Statistics in Schools and the 2020 Census

STATISTICS IN SCHOOLS

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United States® Census 2020

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Shape the future of schools. Start here.

This is your opportunity.

Once every 10 years, you get an opportunity to shape the future of your school and community. By adding your voice to the 2020 Census as an education leader, you can help ensure that funding is allocated where it's needed most.

While the counting of the entire U.S. population begins in spring 2020, there are ways you can start making a difference today. The U.S. Census Bureau created a free educational program, Statistics in Schools (SIS), for use in every classroom from pre-K through 12th grade. This kit will introduce you to the program and its importance as well as detail ways you can promote SIS and the counting of every child in the 2020 Census.

There's a story behind every number.

Statistics in Schools uses Census Bureau data to create activities, materials, and resources to enhance learning across a variety of subjects. This program was created by teachers, for teachers. Educators across the country have been using the program for years, integrating its resources into their lesson plans during decennial *and* nondecennial years.

New SIS activities for the 2019-2020 school year will educate students and others in their home about the 2020 Census and the importance of making sure everyone is counted, especially children. The new resources and this administrator kit include materials for adults who have children in their home to encourage them to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire.

Make sure your school counts.

An accurate count is critical: Responses to the 2020 Census will drive decisions on the annual allocation of more than $675 billion in federal funds to states and communities—including money for the school programs and services you care about the most, such as Title I, special education, free and reduced-price lunches, and health care programs for children.

By encouraging your teachers to use SIS materials in their classrooms, you will be helping every student and the adults in their home understand the importance of the 2020 Census and its role in shaping the future. Use this kit to get started.

SIS Program Overview

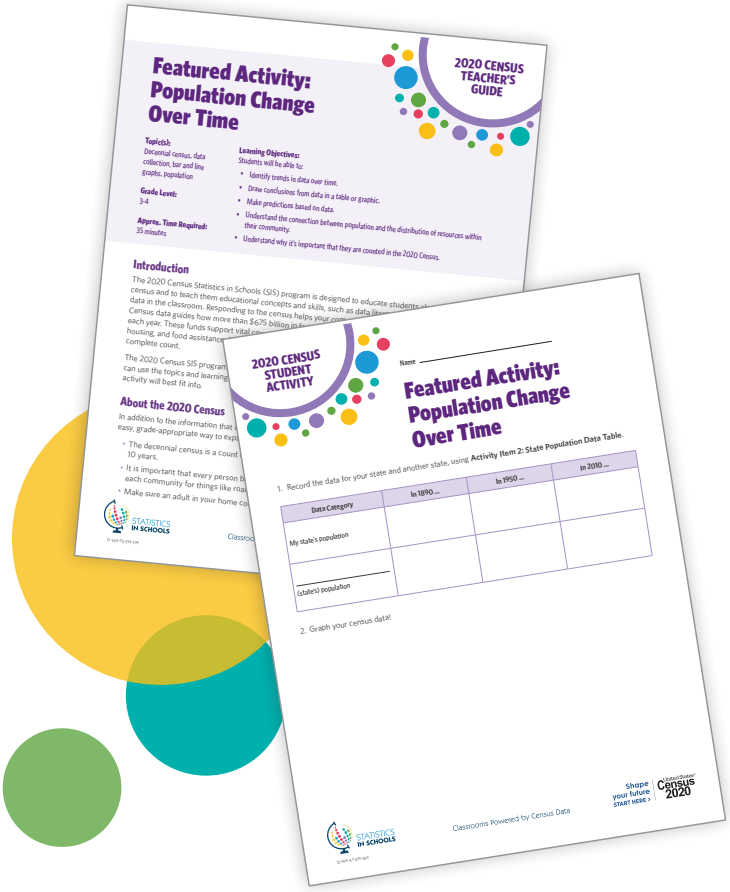
What is Statistics in Schools?

Statistics in Schools (SIS) is a U.S. Census Bureau program that uses census statistics to create classroom materials for grades pre-K through 12. Teachers and subject matter experts nationwide helped develop each SIS activity to make sure it is valuable and engaging. The SIS program includes more than 200 activities and resources that enhance learning in a variety of subjects.

What's new for 2020?

SIS has crafted new materials specifically for the 2020 Census, including:

- **67 new activities** for grades pre-K through 12 that have students use data in interactive ways to build skills in subjects such as history, math, geography, and English.
- **Large, colorful maps** with fun, census-based facts about the country and its territories, including state-by-state comparisons.
- A **storybook** with activities and a **music video** for children in preschool and early grades.
- **Resources** for English language learners and adult English as a second language students.



How does the use of SIS impact school funding?

By using new SIS materials, you can educate students and adults in their home on the importance of counting everyone in the 2020 Census, especially children.

Census responses drive decisions on the annual allocation of more than **$675 billion** in federal funds to states and communities, which includes support for school programs and services such as these:

- Special education
- Free and reduced-price lunch
- Class size reduction
- Classroom technology
- Teacher training
- After-school programs
- Head Start

Why should you get involved?

By using and promoting the SIS program, you can:

- **Impact** the amount of federal funding received by schools in your community.
- **Influence** student readiness for learning.
- **Enhance** student learning across subjects.
- **Boost** students' statistical literacy and data-finding skills.
- **Prepare** students for a data-driven world.
- **Empower** teachers to easily bolster their existing lesson plans.
- **Motivate** households to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire.

Frequently Asked Questions

As an administrator, you may find that teachers come to you or your staff with questions about SIS. Here are some of the more common questions we hear from teachers and answers to help you respond.

Who develops the SIS materials?

SIS materials are created by teachers, for teachers. Teachers and subject matter experts across the country work with Census Bureau experts to create each SIS activity. That helps ensure the value, relevance, relatability, and usability of the activities and makes them engaging for students.

Do I need special expertise to use SIS?

No. These activities are easy to follow and can be used by all teachers to supplement their instruction. You don't need any special understanding of statistics, and every activity comes with a teacher guide. Each activity includes a list of materials, a student worksheet, and easy-to-follow teacher directions.

How does SIS benefit my students?

By using SIS materials, you will enhance students' learning, boost their statistical literacy and data-finding skills, and prepare them for a data-driven world. The new materials for the 2019-2020 school year will provide even more value by highlighting the importance of counting everyone in the 2020 Census, especially children. The count affects the amount of federal funding your school and community receive for programs and services that can make a real difference in the education and lives of your students.

Why is the 2020 Census so important for my school?

Responses to the 2020 Census will drive decisions on the allocation of more than $675 billion in federal funds to states and communities each year for the next 10 years. That includes money for school programs and services such as special education, free and reduced-price lunches, class size reduction, technology purchases, teacher training, and after-school activities. The $675 billion also includes funds for services that influence student readiness for learning, such as child health programs and assistance with housing, heating, and food costs.

For what subjects and grade levels can I use SIS?

SIS activities are provided for pre-K through 12th grade. They can be used for math, English, history, geography, sociology, and more.

Are these activities compatible with my state standards?

Yes. All of the activities include recommendations on how to align them with your state standards.

How do I access SIS materials and resources?

It's easy and free, and it doesn't require any registration. Just go to **census.gov/schools**, select the activities and resources you want, and access or download them on the spot.

Are SIS materials available in Spanish?

Yes. Resources like worksheets, maps, storybooks, and more are available in Spanish.

Resources for Every Grade

Check out all of the resources the SIS program has to offer at **census.gov/schools**! SIS offers more than 200 activities, videos, and other resources for students at all grade levels.

Elementary School

- **An engaging video** explains to students why the 2020 Census is important and why everyone needs to be counted accurately.
- **Activities with accompanying teacher guides** include easy-to-relay facts about census enumeration and participation. There is a take-home portion that students can use to engage members of their home in conversations about the 2020 Census.
- **An elementary school map** provides a colorful classroom tool that highlights census data appropriate for elementary school students, including data about state populations and languages spoken at home.

Middle School

- **A fun trivia video** presents questions related to census statistics and challenges students to think about why the data the Census Bureau collects is essential to our democracy.
- **Activities with accompanying teacher guides** include easy-to-relay facts about census enumeration and participation. There is a take-home portion that students can use to engage members of their home in conversations about the 2020 Census.
- **A middle school map** provides a colorful classroom tool that highlights census data appropriate for middle school students, including data about population density and the racial breakdown of our country.

High School

- **An engaging video** teaches students how to use Census Bureau data to inform personal decisions, such as choosing a field to study or deciding where to live after high school.
- **Activities with accompanying teacher guides** spark discussion in the classroom about diversity, changes in demographics across the U.S. over time, and more. Each activity includes a take-home portion that students can use to engage members of their home in conversations about the 2020 Census.
- **A high school map** provides a colorful classroom tool that highlights census data for high school students. The theme of the map is “future forward,” emphasizing not only that Census Bureau data helps shape the future of the nation and communities, but that students can use the data to guide their personal decisions and shape their own future.

Pre-K

The 2020 SIS program offers pre-K materials, available in both English and Spanish, to engage children under age 5 and the adults who care for them.

- **A storybook with activities** uses an interactive narrative to teach children what the 2020 Census is and why it is important that everyone be counted, especially children.
- **A three-part video series** brings concepts about the 2020 Census to life and guides children through counting everyone in their home, their community, and the country.
- **A singalong video** introduces preschoolers to the concept of the 2020 Census with an engaging singalong that is fun for the classroom and at home.
- **Interactive activities with accompanying teacher guides** cover topics such as counting, colors, and animals.

English Language Learners (ELLs)

The SIS program offers adapted K-12 activities to be used with ELLs in the classroom. Because these activities are adapted from those developed for all K-12 students, teachers have the materials they need to instruct all students in their classroom.

- **An educator guide** provides guidance on how teachers can use the SIS materials and provides overviews on how to adapt each activity to target the needs of ELLs.
- **Activities with accompanying teacher guides** include easy-to-relay facts about census participation. There is a take-home portion students can use to engage members of their home in conversations about the 2020 Census.

Adult English as a Second Language (ESL)

SIS adult ESL materials provide information on the census that teachers can use with students to help them learn about the 2020 Census and how it can benefit their communities.

- **An educator guide** provides guidance on how teachers can use the SIS materials with their adult students.
- **Activities with accompanying teacher guides** are designed to enhance adult students' understanding of the English language and the 2020 Census. They include a take-home portion that encourages adults to share what they've learned in class with their friends and family.

Get Your School Involved

In addition to the many resources already available on the Statistics in Schools website, the program will release exciting new activities and resources throughout the 2019-2020 school year. For the most up-to-date information, you can sign up for our newsletter at **census.gov/schools**. The roadmap below gives you a sneak peek into all that will be happening throughout the year.

Video Highlight!

Check out the cool new videos and webisodes that help children understand what the 2020 Census is and why it's important for everyone to be counted.

Dec 2019

Start Now!

New materials for the 2020 Statistics in Schools program as well as traditional SIS resources in math, sociology, history, and more are live at **census.gov/schools**. Teachers can simply go to the website and start using the resources.

Sep 2019

Oct 2019

Join Our Kickoff Event!

The national kickoff event is taking place in Memphis, Tennessee. Visit **census.gov/schools** to learn more and find out how to join in virtually.

Apr 1
2020

Census Day!

The 2020 Census is officially open. Educators can help their communities by sending the flyer in this packet home with students. This flyer will help remind an adult in their home to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire. This is an important time to make sure everyone is counted. Census results will drive decisions on the amount of federal funding provided to your schools and community.

United States® Census 2020

The 2020 Census is officially open. You can respond at **2020CENSUS.GOV**.

Mar 2-6
2020

Take Part in SIS Week!

This national movement is a great opportunity to get your school involved with SIS. Educators across the country can join forces to use the SIS program in their classrooms and partake in fun events that can be done in any school. This week is also a great opportunity for schools to earn media recognition for the ways they are teaching students about the importance of the 2020 Census.

Important Next Steps

As an education leader, you are in the best position to promote the use of SIS in your community's schools. As a trusted voice in your community, you can explain the urgency of responding to the 2020 Census. You can be an influencer for programs and services that benefit your schools and community.

- **Make a difference in student learning and school-related funding in your district.** Promote the SIS program among the educators you work with by distributing the teacher flyer on **Page 12**.
- **Increase excitement in your schools about the 2020 Census.** If you are a principal, give teachers the grade- and location-specific maps from your kit to display in their classrooms. You can contact the Census Bureau at **clmso.sis.2020materials@census.gov** to request additional maps. The maps can also be viewed at **census.gov/schools**.
- **Help make sure every child in your community is counted, which will help your community receive the funding it needs.** Send home with students the letter on **Page 13** to educate the adults in their home about the importance of completing the 2020 Census.
- **Lead the way for your schools and teachers.** Sign up for the Statistics in Schools newsletter at **census.gov/schools** to stay up to date on all the key events and new materials that will be released during the 2019-2020 school year. Then let everyone else know what is new and available.

Visit **census.gov/schools** to get started.

Take the first step.

Please copy and distribute the following two pages to teachers and students.

Digital copies are also available at **census.gov/schools**.

Make a Difference for Your Students With Statistics in Schools

Printable Flyer for Teachers

Statistics in Schools is a U.S. Census Bureau program that uses census data to create activities, materials, and other resources you can use in your classroom. Use SIS to:

- **Bolster** your existing lesson plans.
- **Enhance** student learning across subjects.
- **Boost** students' statistical literacy and data-finding skills.
- **Prepare** students for a data-driven world.
- **Impact** the amount of federal funding your school receives.

These ***free resources***—created by teachers, for teachers—are engaging for students, aligned with standards, and designed for use with existing lesson plans. SIS provides activities for preschool through grade 12 to support learning in nearly every subject. The SIS website has more than 200 activities and resources. Teachers across the country have been using SIS in their daily instruction.

SIS and School Funding

For this school year, teachers created 67 activities to highlight the 2020 Census. These activities educate students and people in their home about the importance of the once-a-decade count of the U.S. population, with a special focus on counting all children. This is critical because 2020 Census responses will provide the basis for distributing more than **$675 billion** in federal funds to states and communities **each year for the next 10 years**—including money for important school programs and services such as:

- Special education
- Free and reduced-price lunch
- Class size reduction
- Classroom technology
- Teacher training
- After-school programs
- Head Start

Beyond 2020

SIS is not a one-and-done program. All of the materials are designed to be used year after year to enhance student learning.

Easy to Access and Use

Act now—the 2020 Census begins next spring. Get started by visiting the SIS website and sign up for the Statistics in Schools newsletter to stay up to date on all of the key events and new materials that will be released during the 2019-2020 school year.

CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS

"SIS activities engage my students, using real-life data and statistics they can relate to."

—Emily McMillen, instructional coach

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United States Census 2020

They grow up so fast.

Now's your chance to shape their future.

Student Take-Home Flyer

A kindergartener counted in the 2020 Census this spring will be starting high school when the next census comes around in 2030: That's 10 years of school supplies, teachers, school lunches, and so much more. This is your opportunity to help ensure they have a bright future.

Right now, students across the country are getting an introduction to the 2020 Census through the Statistics in Schools program. This program offers free activities and resources to schools to help prepare their students for an increasingly data-driven world.

Students are learning that the 2020 Census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. Responding to the census helps your community get its fair share of funding. Census data guides how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for schools, health care facilities, roads, transportation, recreation centers, social services, and more.

Students are also learning these key things about the 2020 Census—and we want you to know them too:

- Starting in March 2020, everyone living in your home needs to be counted. That includes children and newborn babies, citizens and noncitizens, relatives and nonrelatives, and even those staying with you temporarily.
- It's easier than ever to respond to the census. You can respond in 13 different languages, and you can complete it online, by phone, or by mail.
- Your responses to the census are safe and secure. The law requires the U.S. Census Bureau to keep your information confidential, and your responses cannot be used against you in any way.

On Census Day, April 1, 2020, start shaping your future and the future of all children by counting everyone in your home.

Learn more about how you can shape your future at **2020CENSUS.GOV.**

Get more information about the Statistics in Schools program at **CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS**.

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