



# High School Longitudinal Study of 2009

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# HSL:09 Overview

- Collected data from 21,000 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 944 schools
  - 760+ public schools, 100 Catholic schools
  - 75 other private high schools
  - Plus, 10 state representative datasets
- 75% of students have parent data
- 90% have school counselor data; 93% have school admin data
- 85% have either math or science teacher data
  - Math teacher data more prevalent

# Objectives of HSLS:09

- To understand students' trajectories from the beginning of secondary school to postsecondary education and/or the workplace and beyond
- To understand how students make decisions about secondary curricular and postsecondary options
- To understand what factors influence students' decisions about taking STEM courses and pursuing postsecondary options
- To develop links with state administrative data

# HSLs Student Brochure



## How long will it take to complete the parent questionnaire?

The parent questionnaire will take about 30 minutes to complete.

## What if English is not the parent's native language and/or the parent would prefer to answer in a language other than English?

A Spanish-language version of the parent questionnaire can be accessed by clicking on the appropriate link within the Web survey. Additionally, bilingual telephone interviewers will be available.

## Do students or parents have to participate?

Participation in HSLs is entirely voluntary; however, the participation of every student and parent is important to ensure the completeness and accuracy of results. The development of valid national results depends on a high rate of participation.

## What if a student decides not to participate?

Even if the student's parent gives permission for the student to participate, the student has the right to decide whether or not to participate.

## Will the responses of participants be kept confidential?

Student, parent, and staff answers 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 (Public Law 107-279, Section 183).

The data collected will be used in analyses to understand students' coursetaking behaviors, students' motivation and achievement, and how students decide what to do after high school.

## We have implemented strict procedures to ensure confidentiality:

- ❑ All project staff with any access to study data are liable to severe fines and imprisonment for any disclosure of individual responses.
- ❑ All electronic data are maintained in secure and protected data files, and all personally identifying information is kept in files separate from the descriptive information.
- ❑ No data released to the general public can be used to identify individual respondents except when required by law.
- ❑ These procedures have been reviewed and approved by the federal government.

## When will the data for the study be collected?

Data collection for the first follow-up to HSLs will begin in spring 2011. A second follow-up to determine plans after high school will take place in summer and fall of 2012 after most students have graduated. High school transcripts will be collected during the 2012-2013 school year. Additional follow-ups are planned for 2014 and beyond.

## What happens if a student has a test scheduled, is sick, or is otherwise unable to participate on the scheduled survey day?

If a student misses an HSLs session for any reason, we may contact the student by phone or mail to request their participation by telephone or on the Web.

## What types of schools are participating in HSLs?

Information will be collected from public and private high schools. Data are also being collected from students who have transferred to different schools, are now home-schooled, or may have otherwise left school.

## The following organizations are among those that have given their support to HSLs:

American Association of School Administrators  
American Counseling Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
National Association of Independent Schools  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Catholic Educational Association, Department of Secondary Schools  
National Center for Improving Science Education/WestED  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Education Association  
National Parent Teacher Association  
National School Boards Association  
National Science Teachers Association

## Whom can I contact for further information about HSLs?

For more information, call (877) 282-HSLs, send e-mail to [hsls-survey@rti.org](mailto:hsls-survey@rti.org), visit our website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/hsls1/>, or contact:

**RTI Project Director:**  
Mr. Dan Pratt  
(919) 541-6615

**RTI Principal Investigator:**  
Dr. Steven Ingels  
(202) 974-7634

**NCES Project Officer:**  
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January 2011

## High School Longitudinal Study of 2009



High School Longitudinal Study of 2009  
National Center for Education Statistics  
Institute of Education Sciences  
U.S. Department of Education  
Conducted by RTI International  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2104



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American Counseling Association

Association of Teachers  
State School Officers  
National Association of Independent Schools  
National Association of Secondary

Education  
National Educational Association,  
Secondary Schools  
National Association for Improving Science  
ED

National Association of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Association of School Administrators  
National Board of Professional Teaching Standards  
National Board of Secondary Education  
National Council of Teachers Association

For more information or to contact for further information about HSLs?

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Contact:

Mr. Dan Pratt  
(919) 541-6615

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Dr. Steven Ingels  
(202) 974-7834

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# Retention Needs

- Retention Needs
  - HSLS is a longitudinal study; must retain respondents
  - Sample is two stage; sample of schools provides basis for sample of students
  - If schools chose not to participate over time, large impact on study retention
- Retention Solution
  - HSLS schools interested in receiving feedback about their students' performance as measured in the study
  - Data were collected under confidentiality statutes (ESRA)—needed to find a way to report results without disclosing individual participants' data
  - Solution: School report with participation caveats
    - Response rate requirement to encourage participation, responsibly provide student performance information to schools

# School Report Requirements

- For school to qualify for results, student participation rate had to be  $\geq 85\%$
- Further requirements depending on number of students in sample and percentage participation:
  - Group 1 - School had  $\geq 25$  students participate and  $\geq 85\%$  student response rate: no qualifiers/caveats necessary
  - Group 2 – School had 20-24 students participate and  $\geq 85\%$  student response rate; **or** school had 10-20 students participate and 100% response rate: caveat/warning that some loss of precision in estimate due to small number of students participating
  - Group 3 – School had 10-20 students participate and 85%-99% student response rate: results reported as only representative of the students who took the test, not representative of school
- School-level results not provided if school's response rate was  $< 85\%$  and/or  $< 10$  students participated
- Student weights used to generate school-level assessment results.

# Sample Report Sent to Principals

## Mathematics Achievement

**Your school's achievement score – 49.2**

*How your school's average compares with:*

All U.S. schools



All Public schools



All Rural schools



Your school's score is higher.



Your school's score is not different.



Your school's score is lower.

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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09) Base-Year Restricted-Use File (NCES 2011-334).