



## School District Boundaries

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 the school district boundaries to develop a broad collection of district-level demographic estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The Census Bureau annually updates school district boundaries, names, local education agency codes, grade ranges, and school district levels based on information provided by state education officials.

[School District Documentation \(432 KB\) \(/programs/edge/docs/EDGE\\_SDBOUNDARIES\\_COMPOSITE\\_FILEDOC.pdf\)](/programs/edge/docs/EDGE_SDBOUNDARIES_COMPOSITE_FILEDOC.pdf)

**2019**

2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 20 more

### DATA

[Single Composite File \(184 MB\) \(/programs/edge/data/EDGE\\_SCHOOLDISTRICT\\_TL19\\_SY1819.zip\)](/programs/edge/data/EDGE_SCHOOLDISTRICT_TL19_SY1819.zip)

[Layers by District Type \(146 MB\) \(/programs/edge/data/TL\\_2019\\_SD.zip\)](/programs/edge/data/TL_2019_SD.zip)

### USER NOTES

- Files represent the 2018-2019 school year and apply to the 2015-2019 ACS Period.
- Pseudo-school districts represent service areas that address situations where a school district may have financial responsibility for a different grade span in a different part of the district. A list of pseudo-school districts is found in the [U.S. Census Bureau's TIGER documentation \(/transfer.asp?location=www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/data/tiger/tgrshp2019/TGRSHP2019\\_TechDoc\\_A.pdf\)](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/data/tiger/tgrshp2019/TGRSHP2019_TechDoc_A.pdf).
- Vermont reported boundaries for Supervisory Union Districts. New York City, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico are reported as single school districts.

## Coverage

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, as well as 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, municipal, township, or state. Most public school systems are Unified districts that operate regular, special, and/or vocational programs for children in Prekindergarten through 12th grade.

The Census Bureau's school district universe is a subset of the larger NCES 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.

## Additional Resources

### School District Boundary Change Files

Changes in school district geographies or grade extent, school years 2007-08 to 2017-18. This product has two purposes: 1) to indicate when there have been changes to the borders or grade-span of a school district which might affect the comparability of estimates over time, and 2) to provide a crosswalk that allows users to create trends for new or closed districts by combining data.

[School District Boundary Changes Files \(/programs/edge/data/EDGE\\_SchoolDistrict\\_BoundaryChanges\\_2019.xlsx\)](/programs/edge/data/EDGE_SchoolDistrict_BoundaryChanges_2019.xlsx) (243 KB)

### School District Governments

The U.S. Census Bureau regularly updates and reports information about special purpose governments in each state as part of the quinquennial Census of Governments. This lesser-known census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau collects information about government organization, public employment, and government finances, and it provides an exhaustive collection and description of the governmental entities in each state. [This document \(213 KB\) \(/programs/edge/docs/2012\\_Composite\\_SchoolDistricts.pdf\)](/programs/edge/docs/2012_Composite_SchoolDistricts.pdf) compiles the state-level school district descriptions from the 2012 Census of Governments: Individual State Descriptions into a single condensed source for convenient reference. [This document \(722 KB\) \(/programs/edge/docs/School\\_District\\_Descriptions\\_Census\\_2017.pdf\)](/programs/edge/docs/School_District_Descriptions_Census_2017.pdf) provides descriptions from the 2017 Census of Governments, updating the 2012 document.

View school district boundaries with the [School & District Navigator \(/ccd/schoolmap/\)](/ccd/schoolmap/).

[Contact Us \(/help/webmail/\)](#)