

American Community Survey (ACS) Why We Ask: School Enrollment

We ask about whether a person is attending school or college to create statistics about school enrollment. These statistics are used to analyze the demographic, social and economic characteristics and needs of school-age children and to understand the continuing education needs of adults.

10 a. At any time **IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS**, has this person attended school or college? *Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, home school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.*

No, has not attended in the last 3 months → *SKIP to question 11*

Yes, public school, public college

Yes, private school, private college, home school

b. What grade or level was this person attending? *Mark (X) ONE box.*

Nursery school, preschool

Kindergarten

Grade 1 through 12 – *Specify grade 1 – 12*

College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)

Graduate or professional school beyond a bachelor's degree (*for example: MA or PhD program, or medical or law school*)

The questions as they appear on the 2016 ACS paper questionnaire. This topic was introduced on the Decennial Census of 1850, and was transferred to the ACS when it replaced the Decennial Census long-form in 2005.

Examples of Federal Uses

- Required in the enforcement responsibilities under the Voting Rights Act
- Required to enforce against discrimination in employment, recognizing that some occupations have educational qualifications.
- Used in the enforcement of nondiscrimination in education by state and local governments, including ensuring appropriate action to assist English language learners in overcoming language barriers, and monitoring desegregation.
- Used to allocate funds to states based on the number of adults beyond the age of compulsory school attendance, without a secondary school diploma.

Examples of Other Uses

State and local agencies use these statistics to understand the needs of a community over time. Colleges, universities, and businesses may use this information to bridge gaps between the educational attainment of potential workers and the educational requirements of potential employers. Advocacy groups use these statistics to understand current and future challenges and to advocate for policies that benefit their groups. Researchers use this information to investigate changes in educational attainment over time, and how it is related to other factors such as parents' education and health.