

**Attention: Information No Longer Current
(Alert archived November 2011)**

Alert #9 – Update 1

Subject: Redesign of IPEDS Surveys—Update #1

Prepared: December 1998

Summary

As indicated in AIR Alert #9, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) will undergo major changes over the next several years, starting as early as next summer. In addition to implementing externally mandated changes relating to student charges and financial aid, race/ethnicity codes, and financial reporting, NCES is also considering a number of new items as well as web-based collection and dissemination of data. Plans for collecting IPEDS data via the web and discussions relating to potential new items are proceeding at a rapid pace.

Current Status

Institutions that Have Submitted IPEDS Surveys. NCES has posted a web site with the names of those institutions that have submitted their 1998 IPEDS surveys at <http://harvester.census.gov/Iped/index.html>. In addition NCES sent letters to the presidents of those who have not submitted their 1998 Institutional Characteristics (IC) survey reminding them of the implications of not submitting IPEDS surveys on time. The opportunity to submit your 1998 IC survey will end in early 1999. At that time, after notifying institutions and state coordinators, NCES is considering sending the names of those institutions that have not submitted their 1998 IC surveys to the Office of Postsecondary Education. A similar process will be followed for other IPEDS surveys.

Web-based Collection and Dissemination of Data to Start in 1999. NCES plans to start collecting data via the World Wide Web starting next summer (this is a change from the original AIR Alert #9, which indicated that IC data might be collected electronically starting in fall 2000). Because all Title IV institutions are required to use the Internet for financial aid purposes, NCES does not anticipate that this requirement to submit IPEDS data via the web will be a burden. NCES also plans to publish a web page for each institution eligible for Title IV funding, starting in February 1999 with data for 1995-1997 student charges and general descriptive information. Items will be added to these institutional web pages over time.

New Student Charges and Financial Aid Items Starting in Summer 1999. The Higher Education Amendments require that institutions provide data on student charges and financial aid. NCES will start collecting these data in summer 1999. In order to ensure data will be timely and

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comparable across the three years, the working group dealing with finance forms proposed that institutions provide the three years of data themselves rather than relying on previously submitted data (for 1995-1997). Therefore a new collection instrument has been developed for July through August 15, 1999, to collect price of attendance for full-time entering students for three years plus financial aid data for all entering students who were full-time for one or more terms between July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998 (see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/augdraft.htm>). Information about proposed new items for the 1999 Institutional Characteristics that relate to student charges is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/newicitems.html>. A "statement of work" relating to the Congressionally mandated College Cost and Price Study is expected to be posted on the web by March 1999.

Faculty/Staff Data. The working group dealing with faculty/staff surveys concluded that data by occupational categories, race/ethnic data, sex, and salary ranges are required by civil rights legislation. Policy issues relating to faculty and staff were grouped by the working group into three categories: Who are the faculty and staff in postsecondary education? How are faculty trained and prepared and where do they come from? How does the institution maintain its human assets (faculty and staff)? The working group identified potential data elements to address these policy issues but has not made any recommendations to change current items. This group is also addressing the following issues: better definition of staff categories on the Staff survey; consistent definition of faculty across surveys; clarification of administrative/managerial categorization of staff; salary data on part-time faculty; data by discipline; use of a "service month" concept for faculty activity; and methods for collecting data.

Update on Possible New Items for Student Surveys. The original AIR Alert #9 provided a list of possible topics that had been proposed by various sources as additions to the student-related surveys. Since that time NCES has indicated that the admissions-related items being considered are those found in sections B12, C, and D of the Common Data Set <http://www.collegeboard.org/gp/html/commondataset.html>. Additional potential items listed in AIR Alert #9 will be considered by the student working group at its meeting in the spring.

1996 IPEDS Data. A CD with 1996 and 1995 IPEDS data, designed for analysis using SAS or SPSS, and a web-based peer analysis tool for these data are planned for release in spring 1999.

Implications for Institutions

Among the possible penalties for noncompliance with Title IV regulations, institutions that do not submit IPEDS surveys in a timely fashion may be fined \$25,000 or be referred to the Office of Postsecondary Education. Therefore it is important for institutions to submit complete and accurate IPEDS surveys on time, monitor proposed new data elements and collection methods,

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and provide input into the redesign process. Institutions that have not submitted their IPEDS surveys will want to submit them right away so that they are not vulnerable to sanctions.

Opportunities to Provide Input to Redesign Process:

- * If you wish to comment about the new proposals at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/newicitems.html> and <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/augdraft.htm>, send an e-mail to Susan_Broyles@ed.gov.
- * Working groups have posted questions for feedback at <http://www.fsu.edu/~air/ipedsrev.html>.
- * In December NCES will post an IPEDS customer survey at <http://nces.ed.gov/ncesnew.html>.
- * Working group chairs and key NCES staff will participate in the AIR Colloquium to be held in Tallahassee, Florida, from January 28-30, 1999.
- * The interim report of the NCES redesign team will be available for comment in spring 1999 at <http://nces.ed.gov/ncesnew.html>.
- * NCES will announce new developments via their News Flash service. You can subscribe at <http://nces.ed.gov/newsflash/index.asp>.

Timeline (note that current targets may change)

January 28-30, 1999 Eighth AIR Colloquium, Tallahassee, FL
February 1999 New institutional web pages on NCES site
Spring 1999 Interim report from NCES
August 1999 Recommendations of NCES internal team to be completed
August 1999 New web-based collection instrument for student charges and financial aid
2000 Target for inclusion of new race/ethnicity categories on IPEDS surveys
2000-2001 Target for availability of web-based software for other IPEDS surveys
2002 Target for new finance form for public institutions

Additional Resources

AIR Alert #9 describing IPEDS Redesign [Alert 9](#)
Web site listing institutions that have submitted
IPEDS forms <http://harvester.census.gov/Iped/index.html>
Proposal for new summer 1999 instrument <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/augdraft.htm>
Proposal for student charges on IC Survey <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/newicitems.html>
Statement of work for College Cost and Price Study
(available February 1999) <http://nces.ed.gov/ncesnew.html>
Subscription to NCES News Flash <http://nces.ed.gov/newsflash/index.asp>
Questions from NPEC working groups
NCES customer survey about IPEDS (available December 1998)
<http://nces.ed.gov/ncesnew.html>

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Information about the AIR Colloquium

Common Data <http://www.collegeboard.org/gp/html/commondataset.html>

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Coordinated by the Higher Education Data Policy and Publication Committees. All opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association for Institutional Research.

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