

Data Housed at the North Carolina Education Research Data Center

District-level data

Community Index Data, Year 2004

Each file has one record per Local Education Agency with the percent of students (a) scoring at or above level III on End of Grade/End of Course tests, (b) living in single parent households, (c) living below the poverty line, and (d) who have at least one parent without a high school diploma. The file also contains an index of relative disadvantage as compared to the state average. Charter schools are not included in this dataset.

Discipline, Year 2000

This file has one record per Local Education Agency with information on corporal punishment, out of school suspensions, and expulsions, overall and by race-gender categories.

District Finance, Years 1997-2011

These Local Education Agency (LEA) Finance files provide finance information for all local education agencies (including charter schools) that provide free public elementary and secondary education. There is one record per LEA with information about assets, debts, revenues (from local, state, and federal sources), and expenditures (for instruction, support services, administration, operations and maintenance, transportation and food services).

District Report Cards, Years 2001-Present

Each file is a snapshot of districts with information about district characteristics, student academic performance, and district spending.

Dropout Rate, Years 1995-2003

Each file has one record per Local Education Agency with the number of dropouts and the dropout rate each year.

High School Graduates, Years 1983-2002, 2005-2006

These files have one record per school district and charter school with counts of high school graduates that contain all high school diploma recipients each year, including summer school, mid-year, and 11th grade graduates. Records include demographic breakouts of the graduates, such as the number of white female high school graduates in a particular district.

Juvenile Justice, Years 2003-2006

This file has one record per county with information including intake statistics, detention admissions, and youth development center commitments.

Legally Reportable Incidents, Years 1996-2002

These files have one record per district with counts of legally reportable incidents (such as robbery or possession of a controlled substance).

Local Education Agency Universe, Years 1993-2015

These files have one record per school district with information about agency type, county, address, and boundary changes. This file includes district counts of staff, by type (e.g., teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, support staff, and administrators) and counts of diploma recipients and other high school completers by ethnicity and gender.

Per Pupil Expenditure, Years 1980-2004

These files have one record per school district with per pupil and total expenditures by local, state, and federal sources.

Personnel, Years 1998-2005

Each file has one record per Local Education Agency with the number of teachers, principals, guidance counselors, and other school staff, by race and gender.

Salary Supplement, Years 1987-2011

Each file has one record per Local Education Agency with the number of teachers, principals, superintendents, and other school staff, the number receiving local salary supplements, and the average amount of this supplement.

School-level data

Attendance, Years 2004-2011

Each file has one record per school with average daily membership and average daily attendance. Charter schools are not included in these data.

Growth Scores, Years 1997-2009

These files contain one record per school with the results from the ABC accountability system. Data include the percent of students at the school performing at grade level and the school's overall rating from the state.

Membership by Race and Sex, Years 1993-2002

This file has one record per school and state grade code with total membership in each grade and the counts of each ethnic and gender group. For example, in a given grade in a particular school, the file has the counts of white females, white males, etc.

Private School Survey, Years 1996-2004 (Biennial)

Each file contains information about each private school in North Carolina Center for Education Statistics. The PSS data contain information about school level, size, religious orientation, and program emphasis; length of school year and school day, number of high school graduates, whether a school is single-sexed or coeducational, racial composition of the school, enrollment by grade, number of teachers employed.

Public School Universe, Years 1993-2015

These files contain one record per school with the address, type, and locale code. It includes the pupil-teacher ratio, the counts of free/reduced price lunch eligible students, and the count of students by race, ethnicity, and grade.

School Report Cards, Years 2001-Present

Each file is a snapshot of schools with information about school characteristics, student academic performance, teacher quality, and school safety.

Classroom-level data

The School Activity Reporting (SAR) System provides information on the approximately 350,000 class activities that take place daily in North Carolina's public schools. Activities include traditional academic classes as well as non-class events (e.g., study hall, lunch period). Schools report activities that are regularly scheduled throughout the year as well as those that meet for only part of the year.

SAR - School Activity Directory/Student Count, Years 1995-2013

Each file has one record per school, activity, and course section (e.g., Algebra 2, second period) with information about the course title, number of credits, number of semesters, state grade code, and academic levels (e.g., honors, remedial). The file includes state course codes with state course title, academic level, and grade level for each subject. This file has summary data on the students: counts for race-gender categories (e.g., white female), and counts for different exceptionality categories (e.g., academically gifted, behaviorally/emotionally handicapped).

SAR - School Activity Personnel File, Years 1995-2013

Each file has one record per activity with information about the instructor(s) assigned to that activity. This information includes the instructors' race, sex, and level of experience. Personnel included are those employed by the public school system who have direct student contact in a public school activity for which a state course code or personnel assignment type exists.

SAR - Meeting Codes, Years 1995-2013

This file has one record for each district, school code, activity, and section with information about the number of times and the number of minutes the activity occurs in a scheduling cycle. One could use this information to determine, for example, how much of a teacher's day is spent in instruction.

Teacher-level data

National Board Certification, Years 1995-2007, 2014-Present

These data list the year of certification and certificate area for National Board Certified teachers teaching in North Carolina in a given academic year.

Personnel Absence, Years 1995-2008

These files include records for all education personnel who were teaching in a given year, with one record per absence report per teacher.

Personnel Education File, Years 1995-Present

This file has one record per instructor with educational attainment, including the name of the institution of higher education and graduation date.

Personnel License File, Years 1995-Present

This file has one record per instructor with license information, including date of license/renewal and license area. Note that licensure is renewed every five years.

Personnel Pay History file, Years 1995-Present

This file has detailed information on every teacher's position and salary each year. Using these data, one can monitor the progress of a teacher's career.

Personnel Testing File, Years 1995-Present

North Carolina teachers are required to pass standardized tests (the Praxis series) in both general educational principles and subject areas. This file includes all such test information.

Working Conditions Survey, Years 2002-2016 (Biennial)

This statewide survey of all licensed school personnel asked about perceptions of the work environment. Questions focused on time management, facilities and resources, school leadership, personal empowerment, and opportunities for professional development. (Note: This survey was conducted in 2002.)

Student-level data

ACCESS, Year 2009-present

Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners is a secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment administered to Kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been identified as English language learners (ELL). This exam is administered annually in WIDA Consortium member states to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English, and data include proficiency levels for each of the four language domains (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking). The assessment was first administered in North Carolina in the 2008-2009 school year.

ACT, Year 2013-2015

Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, every 11th grader in North Carolina public schools takes the ACT® college entrance exam as part of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. This file contains scale scores and other academic indicators from the administration of the ACT® exam.

Address Data, Years 1995-Present

These files are from the bus route data from the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University. The Data Center geocoded those addresses and linked that information to the student test files.

Advanced Placement, Years 2010-Present

The Advanced Placement Program allows students to take specially designed courses in high school to qualify for college credit if the student earns an adequate score on The College Board's AP exams. The advanced placement files consist of information on the courses in which each student is enrolled. There is one record per course per student.

Alternate Assessments, Years 2009-2012

The North Carolina alternate assessments were first designed by the staff of the NCDPI to respond to the mandates of the 1997 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which requires all students, including students with disabilities, participate in statewide and local testing programs. The alternate assessments were designed to ensure access to the statewide testing program for students with disabilities who cannot participate in the general multiple-choice or performance assessments, even with approved accommodations.

ASSET Test Scores, Years 2002-2007

The ASSET test score data are a series of writing, reading and math test used by community colleges for admission and placement and used to measure the academic attainment of career and technical education students as required by federal regulations. The data include the following information: lea, school, reporting year, writing score, reading score, numeric skill score, and elementary algebra score.

Course Membership, Years 2006-Present

This file consists of information on students' courses, such as course title and the number of students in the course. Records are at the course level, so there are multiple records per student. This dataset is linked to both the NCERDC student identifier and the teacher identifier, so students can be directly linked to teachers.

Demographics and Absences, Years 2006-Present

This file provides the demographic information of students as well as absence and membership information. This dataset can be used to follow students' movements across schools and districts within the school year.

Dropout Data, Years 1996-Present

These files have one record per student identified as a dropout according to the Federal definition of dropout. For each dropout, data include race and gender as well as the student's school, age, and grade at the time of the dropout, and the reason for dropping out.

End of Grade Tests, Years 1995-2013

Each student in grades 3 through 8 is tested in reading and math each year. The Data Center has a separate file for each grade, with one record for each student who was a member of that grade at the time of the test. Data include records for students who were absent or exempt from the test for various reasons. If a student took a retest, such information is included as well in a separate student record within the file.

The data include the individual student's test records and information about the test process, such as whether any testing modifications were used. The data also incorporate information about the student's class work, such as using calculators in math class or having written assignments in reading class. The data contain the student's birth date, race, sex, free/reduced price lunch eligibility, learning disabled status, and exceptionality status.

End of grade writing tests for grades 4, 7, and 10 and end of grade science tests for grades 5 and 8 are now available in addition to the math and reading tests described above.

Additional years of End of Grade testing results can be found in Tests datasets.

End of Course Tests, Years 1997-2013

Students take subject-specific tests when they complete the following courses: Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science, English 1, English 2, Economic-Legal-Political Systems, US History. They also take a high school comprehensive exam in 10th grade. As with the End of Grade tests, data include records for all students eligible to take the test and note whether they were absent or exempt and whether they had any modifications to the test.

The data include the student's test records, participation in extracurricular activities, and time spent on homework for the class as well as the student's birth date, race, sex, learning disabled status, and exceptionality status.

Additional years of End of Course testing results can be found in Tests datasets.

Exceptional Children, Years 2001-2003, 2005-Present

The exceptionality data contain records for students receiving special education and related services.

GPA, Years 2005-Present

Data include information on 12th grade student GPA, class rankings, and high school completion. Information is available only for a small number of districts in 2005, and increases over time; with data for nearly all students in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years.

Graduates, Years 2009-Present

These data are collected through the Graduate Data Verification System and include demographic information, course of study and post-graduate intentions of North Carolina high school graduates. The first graduate data available through the NCERDC correspond to the 2008-09 school year.

Growth, Years 2006-2012

This dataset contains information on students' growth and proficiency in each subject as calculated by NCDPI.

Masterbuild, Years 1997-Present

Each master build file contains one record per student with a date and score for each test (End of Grade and End of Course), exemption status, and, if the score is missing, the reason why. In addition to student-level test scores, the dataset includes the number of days the student was absent, the number of days the student was in membership at the reporting school, students' intended course of study and retention status, and students' race, sex, and limited English proficiency status. Whenever possible, students in these data are linked to the NCERDC's longitudinal student database.

MClass, Year 2014-Present

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills assessment is comprised of six measures that function as indicators of the essential skills that every student must master to become a proficient reader. The DIBELS measures are used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. This assessment is used in partnership with Text Reading and Comprehension, an early literacy formative assessment measuring a range of skills including fluency, accuracy and comprehension. Together DIBELS and TRC form the mCLASS®:Reading 3D™ assessment system. Datasets are available for each benchmark assessment which is given three times a year.

Offense-Consequence Data, Years 2001-Present

This file contains records for each time a legally-reportable offense, an out-of-school suspension (short or long term), a referral to an alternative school or program, or an expulsion occurs during the school year. NCDPI does not require that less serious incidents (such as those resulting in detentions, in-school-suspensions and the like) to be reported unless those incidents involve a legally reportable offense, OSS, referral to an ALP, or expulsion. However, some schools do report such minor incidents. Where possible, the Data Center linked these records to student academic records. (Note: North Carolina began collecting this information in the 2000-01 school year.)

PSAT, Years 2013-Present

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT.

SAT, Years 2009-Present

The SAT is a standardized test for college admissions which is owned, published, and developed by the College Board. The test is intended to assess a student's readiness for college, and is required for freshman entry to many post-secondary institutions.

School Exit, Years 2006-Present

This file contains students' transfer, dropout, and graduation status. The dataset also includes indicators used in the calculation of the new NC cohort graduation rate.

Student Vocational Course (CTE) Enrollments, Years 2001-2007

This file contains individual student records for all students in grades 6 through 12 who have declared a vocational pathway (i.e. agriculture, business). Charter schools are included.

Tests, 2006, 2008-Present

This file substitutes for the earlier EOG and EOC files. Since the individual grade files are no longer available the same current academic year's test results are contained in this file (e.g., students' test ID, test date, score, achievement level, change score, and exemption code).

Transcripts, Years 2005-Present

Data include information from students' high school transcripts, including courses taken, credits, class ranking, and course grades. Information is available only for a small number of districts in 2005, and increases over time; with data for nearly all students in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years.

WorkKeys, Years 2012-Present

North Carolina administers the ACT WorkKeys assessment to all 12th grade CTE concentrators who complete a four-course CTE sequence prior to graduation. This assessment provides a gauge of career readiness and is widely recognized as an industry credential. The data reported indicates the numbers of students meeting the standard of a Silver or higher (Gold or Platinum) certificate.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Years 1995-2011

Produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is intended to assess health risk behaviors of children and adolescents. Surveys are of a sample of middle and high school students.

Encrypted Identifiers Created by the NCERDC

Using encrypted identifiers, researchers can track students across tests, grades, and schools. For example, researchers can:

- Link students' test scores within a year
- Create cohorts of students and follow their progress through school
- Analyze students' transitions to middle or high school
- Identify students who move into different school systems (either charter schools or different LEAs)
- Identify students who have been retained

Using encrypted identifiers researchers can track teachers by combining the teacher pay, education, and test data to conduct the following kinds of studies:

- Evaluate the qualifications of teachers employed in different schools or districts
- Analyze teacher retention by following teachers who change schools or districts within the North Carolina public school system and identifying those who exit the system
- Identify cohorts of new teachers and study their career paths.

The NCERDC created an encrypted identifier for the instructor associated with a group of students who took an End of Grade or End of Course exam together. In many cases, this instructor will be that group's teacher, ***but this is not necessarily the case***. This identifier links the instructor name in the End of Grade or End of Course tests to the personnel information in the School Activity Report and Licensure files. This identifier is also used to link teachers to students' course enrollment records.

Linking school data to students and teachers

Across all files, school codes have been standardized so that researchers can link the student and teacher data sets to every school file. These identifiers permit studying such factors as the impact of school size, demographic composition, or percent of classes that are honors or remedial on teacher quality and student achievement.

Linking district data to students and teachers

Across all files, LEA codes have been standardized so that researchers can link the student and teacher datasets to every district file. These identifiers permit analyzing the relationship between per pupil expenditure and other LEA policies on teacher quality and student achievement.