

ECLS-K:2011 Final Project Dataset Guide

Analysis Requirement

Variables

- ***childid***: Unique student identifier (stable across waves).
- ***x1mscalk5, ..., x9mscalk5***: (outcome) Mathematics IRT scale scores on the K–5 vertical scale.
- ***s1_id, ..., s9_id***: School ID for the child in each wave (may differ across waves because students can change schools or schools can change configuration).
- ***x_chsex_r***: Child sex.
- ***x1height, ..., x9height***: Child height, per wave.
- ***x1weight, ..., x9weight***: Child weight, per wave.
- ***x1bmi, ..., x9bmi***: Body Mass Index, per wave.
- ***x2disabl, x4disabl, x6disabl, x7disabl, x8disabl, x9disabl***: Parent-reported composites indicating that the child has a disability diagnosed by a professional and/or is receiving therapy/services for a diagnosed condition in that wave.
- ***x1htotal, x2htotal, x4htotal, x6htotal, x7htotal, x8htotal, x9htotal***: Household size (total people in the household), from the parent interview.
- ***x2inccat_i, x4inccat_i, x6inccat_i, x7inccat_i, x8inccat_i, x9inccat_i***: Parent-reported annual household income, categorized into 18 ordinal ranges (from \$5,000 or less = level 1 to \$200,000 or more = level 18); imputed as needed.
- ***x12par1ed_i, x4par1ed_i, x7par1ed_i, x8par1ed_i, x9par1ed_i***: Parent 1 highest education.
- ***x12par2ed_i, x4par2ed_i, x7par2ed_i, x8par2ed_i, x9par2ed_i***: Parent 2 highest education.

- ***x1par1emp, x4par1emp_i, x6par1emp_i, x9par1emp_i***: Parent 1 employment status in that wave.
- ***x1par2emp, x4par2emp_i, x6par2emp_i, x9par2emp_i***: Parent 2 employment status in that wave.
- ***x12sesl, x4sesl_i, x9sesl_i***: Socioeconomic status (SES) composite index. SES is a household-level index that combines parents' education, occupational prestige and household income, reflecting socioeconomic status.
- ***x1ksctyp, x2ksctyp, x4sctyp, ..., x9sctyp***: Kindergarten/School type.
- ***x2kenrls, x4enrls, x6enrls, x7enrls_r, x8enrls, x9enrls***: Total school enrollment in that wave.
- ***x2higgrd, x4higgrd, x6higgrd, x7higgrd, x8higgrd, x9higgrd***: Highest grade offered at the student's school in that wave.
- ***x2lowgrd, x4lowgrd, x6lowgrd, x7lowgrd, x8lowgrd, x9lowgrd***: Lowest grade offered at the student's school in that wave.
- ***x_distpov, x4distpov, x6distpov, x7distpov, x8distpov, x9distpov***: School-district composite poverty level.
- ***x1locale, ..., x9locale***: School locality type for the school attended in that wave.

Quick notes

- The dataset is wide-format with one row per student. For longitudinal analyses, reshape and manipulate as needed (e.g., create a long panel with one row per student-wave) before modeling.
- ***x1mscalk5, ..., x9mscalk5*** represents the Math IRT scale score (K–5 vertical scale) per wave. The K–5 vertical scale is a single IRT-based score scale that NCES built by linking all ECLS-K:2011 math test forms across kindergarten through grade 5. Because all waves are calibrated onto this common metric, a child's scores (e.g., are directly comparable over time and can be used to model growth from K → 5).
- The trailing digit (**1-9**) in the variable names reflects the round (wave number):

- 1 = Fall 2010 (Kindergarten, X1)
- 2 = Spring 2011 (Kindergarten, X2)
- 3 = Fall 2011 (Grade 1, X3)
- 4 = Spring 2012 (Grade 1, X4)
- 5 = Fall 2012 (Grade 2, X5)
- 6 = Spring 2013 (Grade 2, X6)
- 7 = Spring 2014 (Grade 3, X7)
- 8 = Spring 2015 (Grade 4, X8)
- 9 = Spring 2016 (Grade 5, X9)

- Not every variable is collected in every wave (e.g., household income appears only in 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9). A code **12** (e.g., **x12ses1**) indicates a kindergarten baseline composite built from fall (X1) and/or spring (X2) K data; a leading **x_** with no round number (e.g., **x_distpov**) indicates a cross-round composite compiled from multiple waves.
- The dataset contains missing values due to non-collection in certain waves, nonresponse, or confidentiality protections. Missing information may appear either as **NA** or as special omitted codes (e.g., **-1** = Not Applicable; **-9** = Not Ascertained).

Reference

National Center for Education Statistics. (2019). *User's manual for the ECLS-K:2011 Kindergarten–Fifth Grade data file and electronic codebook, public version* (NCES 2019-051). U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.