

Educator Equity Profiles Data Overview

This is a guide to help states understand the data files that the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) has provided with state-specific educator equity profiles. The data used in the profiles come from three extant Department data sources: the Civil Rights Data Collection, *EDFacts*, and the Common Core of Data. Additionally, the data file contains information that allows states to adjust district-level finance data to control for regional variations in labor costs. For additional information about the data elements used in the profiles, see the accompanying Microsoft Excel file named “Equity Profiles Data Codebook.xlsx.”

Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is a biennial survey required by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Since 1968, the CRDC has collected data on key education and civil rights issues in our nation’s public schools for use by OCR in its enforcement and monitoring efforts regarding schools’ and districts’ obligation to provide equal educational opportunity. The CRDC is also a tool for other Department offices and federal agencies, policymakers and researchers, educators and school officials, and the public to analyze student equity and opportunity trends locally and nationwide.

The CRDC is collected directly from school districts in each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. The 2011–12 CRDC included all public schools and public school districts in the nation that serve students for at least 50 percent of the school day, including traditional public schools, charter schools, alternative schools, and career and technical education schools. The CRDC also includes long-term secure juvenile justice agencies and schools for the blind and deaf.

The CRDC data are privacy protected by rounding student counts in groups of three to prevent the disclosure of individual student information. For example, student counts from one to three are rounded to two, student counts from four to six are rounded to five.

To request access to public-use files directly from the Office for Civil Rights, visit <http://ocrdata.ed.gov/RequestFlatFile>. Additional documentation regarding the CRDC can be accessed at <http://ocrdata.ed.gov/SurveyDocuments> and <http://ocrdata.ed.gov/DataNotes>.

2011–12 CRDC Data Elements

The 2011–12 CRDC contains nearly 2,000 data elements. These elements can be broadly organized into six categories. In the equity profiles data codebook, each data element is organized into at least one of these six categories, which are:

- School Identifiers
- Enrollment and School Characteristics
- Staffing and Resources
- Pathways to College and Career
- College and Career Readiness
- Discipline, Bullying and Harassment, and Restraint and Seclusion

EDFacts

EDFacts is a U.S. Department of Education initiative to put performance data at the center of policy, management and budget decisions for all K–12 educational programs. EDFacts centralizes performance data supplied by K–12 state education agencies (SEAs) with other data assets, such as financial grant information, within the Department to enable better analysis and use in policy development, planning and management.

ED Data Express (<http://eddataexpress.ed.gov>) provides a tool to create tables and download Excel files of state and national data. A complete overview of EDFacts data may be accessed at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/edfacts-overview.pdf>.

Classes taught by Highly Qualified Teachers

In the equity profiles, the Department used school-level data on classes taught by highly qualified teachers. These data are submitted to the Department by states and are not available publicly; however, states should be able to access these data directly from their EDFacts coordinating office and may also access documentation describing these data elements on the EDFacts website:

- Elementary classes: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/eden/non-xml/c063-8-0.doc>
- Secondary classes: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/eden/non-xml/c064-8-0.doc>

Common Core of Data (CCD)

The Common Core of Data (CCD) is a program of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics that annually collects fiscal and non-fiscal data about all public schools, public school districts, and state education agencies in the United States. The data are supplied by state education agency officials and include information that describes schools and school districts, including name, address, and phone number; descriptive information about students and staff, including demographics; and fiscal data, including revenues and current expenditures.

To learn more about the CCD and access full documentation of the data elements, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/> and <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/pubschuniv.asp>.

Comparable Wage Index (CWI)

The Comparable Wage Index (CWI) is a measure of the systematic, regional variations in the salaries of college graduates who are not educators. The CWI can be used to adjust district-level finance data in order to make better comparisons across geographic areas.

While not a true cost-of-living adjustment, the basic premise of the comparable wage index (CWI) is that all types of workers—including teachers—demand higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living. By measuring systematic differences in the cost of labor, the CWI therefore accounts for much of the uncontrollable variation in education expenditures, such as teacher salaries.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) originally developed the CWI in 2006. Since then, Professor Lori Taylor of the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University has continued to update the CWI.

For detailed explanations of the CWI and the methodology used to develop the initial index, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/edfin/adjustments.asp>. Updated CWI data files are available at http://bush.tamu.edu/research/faculty/Taylor_CWI/.