




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

October 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education
RE: 2020-2021 School District Review Program

The U.S. Census Bureau creates special tabulations of decennial census data by school district geography. These tabulations provide detailed demographic characteristics of the nation's public school systems and offer one of the largest single sources of children's demographic characteristics currently available. Information is distributed through the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

The School District Review Program (SDRP), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every year, is of vital importance for each state's allocation under Title I, Part A, of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* as amended (Public Law 114-95). The school district information obtained through this program, along with the Census population and income data, current population estimates, and tabulations of administrative records data, are used in forming the Census Bureau's estimates of the number of children ages 5 through 17 in low-income families for each school district. These estimates of the number of children in low-income families residing within each school district are the basis of the Title I allocation for each school district.

The SDRP consists of two phases—the Annotation Phase and the Verification Phase. In the Annotation Phase, the Census Bureau provides state officials with materials containing the most current school district boundaries and information for their state. This data is reviewed and any changes in the school district boundaries or attributes are reported to the Census Bureau. The Verification Phase is when state officials review the results of any changes submitted, after the Census Bureau has incorporated those changes into the Master Address Files/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System database.

The scope of the 2020-2021 SDRP is for state officials to review the Census Bureau's school district information and to provide the Census Bureau with updates and corrections to the school district names and federal local education agency (LEA) identification numbers, school district boundaries, and the grade ranges for which a school district is financially responsible. In an effort to improve the school district mapping update process, the Census Bureau has asked that each state education agency contact all LEAs regarding changes in school district boundaries since January 1, 2019.

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City and County Superintendents of Education
Page 2
October 1, 2020

Please submit any changes in your LEA's boundaries (since January 1, 2019) by filling out the attached form and mailing it to Dr. Marcus Vandiver at the following address:

Alabama Department of Education
Accountability Section
5221 Gordon Persons Building
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101

Forms also may be emailed to mvandiver@alsde.edu or faxed to (334) 694-4951.

Please return this form as soon as possible, **but no later than Friday, November 20, 2020**. If you need clarification or have questions regarding this process, please contact Dr. Vandiver at telephone number (334) 694-4540 or by email at mvandiver@alsde.edu.

EGM/MEV/MD

Attachments

FY21-2001

ALABAMA SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW PROGRAM (ALSDRP) 2020-2021
LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) SDRP INFORMATION SUMMARY

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)

LEA MAPPING COORDINATOR

TELEPHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Please check all that apply:

- No changes have been made to the LEA's district boundaries.
- Boundary Correction** refers to the condition where a school district adds or removes areas from the same school district level or across school district levels.
- Grade Range Change** occurs when a school district changes the grades it covers, for example, changing from covering Grades 9-12 to Grades 7-12.
- Level Change** occurs when a school district changes classification, for example, changing from elementary to unified.
- New School Districts** are created by transferring areas from one or more existing school districts to form a completely new school district.
- Pseudo School District** refers to the condition where one school district pays for the educational services for a set of grades in a different geographic area than its own.
- Complex Consolidation** occurs when two or more school districts merge to create a **new** school district with a **new** name and **new** LEA code, **along with additional boundary corrections**. Therefore, if you delineate a complex consolidation, the Census Bureau expects accompanying boundary corrections for the new school district.
- Complex Dissolution** refers to the situation where a single school district dissolves its area between **two or more** existing school districts with or without additional boundary corrections. Complex dissolutions do not create new school districts and the names and LEA codes of the **receiving** school districts remain unchanged.
- Simple Consolidation** occurs where two or more school districts merge to create a **new** school district with a **new** name and **new** LEA code **with no additional boundary corrections**.
- Simple Dissolution** refers to the situation where one or more existing school districts are entirely absorbed by **one** other existing school district. Simple dissolutions retain the name and LEA code of the receiving school district and **do not** create a new school district.
- Name Change** is when a school district changes its name, for example, changing from Oak Union Unified School District to Oak Union School District.

Please email to mvandiver@alsde.edu, fax to (334) 694-4951, or mail to Dr. Marcus E. Vandiver at the following address:

Alabama State Department of Education
Division of Instruction
Accountability Section
5221 Gordon Persons Building
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

The School District Review Program (SDRP)

What is the SDRP?

The SDRP allows state officials the opportunity to review the U.S. Census Bureau's school district information. Every year, states can provide updates and corrections to our database of federal School District Local Education Agency (SDLEA) ID numbers, school district names, boundaries, levels, and grade ranges. The SDRP is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.



How does the SDRP benefit you?

Accurate district boundaries are vital to allocating federal funding for schools. Along with Census Bureau data on income and population, these boundaries are used to estimate the number of school-aged

children (aged 5-17) in low-income families in each school district. The U.S. Department of Education uses these estimates to allocate more than \$14 billion in Title I funding annually.

Accurate boundaries are vital to estimate the number of children aged 5 through 17 in families in poverty in each school district.

Your participation in the SDRP helps the Census Bureau continue to produce accurate data estimates, which directly affect the quality of life in your schools.



The U.S. Department of Education allocates more than \$14 billion in Title I funding annually based primarily on the estimates produced by the Census Bureau.



Schedule

September 2020: The Census Bureau mails the SDRP response packet to each designated mapping coordinator to begin their review.

October 2020: The Census Bureau provides a free training webinar on responding to the SDRP for mapping coordinators.

December 31, 2020: Deadline to submit annotated school district changes.

April 2021: The Census Bureau provides revised school district boundary information to each mapping coordinator for verification.

December 2021: The Census Bureau releases preliminary poverty estimates based on the updated school district information.

Contact Information

Who participates in the SDRP?

Each state and the District of Columbia designate a mapping coordinator to be the Census Bureau's primary liaison for the SDRP. The mapping coordinator collects updates from local school district officials and ensures that submissions are completed within the SDRP's timeframe.



Responding to the SDRP is easy.

The Census Bureau provides two free, user-friendly ways for the mapping coordinator to respond to the SDRP. The method the mapping coordinator uses to respond will depend on the type of school district changes.

- The **submission log** is an easy-to-use spreadsheet that you can fill out and return to the Census Bureau.
- The **Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)** is a free, customized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. It was specifically developed for users of all GIS skill levels.



Preparing for the SDRP

The next SDRP will gather information on school district changes effective on or before January 1, 2021. School districts, state education officials, county planners, and state data centers can coordinate with the state mapping coordinator to ensure they have the most up-to-date information.

TIGERweb is a tool that mapping coordinators and local officials can use to review current Census Bureau school district boundaries.

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