during the previous year and was paid on the basis of a yearly salary is considered a salary worker.

SAT: (See Scholastic Assessment Test.)

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT): An examination administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and used to predict the facility with which an individual will progress in learning college-level subjects. The SAT differs from the ACT in that it assesses students' aptitude in English, reading, and mathematics generally rather than on their curricular knowledge.

School administrators: Those staff members whose activities are concerned with directing and managing the operation of a particular school. They may be principals or assistant principals, including those who coordinate school instructional activities with those of the local education agency (LEA) and other appropriate units.

School district: An education agency at the local level that exists primarily to operate public schools or to contract for public school services. Synonyms are "local basic administrative unit" and "local education agency."

School year: The 12-month period of time denoting the beginning and ending dates for school accounting purposes, usually from July 1 through June 30.

Science: The body of related courses concerned with knowledge of the physical and biological world and with the processes of discovering and validating this knowledge.

Secondary: Grades 9-12.

Secondary school: A school that has any span of grades beginning with the next grade following an elementary or middle school (usually grade 7, 8, or 9) and ending with or below grade 12. Both junior high schools and senior high schools are included.

Service-learning: An educational activity, program, or curriculum that seeks to promote students' learning through experiences associated with volunteerism or community service.

Social studies: A group of instructional programs that describes the substantive portions of behavior, past and present activities, interactions, and organizations of people associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes.

Socioeconomic Status (SES): The SES quartile variable used for both High School and Beyond and the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 Eighth Graders was built using parental education level, parental occupation, family income, and household items. Students were placed in quartiles based on their standardized composite score. By definition, one-quarter of each cohort will reside in the bottom SES quartile, even if education levels, income, and the number of persons in more prestigious occupations increase. The terms high, middle, and low SES refer to the upper, middle two, and lower quartiles of the weighted SES composite index distribution.

Special education schools: Special education schools provide educational services to students with special physical or mental needs—i.e., students with mental disabilities (such

as mental retardation or autism); physical disabilities (such as hearing impairments); or learning disabilities (such as dyslexia). About 2 percent of schools in the Common Core of Data files are special education schools.

Specific learning disabilities: A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not apply to children who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities; of mental retardation; of emotional disturbance; or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

Speech or language impairments: A communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Standard deviation: The standard deviation measures the spread of a set of data around the mean of the data. In a normal distribution, approximately 68 percent of scores fall within plus or minus one standard deviation of the mean, and 95 percent fall within plus or minus two standard deviations of the mean.

Status dropout rates: The status dropout rate is a cumulative rate that estimates the proportion of young adults who are dropouts, regardless of when they dropped out. The numerator of the status dropout rate for 1999, for example, is the number of young adults ages 16–24 years who, as of October 1999, had not completed high school and were not

currently enrolled. The denominator is the total number of 16- to 24-year-olds in October 1999.

Stopout: (See Dropout.)

Subbaccalaureate degree: Award granted for the successful completion of studies at either 2-year or less-than-2-year institutions. Subbaccalaureate degrees typically include associate's degrees and certificates.

T

Technical/professional fields: A group of occupationally oriented fields of study, other than engineering and computer science, that includes agriculture and agricultural sciences, architecture, business and management, communications, education, health sciences, home economics, law, library and archival sciences, military sciences, parks and recreation, protective services, and public affairs.

Tenure-track faculty: Faculty members who were either tenured or on the tenure track at their institution.

Tuition and fees: A payment or charge for instruction or compensation for services, privileges, or the use of equipment, books, or other goods.



Undergraduate students: Students registered at a postsecondary education institution in a program leading to a baccalaureate degree or other formal award below the baccalaureate such as an associate's degree.

Unemployed: Civilians who had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the past 4 weeks; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which

they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

University: A postsecondary education institution that consists of a liberal arts college, a diverse graduate program, and usually two or more professional schools or faculties and that is empowered to confer degrees in various fields of study.



Vocational education: Organized educational activities that offer a sequence of courses that provide individuals with the academic and technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and for careers requiring less than a bachelor's degree. At the high school level, vocational

education consists of occupational education, general labor market preparation, and family and consumer sciences education.

Vocational education schools: Vocational schools primarily serve students who are being trained for semi-skilled or technical occupations. They may be part of a regular district (along with academic schools) or in a vocational district (serving more than one academic school district). About 1 percent of schools in the Common Core of Data files are vocational schools.



Year-round worker: One who was employed at least 50 weeks during the previous calendar year, including paid leave for illness, vacation, or other reasons.

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