

Ed Finance-Related Datasets: Key Features and Limitations

Our team has compiled a list of datasets commonly used in education research and practice focused primarily on finance-related data. This is not a comprehensive list. We have not listed all of the key features or limitations, and we encourage users to review the documentation provided by each individual source, especially when merging or comparing datasets. If you have questions, suggestions, or edits, please email us at Edunomics@Georgetown.edu.

You can access this list on the Edunomics Lab website as well:

edunomicslab.org/2022/01/15/ed-finance-related-datasets/

Dataset or Data Structure	Key Features	Current Limitations
FINANCE INFORMATION		
National Education Resource Database on Schools (NERD\$) Currently includes FY19, FY20, FY21, and FY22 school-by-school spending data from all 50 states and DC. State-published raw files are also available for FY23 and FY24. edunomicslab.org/nerds/	School-by school spending data from all 50 states and DC for 4 fiscal years (FY19, FY20, FY21, and FY22).	States are updated individually as new data are reported so timeliness varies. Financial variables vary by state; some states provide detailed financial breakdown.
NCES School District Finance Survey F-33 Mandatory federal collection of LEA-level financial data. nces.ed.gov/ccd/f33agency.asp	Includes annual district-level data for ALL districts on expenditures and revenues by source, object, and function. Captures total current district spending.	No school-level figures are included. Public release of data is delayed.
Census Bureau F-33 Provides statistics about finances of elementary and secondary public school systems. census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html	Data includes revenue by source, expenditure by function and object, indebtedness, and cash and investments for school systems in all states and D.C.	Does not include data on independent charter school districts. Note: This F-33 lists NYC as a singular district, whereas NCES lists NYC as 32 geographic areas. This is applicable for 10 other districts.
School-Level Finance Survey (SLFS) A school level extension of the F-33. nces.ed.gov/ccd/pub_sfr_report.asp	This is a new collection that has not yet started. States and LEAs will be asked to report selected spending tracked to the school level by standard function and object codes. The object and function codes follow standard definitions and are consistent with the F-33 district data.	Limitations from the pilot include: some districts/states do not participate, or do not report data in all fields or for all schools. Participating districts may choose to report only selected expenditures, so expenditure data is incomplete. Users must request data from participating states.

<p>Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) A biennial initiative from U.S. Department of Education to collect data on key civil and education issues. ocrdata.ed.gov/</p>	<p>Key purpose is to explore inequity in selected inputs, and the dataset focuses on those selected inputs across schools.</p>	<p>Data are available every other year. Because CRDC requests selected expenditures (e.g., for teacher salaries, aides) only those costs are reported.</p> <p>Note: Starting 2020-21, CRDC no longer collects data on school finance, including FTE data. CRDC is typically collected every other year; however, there will be successive collections of 2020-21 and 2021-22 data.</p>
<p>School Finance Indicators Database (SFID) Database created by Albert Shanker Institute and Rutgers Graduate School of Education. schoolfinancedata.org/</p>	<p>Collection of 125 state-by-state school finance measures, including a set of district-level measures for all U.S. public school districts used to assess the adequacy and fairness of each state's revenue, spending, and resource allocation.</p>	<p>No school-level spending figures are included.</p>
<p>Common Core of Data (CCD) U.S. Department of Education primary database on public elementary and secondary education in the U.S. nces.ed.gov/ccd/</p>	<p>A comprehensive, annual, national database of all public elementary and secondary schools and school districts.</p>	
<p>Elementary/Secondary Information System (ELSI) An application that allows users to view public and private school data and create custom tables and charts. nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/</p>	<p>Uses demographic and financial data from the Common Core of Data (CCD) and Private School Survey (PSS) to build customized tables/charts for school-, district-, and state-level systems.</p>	<p>Data limited to availability of CCD and PSS.</p>
<p>Office of Elementary & Secondary Education: Per-Pupil Expenditure Transparency Interactive map showing school-level per-pupil expenditures by state. oese.ed.gov/ppe/</p>	<p>Interactive tool displays per-pupil expenditure data required under ESSA on state and local report cards beginning with SY2018-19. Additional data not from the state's publicly reported PPE data comes from the CCD.</p>	<p>14 states/territories are not yet available. Data is not comparable across states. No plans to update or add more states.</p>
<p>ESSER Expenditure Tracker Interactive map showing school-level per-pupil expenditures by state. https://edunomicslab.org/esser-spending/</p>	<p>Tracks CARES ESSER I, CRRSA ESSER II and ARP ESSER III expenditures that districts have submitted for reimbursement for all 50 states and DC.</p>	<p>States are updated individually as new data are reported so timeliness varies. Financial variables vary by state; some states provide detailed financial breakdown.</p>

National Public Education Financial Survey Data State-level survey of revenues and expenditures. nces.ed.gov/ccd/stfis.asp	Makes publicly available an annual state-level collection of revenues and expenditures for public education in grades PK-12.	Data only audited from 1989 and after.
National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) System of questionnaires that provide descriptive data on the condition and context of public and private education. nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables_list.asp	Surveys collect information from teachers and principals. Includes data on teacher and principal salaries, union membership, and professional developments.	Access to some databases are restricted by restricted-use licenses.
National Education Association (NEA) Rankings & Estimates Provides state data and national averages on public education statistics. nea.org/research-publications	Comparative state data and national averages on public education statistics, including teacher salaries, student enrollment, and revenue and expenditures through the current year.	Limited to state and national data and trends. Variables are not consistent between reporting years (only most recent rankings report per-pupil expenditures by fall enrollment and ADA).
Public Plans Database (PPD) Comprehensive data on state and local pensions and retiree benefits. publicplansdata.org/	Provides information on public pension plans, including statewide teacher plans, with data on costs, funding levels, and contribution rates.	
National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) Teacher Contract Database Database includes policy information on selected districts across the country. nctq.org/contract-database/home	Includes data on collective bargaining agreements, evaluation handbooks, salary schedules, and teacher work day.	Available for 145 school districts across the U.S., including the 100 largest districts and the largest district in each state.
Urban Institute: State-by-State Spending on Kids Dataset Comprehensive accounting of public spending on children. datacatalog.urban.org/dataset/state-state-spending-kids-dataset	Draws on U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, as well as several federal and other non-census sources, to capture state-by-state spending on education, income security, health, and other areas.	State-level data on topics including and outside education.

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OTHER EDUCATION DATA		
The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University Database of academic performance that includes applications, research reports, and interactive portals edopportunity.org/	The Ed Opportunity Explorer shows how counties, school districts, and schools score on 3 key measures of educational opportunity. The Education Recovery Explorer compares learning loss at the district-level, and allows users to explore how time spent in remote learning, federal dollars expenditure, and other factors impacted students during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.	Ed Recovery Explorer only shows district-level data. Users must provide an email address in order to download the dataset.
EdFacts Data Files edfacts/data-files/index.html Datasets from U.S. Department of Education on assessment proficiency. www.ed.gov/data/edfacts-initiative	Datasets include information on assessment and proficiency in Math and ELA. Data available at the LEA and school levels.	Some data are suppressed or rounded to protect student information.
Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA) Detailed data on educational conditions, contexts, and outcomes in schools and school districts in the U.S. cepa.stanford.edu/content/seda-data	Data include measures of academic achievement, achievement gaps, school and neighborhood racial and socioeconomic composition and segregation patterns. Data are comparable across all states.	Required to submit a form to view and download data.
Data Profiles from U.S. Department of Education Collection of federal data. data.ed.gov/	Compilation of federal datasets on a wide swath of categories pertaining to U.S. public education.	
Urban Institute Education Data Explorer Can search and compare schools, districts, or colleges across various data points. educationdata.urban.org/data-explorer	Interactive tool in which users can limit the dataset, choose selected data points, and export data to make comparisons with similar entities. Dataset brings together data from several federal databases.	