

SchoolDataDirect.org

A Service of CCSSO's State Education Data Center

An Introduction to Downloading Data Files

Getting There

1. Go to www.schooldatadirect.org and click on Download Data at the top of the homepage (You can also download data from any school, district, or state page.).
2. After reading the information on this page, follow the link at the bottom which leads you to the Terms of Use. You *MUST* agree to the Terms of Use before proceeding to download data.

At this point, it is advisable to review the detailed *Data Download Guide* that is found on this page. You are ready to proceed to the next step.

Data File Organization and Format

1. The data files are organized by state, level, and by year. In large states, schools are further subdivided by alphabetic grouping. Each state has a single directory file.
2. The files are compressed and will need to be unzipped by a standard compression utility such as WinZip; compressed files are no larger than 6MB.
3. The data files are in a flat, pipe-delimited format.

Each data file (except directory files) contains the following information (see *Figure-A* below):

Location Code – NCES ID

Name – Name of the education entity

Year – End of the school year for which the data reflect

Category – Corresponds to where the data can be found on the main website

Variable Name – Description of the data (variable names vary widely across states)

Data

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|------|------------------------|---|------|
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort StucwDis Tested (#) | 39 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort Total Participation (%) | 95.4 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort Total Pass (%) | 76.7 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort Total Pass Basic (%) | 52.3 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort Total Pass Below Basic (%) | 23.3 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort Total Pass Proficient (%) | 24.4 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort Total Tested (#) | 438 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort White Participation (%) | 94.6 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort White Pass (%) | 85.4 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort White Pass Basic (%) | 40.1 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort White Pass Below Basic (%) | 14.6 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort White Pass Proficient (%) | 37.3 |
| 5100060 | Accomack County Public Schools | 2006 | Student Performance | State Test Read HS Cohort White Tested (#) | 212 |
| 5100090 | Albemarle County Public Schools | 2006 | Community Demographics | District Median Age (#) | 36 |
| 5100090 | Albemarle County Public Schools | 2006 | Community Demographics | Education Adults with at Least a Bachelors Degree / Adults (%) | 51.4 |
| 5100090 | Albemarle County Public Schools | 2006 | Community Demographics | Education Adults with at Least a High School Diploma / Adults (%) | 90.7 |

Figure-A

Downloading a Data File

After selecting the state you'd like data from, click on a file and choose a location on your computer to save the file.

If you only need data from a small number of schools or districts (up to 100), go back to the Download Data page of the website to determine if the Create Your Own Table tool will suit your needs.

Opening the Data File

It is *highly recommended* that you use statistical analysis software (such as SAS) to work with these files.

1. If you use statistical analysis software, follow the application's instructions for opening flat, pipe-delimited formatted files.
2. If you are working with a small enough file and would like to use Microsoft Excel, please follow these steps.
3. Using the Excel menus, select File > Open.
4. In the "Files of Type" box, select "Text Files".
5. Locate the uncompressed data file on your computer, select it and click open; this will launch the Text Import Wizard.
6. Select "Delimited" and click Next to proceed.
7. Set the Delimiters parameter to "Other" and then type in a pipe character. Hold down the Shift key and the Backslash key (above the Enter key) to type the pipe character.
8. Click Next and then Finish.

For detailed information on creating a pivot table in Excel, please see the *Data Download Guide* on the main Data Download webpage of the site.

For Further Information

Please refer to the *Data Download Guide* for additional information regarding data sources, abbreviations, Terms of Use, citations, and state metadata.

For additional questions, please email SDDinfo@ccsso.org.



SchoolDataDirect.org provides current and historical data as well as the tools you need to inform decisions, drive reform, and conduct quality research on public schools and districts — from a single website!