

PSC Solution: TIP0036

Date: 9/30/2010

Application: ESS

School Year: N/A

File Specifications: N/X029 - Directory

Solution Type: Technical Tip

Title: Determining whether an entity is a school or reportable program for ED*Facts* reporting

Issue Description:

A school (for the purpose of ED*Facts*) is an institution that provides educational services and:

- Has one or more grade groups (prekindergarten through 12) or is ungraded
- Has one or more teachers
- Is located in one or more buildings
- Has assigned administrator(s)
- Receives public funds as its primary support, and
- Is operated by an education agency

For purposes of this definition, “public funds” include federal, state and local public funds. “Located in a building” does not preclude virtual schools since the administrators and teachers are located in a building somewhere. An “education agency” is not limited to the SEA or LEA, but can include other agencies (e.g., corrections or health and human services) charged with providing public education services. In addition to what is traditionally considered a public school, schools include: (other examples omitted) Schools that fall within the definition of a school should be reported regardless of the agency responsible for them. This includes, but is not limited to, state-operated schools such as those operated by the SEA, corrections, health and human services, juvenile justice, other state agencies, the governor’s office or the State Board of Education.

If the entity meets the definition of a school, it should be reported like any other school, with the most appropriate School Type (Reg., Alt, Sp Ed, Voc).

If the entity doesn’t meet the definition of a school, it may need to be a school type of Reportable Program. A reportable program is an entity with public school students for which some data needs to be reported to ED*Facts* at the school level.

If neither the school or Reportable Program criteria are met, the entity doesn’t need to be reported to ED*Facts* at all. NCES doesn’t use Reportable Programs in the CCD data, so reporting students and teachers in such programs at the LEA level only may be fine.