



Financial Aid Records Collection

Study Overview

ELS:2002 data are being collected for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by RTI International (a trade name of Research Triangle Institute), a not-for-profit research organization. The ELS:2002 sample includes more than 16,000 young adults who took part in this study as 10th graders in the spring term of 2002 and/or 12th graders in the spring term of 2004. We ask that institution staff provide student record information (e.g., enrollment status, aid package received) for ELS:2002 participants who attended the institution.

Data are provided through a web interface over the secure ELS:2002 website—either by data entry or using an Excel template and then uploading the data file. The web interface for data entry and file upload has been developed to minimize the burden on institutional staff in providing student record data.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) allows for the release of institutional record information to the Secretary of Education or his agent without prior consent of study members (20 U.S.C. § 1232g[b][3]). RTI, as the contractor for NCES, has been given the authority to collect information from institutional records.

Purpose of the Data Collection

The Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002) looks at young adults' plans and activities beyond high school, including work experiences and further schooling. The ELS:2002 financial aid student records collection, which includes financial aid received and enrollment status for each year attended in a three year period, will provide data for longitudinal analysis of financial aid records. This would allow examination of borrowing and debt trends over time, as well as the effects of those trends on postsecondary persistence and attainment, and decisions about work and family.

Authorization and Confidentiality of Data

ELS:2002 is conducted under the authority of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA) (20 U.S.C. § 9543), which authorizes the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, to collect and disseminate information about education in the United States.

NCES is required to follow strict procedures to protect the confidentiality of persons in the collection, reporting, and publication of data. Any individually identifiable information supplied by individuals or institutions to a federal agency may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed or used in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002), 20 U.S.C. § 9573).

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ELS:2002, PLEASE CONTACT:

ELS:2002 Help Desk

1-877-475-7016 (toll-free)

ELRecords@rti.org

If you have questions or concerns about ELS:2002 Financial Aid Records collection, you may contact the following:

Tiffany Mattox

ELS:2002 Collection Manager (RTI)

tmattox@rti.org

1-919-485-7791

Daniel Pratt

ELS:2002 Project Director (RTI)

djp@rti.org

1-919-541-6615

Elise Christopher

ELS:2002 Project Officer (NCES)

elise.christopher@ed.gov

1-202-502-7899

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