

**Attention: Information No Longer Current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

Alert #9 – Update 6

Subject: Redesign of IPEDS Surveys—Update #6

Prepared: July 1999

Summary

The first AIR Alert dealing with IPEDS redesign included a long list of possible additions to the IPEDS surveys. Much of the feedback from institutions indicated a concern that such additions would lead to an increase in institutional burden. In response to this feedback, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has decided to investigate the possibility of supporting the creation of a national voluntary database to supplement data from IPEDS. At this time there is no funding for such a project, so the proposal may not become a reality, but several groups are discussing how such a database would be developed and managed if it were to be funded.

Current Status

Four convergent movements have created an opportunity to develop a national system of postsecondary data. First, current Web-based technology allows efficient data collection and peer analysis. Second, because new legislation has changed the nature of IPEDS from a cooperative collection to a mandatory or compliance collection, subject to \$25,000 fines, NCES plans to add only mandated items to IPEDS. Third, the decision to move IPEDS from a paper-based system to a Web-based system will generate procedures, tools, and training that could also be used by a supplementary voluntary database. Fourth, the fact that Web-based data sharing is being pursued independently by several groups indicates the strong interest in Web-based peer analysis.

In response to these movements, NCES is pursuing a proposal, currently unfunded, to work with key constituencies to investigate the development of the Voluntary Institutional On-Line Information Network (VIOLIN). The VIOLIN would be integrated with the new Web-based IPEDS database and use the same procedures, peer-analysis tools, and training that are being developed for the IPEDS system. The objectives of such a database would be to facilitate peer analysis, reduce reporting burden for institutions, and encourage research relating to higher education.

If funded, such a database would be developed and administered independently of NCES, through a grant procedure overseen by the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). A pilot version is currently being developed by John Milam and Tod Massa through a grant from AIR. More information will be available soon at <http://www.highered.org/violin>. Decisions about data

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elements, access, and other issues related to oversight of the system would be made by a committee with membership from AIR, NCES, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC), State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), and other associations representing higher education. Because of the voluntary nature of the database, data elements could vary by sector or other institutional characteristics. Initially only institutions submitting data and researchers approved by the oversight committee would have access to data, but after a certain period the data would be publicly available. In addition, groups could use the database system for their own proprietary data (which would not be released publicly if funded by the group) or use the software, which will be made available to institutions or other interested parties.

The NPEC working group on IPEDS student surveys recommended that the following be considered for inclusion in the new voluntary database: Common Data Set items, surveys from professional associations (e.g., NACUBO endowment survey, CAE fund raising), data for two-year institutions (e.g., student intent, expanded use of CEUs, expenditures and staffing for non-credit courses), outcomes data by field (e.g., percent of students employed in the field for which they were trained, percent in ongoing education, average starting salary, licensure pass rates, employer evaluations, and the corresponding response rate for each measure), longer graduation rates (e.g., up to 10-year rates), and residence by state for graduate and professional students.

Implications for Institutions

If they have not already done so, institutions should designate an IPEDS keyholder for the Institution Prices and Student Financial Aid (IPSFA) Survey, and that individual should register at <http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/Register/> (only for IPEDS keyholders designated by institution's CEO--login ID and password required). The keyholder should submit the IPSFA Survey information between July 1 and August 16, 1999, using the Web-based submission options.

Institutions can continue to monitor developments relating to IPEDS redesign at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/whatsnew.html>. Once it becomes available, they should provide feedback about the Web-based collection tool.

Timeline

May 1999 - College Opportunities On-Line (COOL) system made available to the public

May 1999 - Letter mailed to CEOs asking them to designate IPEDS keyholder for IPSFA Survey

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June 15, 1999 - Extended deadline for keyholders to register

June 1999 - Software for Web-based submission of IPSFA Survey available for review and feedback from institutions

July 1- Aug. 16, 1999 - Collection window for Web-based IPSFA Survey

Summer 1999 - Pilot version of VIOLIN to be developed

August 1999 - Final recommendations on IPEDS Redesign

October 1999 - New IPEDS reporting categories for race/ethnicity to be finalized

2000-2001 - Web-based software implemented for all IPEDS surveys

2003-2004 - New CIP codes used for IPEDS reporting

2002 - New finance form for public institutions

2002-2003 - Mandatory reporting of new race/ethnicity for Fall Enrollment (old categories dropped); old codes should be stored for future GRS cohorts

2003-2004 - Mandatory reporting of new race/ethnicity for Completions (for the prior academic year) and Staff (old categories dropped).

Additional Resources

* Information about pilot version of VIOLIN: <http://www.highered.org/violin>.

* IPEDS Help Desk: Telephone number: 1-800-435-5985

* Registration Site for Institutional keyholders for IPSFA Survey:
<http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/Register/> (only for IPEDS keyholders designated by institution's CEO--login ID and password required).

* Summary of IPEDS Redesign (as of 5/7/99): <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/redesign/>

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- * College Opportunities On-Line Site: <http://nces.ed.gov/Ipedes/cool/>
- * IPEDS site with notice of latest updates: <http://nces.ed.gov/Ipedes/whatsnew.html>
- * Questions related to IPEDS Student Surveys: <http://www.fsu.edu/~air/ipedsrev/student3.htm>
- * Summary of March 1999 meeting of Policy Panel on Racial/Ethnic Data: available from <http://nces.ed.gov/Ipedes/finalracerec.pdf>
- * August collection instrument for Institution Prices and Student Financial Aid: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/augdraft.htm>
- * Proposal for student charges on IC Survey: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/newicitems.html>
- * Draft Performance Work Statement, College Cost Study: <http://ocfo.ed.gov/CONINFO/CCS.htm>
- * AIR Alert #9 describing IPEDS Redesign: [Alert 9](#)
- * First update to AIR Alert #9: [Alert 9 Update 1](#)
- * Second update to AIR Alert #9: [Alert 9 Update 2](#)
- * Third update to AIR Alert #9: [Alert 9 Update 3](#)
- * Fourth update to AIR Alert #9: [Alert 9 Update 4](#)
- * Fifth update to AIR Alert #9: [Alert 9 Update 5](#)

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