

### **What is the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study: Kindergarten Class?**

The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study: Kindergarten Class (ECLS-K) is a nationally representative study collected by the National Center for Education Statistics focusing on early school experiences starting with kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The initial sample was comprised of 22,387 children from private and public schools as well as morning and afternoon kindergarten classes. Teachers, school administrators, and parents of the sampled children also participated in the study. Data collection began in 1998-99 when the children were in kindergarten and was collected again in 1999-2000, 2002, 2004, and 2007. Data contain information on children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development as well as the child's home and classroom environments, activities, and teacher qualifications.

### **What does the ECLS-K offer family researchers?**

The ECLS-K focuses on an array of topics regarding a child's experiences with education in the home as well as in the school. Specifically for family scholars, the ECLS-K provides information regarding how involved parents are in the child's schooling such as preparation for school and contact with school teachers. Parental involvement is also examined through activities such as reading books, playing games, vacationing, and playing sports together.

The ECLS-K also collects data on the following:

- Household structure
- Parental marital history
- Relationship to child, including adoptive parents and stepparents
- Relationship that mirrors a mother's relationship to the child
- Childcare arrangements, including relative care, non-relative care, and after school and daycare programs
- Parental education, employment, income, assets, human capital, food insecurity, and welfare use
- Family processes such as family disagreements, attendance of religious services, and political views
- Child well-being, including information on premature births, illness, disability, and services for health

### **How do I use the ECLS-K data?**

Related literature, file manifest, and codebook for the ECLS-K are publically available through the National Center for Education Statistics website ([NCES](#)) or via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research ([ICPSR](#)). Detailed methodology is also available through the NCES website. Public-use data are modified from the restricted data to minimize disclosure risk by removing variables that have too few cases, and in some instances, transforming variables such as continuous variables into categorical variables and collapsing of categories to minimize disclosure risk.

### How do I access the ECLS-K data?

The ECLS-K contains both public use and restricted data. Online access to the public use data is available through the [National Center for Education Statistics](#). Downloadable files are available in SAS, SPSS, or STATA. Users may also order a CD/DVD copy of the data, which also includes the codebook through the [U.S. Department of Education Publications](#). Data may also be downloaded through Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research ([ICPSR](#)).

In order to access the restricted data, users must obtain a data license. These data are only cross-sectional, grade-level files. Users must request each grade for use in analyses. License applications are only accepted in electronic form. Instructions and applications can be found on the National Center for Education Statistics [website](#).

### Where can I learn more about the ECLS-K data?

Users can learn more about the ECLS-K in general at the [National Center for Education Statistics](#).

### Suggested Citation

National Center for Family & Marriage Research. (2012). The Data Source: Early Childhood Longitudinal Study: Kindergarten Class (TDS-12-01). Retrieved from <http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/pdf/thedatasource/file106114.pdf>