Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates (EDGE) Program

School District Geographic Relationship Files - Documentation

ies NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Institute of Education Sciences

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Acknowledgements

Contents

1.0   Abstract

The NCES School District Geographic Relationship Files (GRFs) are tables that identify complete spatial associations between geographically defined school districts and other types of geographic areas. The GRFs were constructed from the Census Bureau's Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) database and include associations between school districts and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian areas (AIANNH), 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. For a detailed explanation of the geographic areas visit the Census Bureau's TIGER Technical Documentation.

2.0   Census Bureau TIGER Shapefiles

2.1   Content, Vintage, and Scope
The TIGER database includes decennial Census geography and current geography for the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands). The decennial Census geography is identified in the file and variable names for Urban Areas and Zip Code Tabulation Areas. Current geography is defined as the latest version of the geographic extent of legally defined geographic areas as reported to the Census Bureau, generally reflecting the boundaries of governmental units in effect as of January 1st, or legal and statistical area boundaries that have been adjusted and/or corrected since the last decennial Census. This vintage enables users to see the most current boundaries of governmental units that match the data from the surveys that use the geography, such as the American Community Survey. The features in this release reflect updates that were made in the TIGER database through May of this TIGER year.

2.2   Boundary Changes
The TIGER boundaries for Elementary, Secondary, and Unified school districts are collected through an annual survey of state education officials under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

2.3   Spatial Accuracy
The Census Bureau uses various internal and external processes to update the Master Address File (MAF) and TIGER database and maintain the currency of TIGER 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.

2.4   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 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 2000s 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 School District GRF collection includes the following files. Each type of geographic relationship file consists of one file for the whole United States.

- grfxx_lea_aiannh
- grfxx_lea_blkgrp
- grfxx_lea_cbsa
- grfxx_lea_cd
- grfxx_lea_county
- grfxx_lea_cousub
- grfxx_lea_csa
- grfxx_lea_necta
- grfxx_lea_place
- grfxx_lea_uaceyy
- grfxx_lea_tract
- grfxx_lea_zcta5ceyy

Where:

GRF	Geographic Relationship File
XX	TIGER data release year (e.g., "17" for 2017)
LEA	Local Education Agency (school district)
AIANNH	American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Area
BLKGRP	Block group
CBSA	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
UACE	Urbanized area
ZCTA5CE	Zip Code Tabulation Area
YY	Decennial Census Year (e.g, "10" for 2010)

4.0   Record Layouts

LEA American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Area Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEAXX	100	String	Local educational agency name
AIANNH	5	String	American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian area ID with component type (aiannh|comptyp)
NAME_AIANNHXX	100	String	American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian area name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian areas in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles
WATERAREA	8	Number	Water area – square miles

LEA - Block Group Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEAXX	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
WATERAREA	8	Number	Water area – square miles

LEA - CBSA Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

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

LEA - CD Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEAXX	100	String	Local educational agency name
STCDZZZ	4	String	Congressional district ID (where ZZZ indicates which Congressional district is represented in current TIGER)
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of congressional districts in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles
WATERAREA	8	Number	Water area – square miles

LEA - County Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEAXX	100	String	Local educational agency name
STCOUNTY	5	String	County ID
NAME_COUNTYXX	100	String	County name
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of counties in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles
WATERAREA	8	Number	Water area – square miles

LEA - County Subdivision Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

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

LEA - CSA Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

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

LEA - NECTA Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

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

LEA - Place Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

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

LEA - Tract Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEAXX	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
WATERAREA	8	Number	Water area – square miles

LEA - UACEYY Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

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

LEA - ZCTA5CEYY Geographic Relationship File Record Layout

Field	Length	Type	Description
LEAID	7	String	Local educational agency ID
NAME_LEAXX	100	String	Local educational agency name
ZCTA5CEYY	5	String	ZCTA ID
COUNT	8	Number	Total number of ZCTAs in LEA
LANDAREA	8	Number	Land area – square miles
WATERAREA	8	Number	Water area – square miles