

## **Data Center Activities**

To date the center has received data from the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) on every district, school, teacher, and student in the North Carolina public school system from the mid-1990s to the present. In addition, the Data Center has obtained public use datasets from sources such as US Census and the US Department of Education. By pooling these resources and standardizing data across datasets, the Data Center provides a wide variety of information. For students, this information include test scores, free or reduced-price lunch eligibility, exceptionality status, dropout status, and incidents requiring disciplinary action. For teachers, this information includes degree obtained, salary, work history, attendance, licensure, and whether they are teaching in their field. For schools, this information covers school demographic composition, average test scores (End of Course, End of Grade, and SAT), dropout rates, and state recognition status under the ABCs accountability model. For districts, this information includes district composition, incidents of violence, district finances (revenues and expenditures), and average test scores.

The Data Center has created longitudinal student and teacher databases, which allow researchers to follow students and teachers over time and link their records across files. For example, teacher's qualifications can be linked to school characteristics, and student academic performance can be associated with district attributes.

The Data Center makes data available to researchers. Because of the size and complexity of the datasets, Data Center staff work with researchers to develop smaller working data files for individual projects as needed. The Data Center has also created codebooks and technical reports to assist researchers in utilizing the data. Additionally, the Data Center assisted researchers by matching these student and teacher records to project datasets; for example, matching student test scores to a list of students participating in a certain program or completing an interview.