



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

May 16, 2012

Dear Data User,

The Common Core of Data (CCD) Program at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is committed to providing data users comprehensive and accurate data for our public elementary and secondary education system. Each school year NCES works cooperatively with representatives from State Education Agencies who voluntarily report the data that make up the Common Core of Data. With the help of the Census Bureau and our contractors, NCES conducts an extensive review of these reported data. Whenever misreported data are identified, NCES works with State Education Agencies to help them correct their reported data. Although the review of these data is thorough, given the size of the population (over 100,000 schools) and the scope of the collection, we acknowledge that some mistakes do still occur. Following a report by US News and World Report ranking the nation's public high schools, and the increased visibility that report has provided the CCD, several instances of misreported data have been identified by the press and various stakeholders. NCES is undertaking a thorough review of the data elements used in the rankings. In order to best serve your needs we are updating the NCES CCD data tools (Build-a-Table, ELSi, and the school and district locators) as we identify these errors. After our analysis is complete and corrections confirmed, we will release an updated version of these data files. Until that time we will provide a list of the schools and the variables affected by these changes so that you can be kept abreast of any identified errors as our analysis proceeds, even before the updated data file can be released.

We thank you for understanding. We are currently working on updating our editing process with the goal of identifying and correcting more errors prior to any CCD releases.

Sincerely,

Jack Buckley  
Commissioner of Education Statistics