

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Training to Develop Believe and Prepare Teacher and Mentor Surveys

April 1, 2019
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Handout 2: Overview of Existing Educator Surveys

Excerpts from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) website describe the surveys we will review this afternoon.

The National Teacher and Principal Survey

The National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) is a system of related questionnaires that provide descriptive data on the context of elementary and secondary education while also giving policymakers a variety of statistics on the condition of education in the United States.

The NTPS is a redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), which the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducted from 1987 to 2011. The design of the NTPS is a product of three key goals coming out of the SASS program: flexibility, timeliness, and integration with other U.S. Department of Education collections. The NTPS collects data on core topics such as teacher and principal preparation, classes taught, school characteristics, and demographics of the teacher and principal labor force every two years. In addition, each administration of NTPS contains rotating modules on important education topics such as professional development, working conditions, and evaluation. This approach allows policymakers and researchers to assess trends on both stable and dynamic topics. The NTPS utilizes primarily Internet and paper data collection instruments.

Although the NTPS will have a different structure and sample than previous SASS administrations, the focus remains on schools and their teachers and principals. The content of the 2011/12 SASS forms the basis of the NTPS content, though many questions will be shifted to different questionnaire instruments or will be answered through the use of extant data sources. Cross-sectional analysis of trends is possible for SASS items that have been maintained in NTPS.

<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/overview.asp>

Constructs/topic areas include the following:

1. General information
2. Class organization
3. Education and training
4. Certification
5. Early career experiences
6. Teacher working conditions

7. School climate and teacher attitudes
8. General employment and background information
9. Contact information

Teacher Follow-up Survey

The purpose of the Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) is to determine how many teachers remained at the same school, moved to another school, or left the profession in the year following the SASS administration. First conducted in the 1988/89 school year, the TFS is administered to a sample of teachers who completed SASS in the previous year (for example, the 1988/89 survey was taken by a sample of SASS respondents in 1987/88). The 2008/09 TFS differed from previous TFS administrations in that it was primarily a web-based survey and served as the second wave of the Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study (BTLs). Because of this, the 2008/09 TFS consisted of four questionnaires to provide a longitudinal component. Two were for respondents who were first-year public school teachers in the 2007/08 SASS and two were for the remainder of the sample. Within those two groups, one questionnaire was for teachers who left teaching after the previous SASS (Former Teacher Questionnaire) and another was for those still teaching either in the same school as the previous year or in a different school (Current Teacher Questionnaire). The additional data collected from beginning public school teachers are not included on the 2008/09 TFS data files but can be found in the BTLs Restricted-Use Data file. The 2012/13 TFS returned to the traditional structure—that is, without any longitudinal component—but was primarily web-based.

The Current Teacher Questionnaire covers areas such as teaching status and assignments, ratings of various aspects of teaching and strategies to retain more teachers, and information on decisions to change schools. The Former Teacher Questionnaire covers areas such as employment status, ratings of various aspects of teaching and their current jobs, and information on decisions to leave teaching.

<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/overview.asp>

(The survey we will review is the 2008/09 Current Teacher Questionnaire for respondents who were first-year public school teachers in the 2007/08 SASS because it contains questions about mentor teachers.)