

February 11, 2025, LinkedIn Post by Ron Wasserstein, ASA Executive Director

Monday's termination of scores of Department of Education contracts includes virtually all contracts that the National Center for Education Statistics relies on for its data collection and numerous products, according to various news outlets.

Without NCES products, families, communities, and decisionmakers throughout the country will be left in the dark on many aspects of our education system. NCES's reports on the status of student learning on state-by-state and international basis are widely used by parents, administrators, and policymakers to make decisions on school programs based on what's working and isn't working. Students and parents use NCES resources to monitor school safety and help locate public and private schools and colleges that meet their needs. Policymakers in the private and public sector use NCES products to develop programs, allocate resources, and track the latest trends in education. States, localities, and institutions around the United States use the data to compare themselves with others on tuition, salaries, staffing, expenditures, student achievement, graduation rates, and many other measures. Businesses use NCES data to inform their recruitment and siting for new facilities. Federal, state, and local governments as well as businesses and corporations used the data to determine the supply of labor with specific skills and training. Researchers use data to study progressions from early childhood through postsecondary education and into early careers to help answer questions such as whether students' high school academic achievement is related to college enrollment and completion.

I call on the administration and Congress to immediately rectify the situation so that NCES can continue being an invaluable resource to families, communities, and policymakers who need objective and timely information to inform their decisions in the best interests of America's students and the country's future.