2015 SCHOOL DISTRICT GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE FILES:
TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

1.0　　Abstract

The 2015 School District Geographic Reference Files (GRFs) are SAS-formatted tables that identify complete geographic associations between school districts and other types of geographic areas. The files were developed by the U.S. Census Bureau's Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates (EDGE) program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The GRFs were constructed from the Census Bureau's 2015 TIGER/Line files and include associations between school districts and counties, Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA), Consolidated Statistical Areas (CSA), New England City and Town Areas (NECTA), Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA), Urban Areas, Congressional Districts (CD), places, county subdivisions, Census tracts, and Census block groups.

2.0　　Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefiles

Content, Vintage, and Scope
The 2015 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain 2010 Census geography and current geography for the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. They are extracts of selected geographic and cartographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) database. Current geography is defined as the latest version of the geographic extent of legally defined geographic areas as reported, generally reflecting the boundaries of governmental units in effect as of January 1, 2015, or legal and statistical area boundaries that have been adjusted and/or corrected since the 2010 Census. This vintage enables users to see the most current boundaries of governmental units that match the data from the surveys that use 2015 geography, such as the 2015 American Community Survey. The features in this release reflect updates that were made in the MAF/TIGER database through May 2015.

Boundary Changes
The 2015 TIGER/Line boundaries for Elementary, Secondary, and Unified school districts are collected through a biennial survey of state education officials under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and are current as of the 2013-2014 school year.

Spatial Accuracy
The Census Bureau uses various internal and external processes to update the MAF/TIGER database and to maintain the currency of TIGER/Line boundaries. While it has made a reasonable and systematic attempt to gather the most recent information available about the features in this file, the Census Bureau cautions users that the files are no more complete than the source documents used in their compilation, the vintage of those source documents, and the translation of the information on those source documents.

Sources of Geographic Data
The Census Bureau obtains data from numerous sources to update the MAF/TIGER database.
Initially, the Census Bureau used the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:100,000-scale Digital Line Graph (DLG), USGS 1:24,000-scale quadrangles, the Census Bureau's 1980 geographic base files (GBF/DIME Files), and a variety of miscellaneous maps for selected areas outside the contiguous 48 states to create the TIGER database (predecessor to the current MAF/TIGER database).

The Census Bureau makes additions and corrections to its database mainly through partner supplied data (federal, state, local, and private partners), the use of aerial imagery, and fieldwork. The Census Bureau has numerous partner programs where federal, state, and local government partners supply updates to boundaries, features, and addresses. The Census Bureau underwent a major realignment of the TIGER database in the 2000's to improve the spatial accuracy of the road network. Since this realignment, the Census Bureau has added quality standards for data sources used to update the MAF/TIGER database.

3.0 Structure and Format

The 2015 School District Geographic Reference File collection includes the following files. Each type of geographic reference file consists of one file for the whole United States.

- grf15_lea_blkgrp.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_cbsa.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_cd.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_county.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_cousub.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_csa.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_necta.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_place.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_uace10.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_tract.sas7bdat
- grf15_lea_zcta5ce10.sas7bdat

Where:

GRF	Geographic Reference File
15	TIGER/Line data release year
LEA	Local Education Agency (school district)
BLKGRP	Block group
CBSA	Core Based Statistical Area (micropolitan and metropolitan statistical area)
CD	Congressional District
COUNTY	County
COUSUB	County subdivision
CSA	Combined Statistical Area
NECTA	New England City and Town Area
PLACE	Place (incorporated place and Census designated place)
TRACT	Census tract
UACE10	Urbanized area
ZCTA5CE10	Zip Code Tabulation Area

4.0 Record Layouts

2015 LEA Block Group Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
BLKGRP	12	String	Block group ID (state|county|tract|block group)
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of block groups in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA CBSA Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
CBSA	5	String	CBSA ID
NAME_CBSA15	100	String	CBSA name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of CBSAs in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA CD Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
STCD114	4	String	Congressional district ID (state|CD)
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of congressional districts in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA County Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
STCOUNTY	5	String	County ID (state|county)
NAME_COUNTY15	100	String	County name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of counties in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA County Subdivision Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
COUSUB	10	String	County subdivision ID (state|county|county sub)
NAME_COUSUB15	100	String	County subdivision name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of county subdivisions in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA CSA Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
CSA	3	String	CSA ID
NAME_CSA15	100	String	CSA name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of CSAs in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA NECTA Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
NECTA	5	String	NECTA ID
NAME_NECTA15	100	String	NECTA name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of NECTAs in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA Place Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
PLACE	7	String	Place ID
NAME_PLACE15	100	String	Place name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of places in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA Tract Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
TRACT	11	String	Tract ID (state|county|tract)
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of tracts in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA Urban Area Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
UACE10	5	String	Urban area ID
NAME_UACE1015	100	String	Urban area name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of urban areas in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

2015 LEA ZCTA Geographic Reference File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEA15	100	String	Local educational agency name
ZCTA5CE10	5	String	ZCTA ID
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of ZCTAs in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles

5.0   Geographic Areas Overview

School Districts
School districts are geographic entities and single purpose governmental units that operate schools and provide public educational services at the local level. The Census Bureau collects school district boundaries to develop annual estimates of children in poverty to help the U.S. Department of Education determine the annual allocation of Title I funding to states and school districts. NCES also uses school district boundaries to develop a broad collection of district-level demographic estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The Census Bureau updates school district boundaries, names, local education agency codes, grade ranges, and school district levels biennially based on information provided by state education officials.

Universe
The U.S. has more than 13,000 geographically defined public school districts. These include districts that are administratively and fiscally independent of any other government, and those public school systems that lack sufficient autonomy to be counted as separate governments and are classified as a dependent agency of some other government—a county, municipality, township, or state. Most public school systems are Unified districts

that operate regular, special, and/or vocational programs for children in Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten (PK/KG) through 12th grade.

The Census Bureau's school district universe is a subset of the larger NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) Local Education Agency (LEA) universe. The Census collection is limited to regular districts that are geographically defined, and it excludes "non-operating" districts and "educational service agencies" that are part of the CCD LEA universe. These districts primarily exist to collect and transfer tax revenue to other school systems that actually provide the education services, or to provide regional special education services, vocational education programs, or financial services for member districts.

Structure
The Census Bureau assigns all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas to one or more Unified, Elementary, or Secondary school districts based on the general grade range of the schools operated by the district. For example, a district that operates a complete grade range (PK-12th or KG-12th) is assigned as Unified, while a district that operates schools for children only in grades KG-8th is classified as Elementary. Elementary and Secondary districts may serve the same territory and have overlapping boundaries, but they are not permitted to overlap the boundaries for Unified districts.

The structure of school district geography varies by state and region, and districts that share the name of a county, city, or town or operate schools for these areas may or may not be coterminous with the governmental unit. Districts in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states tend to follow county, township, or city boundaries, while districts in the Midwest, Great Plains, and Western states are generally independent of other municipal boundaries. Likewise, district boundaries may also cross boundaries for other statistical geographies like Urban Areas, Metropolitan Areas, Zip Code Tabulation Areas, Census Tracts, and Block Groups.

Grade Range and Fiscal Responsibility
Although school district classifications (Elementary, Secondary, or Unified) generally reflect the grade range of schools operated by district, Census school district classifications are based on the grade range for which the school district is financially responsible, which may or may not be the grade range that a school district operates. For example, Elementary districts typically share territory with one or more Secondary districts that are responsible for operating schools for children in the upper grades. However, some Elementary districts are financially responsible for providing education for all grades, even though the district only operates schools that serve the elementary grades. In these cases, the Elementary district typically contracts with one or more nearby Secondary districts to provide educational services for children in the upper grades. A typical case would be a school district that operates schools for children in grades KG-8th, and pays a neighboring school district to educate children in grades 9th–12th. The Elementary district is operationally responsible for grades KG-8th, and is therefore classified as an Elementary district. However, because the district is financially responsible for all grades, the Census Bureau would define the grade range for the district as KG-12th.

Spatial Data Format
The Census Bureau distributes school district boundaries formatted as shapefiles, a common industry standard for representing spatial data in points, lines, and polygons. Separate files are provided for Unified, Elementary, and Secondary districts. These data are released annually as geographic layers in the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line database. The district boundary files rely on the five-digit NCES LEAID code as a unique district identifier within states, and in most cases the code sequence generally corresponds to the alphabetical order of district names within a state. However, changes over time have introduced some exceptions. The code value 99997 represents non-assigned water territory where no operating district has been identified by the state.

Pseudo Districts
In addition to regular functioning school districts, the TIGER/Line shapefiles also contain a small set of records for pseudo-school districts. These additional cases occur infrequently and are used to address situations where a district may operate different grade spans in different parts of the district. For example, a county may operate schools to serve grades KG-12th throughout the county, except in a portion of the county where a city operates a separate KG-8th district. Within the territory overlapping the city, the county only operates schools that serve 9th-

12th. District boundary files are not designed to reflect multiple grade spans, so in these cases a separate pseudo-Secondary district would be created to account for the territory in the County coterminous with the city that only functions for grades 9th-12th. Although pseudo-districts are not functioning districts, they are administratively necessary to help the Census Bureau allocate children for Title I purposes. Pseudo-districts occur in California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont, and their names reflect the functional associations between the two interacting districts. A list of these pseudo-secondary school districts and their codes appears in Appendix A below.

Block Groups
Standard block groups are clusters of blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number. For example, blocks 3001, 3002, 3003, …, 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to Block Group 3. Due to boundary and feature changes that occur throughout the decade, current block groups do not always maintain these same block number to block group relationships. For example, block 3001 might move due to a census tract boundary change but the block number will not change, even if it does not still fall in block group 3. However, the GEOID for that block, identifying block group 3, would remain the same in the attribute information in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles because block GEOIDs are always built using the decennial geographic codes.

Block groups delineated for the 2010 Census generally contain between 600 and 3000 people. Most block groups were delineated by local participants in the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). The Census Bureau delineated block groups only where a local or tribal government declined to participate or where the Census Bureau could not identify a local participant.

A block group usually covers a contiguous area. Each census tract contains at least one block group, and block groups are uniquely numbered within census tracts. Within the standard census geographic hierarchy, block groups never cross county or census tract boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, urban areas, voting districts, congressional districts, and school districts.

Block groups have a valid range of 0 through 9. Block groups beginning with a zero generally are in coastal and Great Lakes water and territorial seas. Rather than extending a census tract boundary into the Great Lakes or out to the three-mile territorial sea limit, the Census Bureau delineated some census tract boundaries along the shoreline or just offshore. The Census Bureau assigned a default census tract number of zero and a block group of zero to the offshore areas not included in regularly numbered census tract areas.

Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA)
On February 28, 2013, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced the definition of metropolitan statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas based on the official standards that were published in the Federal Register on June 28, 2010. These standards were developed by the interagency Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to provide a nationally consistent set of geographic entities for the United States and Puerto Rico. No metropolitan or micropolitan areas are defined in the Island areas.

The general concept of a metropolitan statistical area or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. The term "core based statistical area" (CBSA) became effective in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas.

Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 inhabitants. The categorization of CBSAs as either a metropolitan statistical area or micropolitan statistical area is based on the population in the most populous (or dominant) core, not the total CBSA population or the total population of all (multiple) cores within the CBSA.

Counties or equivalent entities form the building blocks for metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Under the standards, the counties or equivalent entities in which at least 50 percent of the population resides within

urban areas of 10,000 or more population, or that contain at least 5,000 people residing within a single urban area of 10,000 or more population, are identified as central counties. Additional outlying counties are included in the CBSA if they meet specified requirements of commuting to or from the central counties.

The metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area boundaries, names, and codes appearing in the 2014 TIGER/Line Shapefiles are those defined as of February 2013 by the OMB. Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are identified using a 5-digit numeric code. The codes are assigned in alphabetical order by area title and fall within the 10000 to 59999 range.

Congressional Districts (CD)
Congressional districts are the 435 areas from which people are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the five areas with nonvoting delegates from state equivalents. After the apportionment of congressional seats among the states based on decennial census population counts, each state is responsible for establishing the boundaries of the congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives. Each congressional district is to be as equal in population to all other congressional districts in a state as practicable.

The 2015 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain the 114th Congressional Districts. All congressional districts appearing in the 2015 TIGER/Line Shapefiles reflect the information provided to the Census Bureau by the states by May 1, 2014. The 114th Congressional District shapefile contains the areas in effect January 2015 to 2017. The following state had changes for the 114th Congress:

- Minnesota

Each state has a minimum of one representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have a non-voting delegate in the Congress.

Congressional districts are identified by a 2-character numeric FIPS code. Congressional districts are numbered uniquely within state. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas have the code of 98, which identifies their status with respect to representation in Congress:

01 to 53—Congressional district codes
00—At large (single district for states)
98—Nonvoting delegate

Counties (and Equivalent Entities)
Counties and equivalent entities are primary legal divisions of states. In most states, these entities are termed "counties." In Louisiana, these divisions are known as "parishes." In Alaska, the equivalent entities are the organized boroughs, city and boroughs, and municipalities, and for the unorganized areas, census areas. The census areas are delineated cooperatively for statistical purposes by the State of Alaska and the Census Bureau. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more incorporated places that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states. These incorporated places are known as independent cities and are treated as county equivalent entities for purposes of data presentation. The District of Columbia and Guam have no primary divisions and each area is considered a county equivalent entity for purposes of data presentation. The Census Bureau treats the following entities as equivalents of counties for purposes of data presentation: municipios in Puerto Rico, districts and islands in American Samoa, municipalities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and islands in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each county or statistically equivalent entity is assigned a three-digit FIPS code that is unique within a state.

County Subdivisions
County subdivisions are the primary divisions of counties and their equivalent entities for the reporting of decennial census data. They include census county divisions, census subareas, minor civil divisions, and unorganized territories. They may represent legal or statistical entities. The 2015 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain a 5-character FIPS code field for county subdivisions.

Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs) are the primary governmental or administrative divisions of a county in many states. MCDs represent many different kinds of legal entities with a wide variety of governmental and/or administrative functions. MCDs include areas designated as American Indian reservations, assessment districts, barrios, barrios-pueblo, boroughs, census subdistricts, charter townships, commissioner districts, counties, election districts, election precincts, gores, grants, locations, magisterial districts, parish governing authority districts, plantations, precincts, purchases, supervisor's districts, towns, and townships. The Census Bureau recognizes MCDs in 29 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions and the incorporated place of Washington is treated as an equivalent to an MCD for statistical purposes. In 23 states, all or some incorporated places are not part of any MCD. These places also serve as primary legal county subdivisions and have a FIPS MCD code that is the same as the FIPS place code. The GNIS codes also match for those entities. In other states, incorporated places are part of the MCDs in which they are located or the pattern is mixed—some incorporated places are independent of MCDs and others are included within one or more MCDs. The MCDs in 12 states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin) also serve as general-purpose local governments that generally can perform the same governmental functions as incorporated places. The Census Bureau presents data for these MCDs in all data products for which place data are provided. In New York and Maine, American Indian reservations (AIRs) exist outside the jurisdiction of any town (MCD) and thus serve as the equivalent of MCDs for purposes of data presentation.

Census County Divisions (CCDs) are areas delineated by the Census Bureau in cooperation with state and local officials for statistical purposes. CCDs are not governmental units and have no legal functions. CCD boundaries usually follow visible features and, in most cases, coincide with census tract boundaries. The name of each CCD is based on a place, county, or well-known local name that identifies its location. CCDs exist where:
- There are no legally established minor civil divisions (MCDs)
- The legally established MCDs do not have governmental or administrative purposes
- The boundaries of MCDs change frequently
- The MCDs are not generally known to the public

CCDs have been established for the following 20 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Census Subareas are statistical subdivisions of boroughs, city and boroughs, municipalities, and census areas, the latter of which are the statistical equivalent entities for counties in Alaska. The state of Alaska and the Census Bureau cooperatively delineate the census subareas to serve as the statistical equivalents of MCDs.

Unorganized Territories (UTs) have been defined by the Census Bureau in 9 minor civil division (MCD) states and American Samoa where portions of counties or equivalent entities are not included in any legally established MCD or incorporated place. The Census Bureau recognizes such separate pieces of territory as one or more separate county subdivisions for census purposes. It assigns each unorganized territory a descriptive name, followed by the designation "unorganized territory" and county subdivision FIPS and GNIS codes. Unorganized territories are recognized in the following states and equivalent areas: Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Undefined County Subdivisions—in water bodies, primarily Great Lakes waters and territorial sea, legal county subdivisions do not extend to cover the entire county. For these areas, the Census Bureau created a county subdivision with a FIPS code of 00000 named "county subdivision not defined." The following states and equivalent areas have these county subdivisions: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico.

Consolidated Statistical Areas (CSA)
Combined Statistical Areas consist of two or more adjacent CBSAs that have significant employment interchanges. CBSAs that combine to create a CSA retain separate identities within the larger CSAs. Because

CSAs represent groupings of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, they should not be ranked or compared with individual metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. CSAs are identified using a 3-digit numeric code, and fall within the 100 to 599 range.

New England City and Town Areas (NECTA)
In New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), the OMB has defined an alternative county subdivision (generally city and town) based definition of CBSAs known as New England city and town areas (NECTA). NECTAs are defined using the same criteria as metropolitan statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas and are identified as either metropolitan or micropolitan, based on the presence of either an urban area of 50,000 or more inhabitants or an urban cluster of at least 10,000 and less than 50,000 inhabitants, respectively. NECTAs are identified using 5-digit numeric codes, which fall within the 70000 to 79999 range and are assigned in alphabetical order by area title.

Places
The TIGER/Line Shapefiles include both incorporated places (legal entities) and census designated places (statistical entities). Incorporated Places are those reported to the Census Bureau as legally in existence as of January 1, 2015, under the laws of their respective states. An incorporated place is established to provide governmental functions for a concentration of people as opposed to a minor civil division (MCD), which generally is created to provide services or administer an area without regard, necessarily, to population. Places may extend across county and county subdivision boundaries, as well as school district boundaries, but never across state boundaries. An incorporated place is usually a city, town, village, or borough, but can have other legal descriptions. For census purposes, incorporated places exclude:

- The boroughs in Alaska (treated as county equivalents)
- Towns in the New England states, New York, and Wisconsin (treated as MCDs)
- The boroughs in New York (treated as MCDs)

Census Designated Places (CDP) are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name, but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries are usually defined in cooperation with local partners as part of the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program, or in cooperation with tribal officials as part of the Tribal Statistical Areas Program. The boundaries of CDPs, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or another legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions. CDP boundaries may change from one decennial census to the next with changes in the settlement pattern; a CDP with the same name as in an earlier census does not necessarily have the same boundary. There are no population size requirements for CDPs. In the nine states of the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) as well as Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, a CDP may represent a densely settled concentration of population within a town or township; in other instances, an entire town or township may be defined as a CDP.

Hawaii is the only state that has no incorporated places recognized by the Census Bureau. All places shown in data products for Hawaii are CDPs. By agreement with the State of Hawaii, the Census Bureau does not show data separately for the city of Honolulu, which is coextensive with Honolulu County. In Puerto Rico, which also does not have incorporated places, the Census Bureau recognizes only CDPs. The CDPs in Puerto Rico are called comunidades or zonas urbanas. Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands also have only CDPs.

The FIPS place code uniquely identifies a place within a state. If place names are duplicated within a state and they represent distinctly different areas, a separate code is assigned to each place name alphabetically by the primary county in which each place is located, or, if both places are in the same county, alphabetically by their legal descriptions (for example, "city" before "village").

Census Tracts

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity, and are reviewed and updated by local participants prior to each decennial census as part of the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). The Census Bureau updates census tracts in situations where no local participant exists or where local or tribal governments declined to participate. The primary purpose of census tracts is to provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of decennial census data.

Census tracts generally have a population size between 1200 and 8000 people with an optimum size of 4000 people. The spatial size of census tracts varies widely depending on the density of settlement. Census tracts are delineated with the intention of being maintained over a long time so that statistical comparisons can be made from census to census. However, physical changes in street patterns caused by highway construction, new development, and so forth, may require boundary revisions. In addition, census tracts occasionally are split due to population growth or combined as a result of substantial population decline.

Census tract boundaries generally follow visible and identifiable features. They may follow legal boundaries such as minor civil division (MCD) or incorporated place boundaries in some states to allow for census tract-to-governmental unit relationships where the governmental boundaries tend to remain unchanged between censuses. State and county boundaries are always made up of census tract boundaries in the standard census geographic hierarchy. In a few rare instances, a census tract may consist of discontiguous areas. These discontiguous areas may occur where the census tracts are coextensive with all or parts of legal entities that are themselves discontiguous.

Census tract numbers have up to a 4-character basic number and may have an optional 2-character suffix; for example, 1457.02. The census tract numbers (used as names) eliminate any leading zeroes and append a suffix only if required. The 6-character numeric census tract codes, however, include leading zeroes and have an implied decimal point for the suffix. Census tract codes range from 000100 to 998999 and are unique within a county of equivalent area. The Census Bureau assigns a census tract code of 9900 to represent census tracts delineated to cover large bodies of water. In addition, census tract codes in the 9400s represent American Indian Areas and codes in the 9800s represent special land use areas.

The Census Bureau uses suffixes to help identify census tract changes for comparison purposes. Local participants have an opportunity to review the existing census tracts before each census. If local participants split a census tract, the split parts usually retain the basic number, but receive different suffixes. In a few counties, local participants request major changes to, and renumbering of, the census tracts. Changes to individual census tract boundaries usually do not result in census tract numbering changes.

Within the standard census geographic hierarchy, census tracts never cross state or county boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, urban areas, voting districts, congressional districts, and school districts.

Census Tract Numbers and Codes
- 000100 to 989900—Basic number range for census tracts
- 990000 to 990099—Basic number for census tracts in water areas
- 990100 to 998900—Basic number range for census tracts

Urban Areas

For the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau classified all territory, population, and housing units located within urbanized areas (UA) and urban clusters (UC) as urban. The Census Bureau delineates UA and UC boundaries to represent densely developed territory, encompassing residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses. In general, this territory consists of areas of high population density and urban land use resulting in a representation of the "urban footprint." Territory, population, and housing units located outside of UAs and UCs are considered rural.

For the 2010 Census, the urban and rural classification was applied to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Per agreements with the Island Areas, minor modifications to the classification were implemented when applied to American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Urbanized Areas (UA)
An urbanized area consists of densely developed territory that contains 50,000 or more people. The Census Bureau delineates UAs to provide a better separation of urban and rural territory, population, and housing in the vicinity of large places. The Census Bureau first introduced the urbanized area concept for the 1950 Census.

Urban Clusters (UC)
An urban cluster consists of densely developed territory that has at least 2,500 people but fewer than 50,000 people. The Census Bureau first introduced the UC concept for Census 2000 to provide a more consistent and accurate measure of urban population, housing, and territory throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. Based on agreements with Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, all qualifying urban areas on these islands are identified as urban clusters regardless of their final population counts. Thus, urban clusters may exceed 50,000 people in these areas.

Urban Area Titles and Codes
The title of each UA and UC may contain up to three incorporated place or census designated place (CDP) names, and will include the two-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviation for each state or statistically equivalent entity into which the UA or UC extends. However, if the UA or UC does not contain an incorporated place or CDP, the urban area title will include the single name of a minor civil division or populated place recognized by the U.S. Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Each UA and UC is assigned a 5-character numeric code, based on a national alphabetical sequence of all urban area names. A separate flag is included in data tabulation files to differentiate between UAs and UCs.

Urban Areas are delineated at the block level. Urban Areas may cross the boundaries of all other geographic areas for which the Census Bureau presents data, which means that all areas, other than blocks, may include both urban and rural areas.

Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA)
ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) are approximate area representations of 2010 U.S. Postal Service (USPS) 5-digit ZIP Code service areas that the Census Bureau creates using census blocks to present statistical data from censuses and surveys. The Census Bureau defines ZCTAs by allocating each block that contains addresses to a single ZIP Code Tabulation Area, usually to the ZCTA that reflects the most frequently occurring ZIP Code for the addresses within that block. Blocks that do not contain addresses but are completely surrounded by a single ZIP Code Tabulation Area (enclaves) are assigned to the surrounding ZCTA; those surrounded by multiple ZCTAs will be added to a single ZCTA based on the longest shared border. The Census Bureau identifies 5-digit ZIP Code Tabulation Areas using a 5-character numeric code that represents the most frequently occurring USPS ZIP Code within that ZCTA and this code may contain leading zeroes.

Data users should not use ZCTAs to identify the official USPS ZIP Code for mail delivery. The USPS makes periodic changes to ZIP Codes to support more efficient mail delivery. The ZCTA delineation process used primarily residential addresses and was biased towards ZIP Codes used for city-style mail delivery, thus there may be ZIP Codes that cover primarily nonresidential or post office box addresses that may not have a corresponding ZCTA.

APPENDIX A - PSEUDO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

2013-2014 School District Review Program Pseudo-School Districts (stored as Secondary School Districts)

<u>Column headers:</u>
STATEFP15   2015 state FIPS code
SDLEA15   2015 secondary school district local education agency code
NAME15   2015 secondary school district name

STATEFP15	SDLEA15	NAME15
06	06001	Yosemite Unified School District in Bass Lake
06	06002	Yosemite Unified School District in Raymond-Knowles
06	06003	Twin Rivers Unified School District in Elverta
06	06004	Twin Rivers Unified School District in Robla
06	06005	Scott Valley Unified School District in Forks of Salmon
06	06006	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Burnt Ranch
06	06007	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Coffee Creek
06	06008	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Cox Bar
06	06009	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Douglas City
06	06010	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Junction City
06	06011	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Lewiston
06	06012	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Trinity Center
06	06013	Turlock Unified School District in Chatom Union
06	06014	Turlock Unified School District in Keyes Union
06	06015	Santa Cruz City High School District (9-12) in Soquel
06	06016	Dinuba Unified (9-12) in Kings River Union
06	06017	Dinuba Unified (9-12) in Monson-Sultana Joint Union
06	06018	Washington Unified School District (9-12)
06	06019	Santa Barbara Unified School District (7-12)
06	06020	Lammersville Joint Unified School District (9-12)
06	06021	Bishop Unified School District in Round Valley (9-12)
06	06022	Santa Paula Unified (9-12) in Briggs
06	06023	Santa Paula Unified (9-12) in Mupu
06	06024	Santa Paula Unified (9-12) in Santa Clara
06	06025	Hamilton Unified School District in Capay (9-12)
06	06026	Woodlake Unified School District (9-12) in Stone Corral
06	06027	Woodlake Unified School District (9-12) in Three Rivers Union
06	06028	Exeter Unified School District (9-12) in Sequoia Union
06	06029	Exeter Unified School District (9-12) in Outside Creek
06	06031	Tracy Unified School District (9-12) in Banta
06	06032	Tracy Unified School District (9-12) in Jefferson
06	06033	Tracy Unified School District (9-12) in New Jerusalem
06	06037	Alhambra Unified (9-12) School District
06	06053	Gonzales Unified (9-12) School District
06	06107	Porterville Unified (9-12) School District
13	13053	Chattahoochee County for Fort Benning
13	13215	Muscogee County for Fort Benning
17	17901	Flanagan-Cornell District 74 in Cornell
17	17902	Flanagan-Cornell District 74 in Pontiac
17	17903	Flanagan-Cornell District 74 in Rooks Creek
21	21001	Laurel County School District for East Bernstadt ISD

21	21002	Pulaski County School District for Science Hill ISD
21	21003	Elizabethtown Independent School District for West Point ISD
21	21004	Jefferson County School District in Anchorage ISD
21	21005	Campbell County School District in Southgate ISD
25	22222	Mohawk Trail Regional School District in Hawley and Charlemont towns
25	25002	North Adams School District in Clarksburg (9-12)
25	25003	Gill-Montague School District in Erving (7-12)
25	25005	Swampscott School District in Nahant (7-12)
25	25006	Pittsfield School District in Richmond (9-12)
25	25007	Mohawk Trail School District in Rowe (7-12)
25	25008	Adams-Cheshire School District in Savoy (7-12)
25	25009	North Adams School District in Florida (9-12)
25	25010	Fairhaven/New Bedford School Districts in Acushnet (9-12)
25	25012	Nauset/Provincetown School Districts in Turo (7-12)
25	25013	Mount Greylock/New Lebanon (NY) School Districts in Hancock (7-12)
25	25014	North Adams School District in Monroe (9-12)
25	25015	Lee/Berkshire Hills in Farmington River Regional (7-12)
27	27001	Park Rapids Public School District in Pine Point (9-12)
40	40001	Secondary Coverage Area in White Oak Public Schools (9-12)
45	45013	Beaufort County School District within Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station
45	45079	Richland County School District 2 within Fort Jackson
47	47001	Anderson County School District in Clinton
47	47029	Cocke County School District in Newport
47	47031	Coffee County School District in Manchester
47	47033	Crockett County School District in Alamo
47	47034	Crockett County School District in Bells
47	47073	Hawkins County School District in Rogersville
47	47077	Henderson County School District in Lexington
47	47079	Henry County School District in Paris
47	47107	McMinn County School District in Athens
47	47108	McMinn County School District in Etowah
47	47123	Monroe County School District in Sweetwater
47	47143	Rhea County School District in Dayton
47	47149	Rutherford County School District in Murfreesboro
47	47187	Williamson County School District in Franklin
47	47189	Wilson County School District in Lebanon
48	48021	Elgin/Giddings Independent School Districts (9-12) in McDade
48	48143	Stephenville Independent School District (9-12) in Bluff Dale
48	48285	Hallettsville Independent School District (9-12) in Vysehrad
48	48449	Mount Pleasant Independent School District (9-12) in Winfield
50	50001	Harwood Union High School District 19 (9-12)
50	50002	Mount Anthony Union High School District 14 (7-12)
50	50003	Brattleboro Union High School District 6 (9-12)