

# The NCES-NISS Partnership: Data Collection Efforts/Structures/New Initiatives

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# Purpose of the Partnership

- This thriving partnership allows NCES to meet its ongoing needs for timely expert consultation with academic and industry experts on cutting-edge statistical and survey research topics.

# Origins of the Partnership

- What started as individual contract research projects, was solidified into a long-term NCES program support contract establishing the Education Statistics Services Institute (ESSI), a consortium of 12 organizations in 1995 (and re-awarded in 2005 and reconfigured as ESSIN in 2012).
- NISS operated under sub-contract to the American Institutes for Research under ESSI at first, and later joined the ESSI and now the ESSIN consortiums as full partners.

# Benefits of the Partnership for NCES

- NCES gains access to world-class industry and academic experts and outstanding young professionals and realizes improvements in quality, efficiency, and timeliness of its operations and methods.
- By linking the topics to the NCES budget planning horizon and survey periodicity, the relevant NCES programs benefit from incorporating the thinking of the nation's top experts as new activities are implemented or existing activities are scheduled to be revised.
- The nation and its policy makers benefit from very high quality education data and statistics.

# Benefits of the Partnership for NISS

- NISS, benefits from funding and the chance to work on current and interesting problems at the interface of theory and practice.
- They also gain access to data sets that might otherwise be difficult to obtain.
- They gain the ability to support staff and fellows while doing interesting and vital work.
- They become a pathway (through outreach and funding) for our foremost statistical scientists to find truly engaging and important problems to consider and perhaps make contributions to their field as well.
- NISS also gains the ability to substantially increase the probability of bringing creating real multidisciplinary problem-solving synergy to some critical problems where solutions or improvements can have big impacts on our nation's use of data for policy and operations.

# Mutual Benefits

- NCES professionals, NISS fellows, and expert task force members are exposed to state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary thinking on the problems they face now or that they may well encounter in their careers.
- Statistical solutions developed outside of NCES' national survey and administrative data collection applications often provide new insight into better practices for federal statistical applications.

# Partnership Activities

- Evaluating NCEs Statistical Standards
- Measuring and characterizing high school graduation and drop-out rates
- Looking at the impact of non-response rates in the 2003 PISA
- Examining Title IX issues in post-secondary institutions
- The value of including effect sizes in data dissemination
- Best practice for NCEs surveys for non-response bias issues
- The value of computer adaptive testing in NCEs longitudinal surveys

# Partnership Activities (continued)

- NCES procedures to protect respondent and school confidentiality
- The potential for coordinating future data collections to better represent the entire education pathway from pre-K to post-secondary and adult education
- Disclosure avoidance and data protection
- Full population estimates from NAEP
- Education projections methodology and presentation
- Statistical testing programs for annual reports



# Partnership Activities (continued)

- Postsecondary choice
- Tracing principals
- Software for protecting PII in aggregate reporting
- Comparable Wage Index
- Teacher Compensation Survey evaluation
- Graphics and Maps in reports
- Secure distributed computing
- To be continued.....

# Overall Assessment of Partnership

- This close partnership has made it straightforward to take advantage of NISS' deep academic connections and fund the participation of top experts in the relevant disciplines to form topical task forces to suggest current best practices and future directions to NCES.
- Several general topics are specified each year, and the partnership forms 2-3 work groups per year to produce best practices reports.
- The business plan has been successfully ambitious in producing high quality results quite quickly (usually in 6-18 months).

# Contact Information

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