### Data Tool for Data Dissemination

[*The description for data dissemination via a data tool (DAS) can be found in the NCES statistical standards. The confidentiality protection required in a DAS is a function of the type of estimate(s) to be produced. For example, a DAS that produces cell counts may require the use of more extensive confidentiality edits.*

***STANDARD 4-2-7:*** *NCES distributes* [*Data Analysis Systems (DAS)*](https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2002/glossary.asp#das) *that produce tabular estimates from restricted-use files. In this case, the following conditions must be met:*

1. *NCES may not release the exact sample size for* [*restricted-use data files*](https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2002/glossary.asp#restricted) *that are distributed through a DAS.*
2. *Only restricted-use data files with Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approved* [*confidentiality edits*](https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2002/glossary.asp#c-edits) *may be used to produce a DAS.*
3. *A DAS may not publish unweighted counts.*

*If a public-use file is released or planned for a data file, any DAS created for that data file must be based on public-use data that have undergone* [*perturbation disclosure limitation techniques*](https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2002/glossary.asp#perturbation) *as part of confidentiality edits.*

*NCES has been promoting the release of public-use data via data tools. The IES DRB reviews and approves the various data tools to ensure that they meet the standards for eliminating disclosure risk. For example, NCES releases public-use data on its website through a Data Analysis System (DAS) called the International Data Explorer (IDE). There are several levels of protection that the IDE provides to keep the data secure:*

* *The IDE does not allow a user to directly access the database with the individual records used in the analysis. The database can only be accessed via queries generated from the IDE. The IDE and underlying database will reside in secure servers, accessible only to authorized personnel that have signed affidavits of non-disclosure of personally identifiable information, punishable by fine and prison.*
* *The IDE suppresses use and reporting of means, standard deviations and percentiles for index variables for any cell with less than a predetermined number of entries. As an example, IDEs that hold achievement data suppress reporting of achievement for cells with less than 62 cases.*
* *The IDE prevents the user from creating a table that combines more than 3 classification variables.*
* *In the case of school size, or any other variable classified as continuous (usually, but not limited to, any variable with more than 10 categories) the IDE will NOT allow the user to use this variable as a classification variable in a cross-tabulation. A user will only be able to compute and see descriptive statistics for these continuous variables, provided the group meets minimum cell requirements.*
* *Additionally, the user cannot do school or teacher level analysis in the IDE. The school and teacher data can only be analyzed at the student level*.]