

PSC Solution: TIP0059

Date: 1/6/2011

Application: CSPR

School Year: ALL

File Specifications: N/A

Solution Type: Technical Tip

Title: Data suppression within CSPR

Issue Description:

This article provides an explanation of the data suppression approach used in the publication of state CSPRs which is designed to protect personally identifiable information reported in the CSPR.

In order to prevent the possible disclosure of personally identifiable information, ED applies masking techniques to any publically released data. State data submitted through the CSPR, and in any public document or Web site that used CSPR data, are suppressed based on several rules.

First, all data are compared against each state's reporting n-size. Each state determines, and identifies through their state Accountability Workbook, the count of students that there must be for a data element in order for it to be reported. The reporting n-sizes are also published on ED Data Express (www.eddataexpress.ed.gov), a Web site that display elementary and secondary education data. If the student count falls below that value, it is suppressed. Additionally, any percentage that is based on a count of students that is less than the reporting n-size is suppressed.

Second, after any data are suppressed, any remaining percentages (for student academic achievement data only) that are above 97% or less than 3% are also suppressed. In publication, cells with a dash indicate that the state did not submit data, which could mean that the data are missing or not available. Zero counts that do not fall under the other suppression rules are also replaced with a dash.