

2012 COMPOSITE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHAPEFILES: TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

1.0 Abstract: 2012 Composite School District Shapefile

Data Type

Geography boundary file derived from the Census Bureau's 2012 TIGER\Line database.

Data Content

Elementary, Secondary, and Unified school district boundaries representing the 2011-2012 school year. The boundary file provides a single composite layer that includes all school districts in the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Island Areas.

Data Availability

This school district boundary file was developed from geographic shapefiles created by the U.S. Census Bureau and made available for download by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) through its Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates program.

2.0 School District Overview

School Districts are geographic entities and single purpose governmental units that operate schools and provide public educational services at the local level. The Census Bureau collects school district boundaries to develop annual estimates of children in poverty to help the U.S. Department of Education determine the annual allocation of Title I funding to states and school districts. NCES also uses the school district boundaries to develop a broad collection of district-level demographic estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The Census Bureau updates school district boundaries, names, local education agency codes, grade ranges, and school district levels biennially based on information provided by state education officials.

Universe

The U.S. has more than 13,000 geographically defined public school districts. These include districts that are administratively and fiscally independent of any other government, as well as public school systems that lack sufficient autonomy to be counted as separate governments and are classified as a dependent agency of some other government—a county, municipality, township, or state. Most public school systems are Unified districts that operate regular, special, and/or vocational programs for children in Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten (PK/KG) through 12th grade.

The Census Bureau's school district universe is a subset of the larger NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) Local Education Agency (LEA) universe. The Census collection is limited to regular districts that are geographically defined, and it excludes "non-operating" districts and "educational service agencies" that are part of the CCD LEA universe. These districts primarily exist to collect and transfer tax revenue to other school systems that actually provide the education services, or to provide regional special education services, vocational education programs, or financial services for member districts.

Structure

The Census Bureau assigns all territory in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to one or more Unified, Elementary, or Secondary school districts based on the general grade range of the schools operated by the district. For example, a district that operates a complete grade range (PK-12th or K-12th) is assigned as Unified, while a district that operates schools for children only in grades KG-8th is classified as Elementary. Elementary and Secondary districts may serve the same territory and have overlapping boundaries, but they are not permitted to overlap boundaries for Unified districts.

The structure of school district geography varies by state and region, and districts that share the name of a county, city, or town or operate schools for these areas may or may not be coterminous with the governmental unit. Districts in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states tend to follow county, township, or city boundaries, while districts in the Midwest, Great Plains, and Western states are generally independent of other municipal

boundaries. Likewise, district boundaries may also cross boundaries for other statistical geographies like Urban Areas, Metropolitan Areas, Zip Code Tabulation Areas, Census Tracts, and Block Groups.

Grade Range and Fiscal Responsibility

Although school district classifications (Elementary, Secondary, or Unified) generally reflect the grade range of schools operated by district, Census school district classifications are based on the grade range for which the school district is financially responsible, which may or may not be the grade range that a school district operates. For example, Elementary districts typically share territory with one or more Secondary districts that are responsible for operating schools for children in the upper grades. However, some Elementary districts are financially responsible for providing education for all grades, even though the district only operates schools that serve the elementary grades. In these cases, the Elementary district typically contracts with one or more nearby Secondary districts to provide educational services for children in the upper grades. A typical case would be a school district that operates schools for children in grades K-8th, and pays for a neighboring school district to educate children in grades 9th-12th. The Elementary district is operationally responsible for grades K-8th, and is therefore classified as an Elementary district. However, since the district is financially responsible for all grades, the Census Bureau would define the grade range for the district as KG-12th.

Spatial Data Format

The Census Bureau distributes school district boundaries formatted as shapefiles, a common industry standard for representing spatial data in points, lines, and polygons. Separate files are provided for Unified, Elementary, and Secondary districts. These data are released annually as geographic layers in the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line database. The district boundary files rely on the five-digit NCES LEAID code as a unique district identifier within states, and in most cases the code sequence generally corresponds to the alphabetical order of district names within a state. However, changes over time from the biennial district review program have introduced some exceptions. The code value 99997 represents non-assigned water territory where no operating district has been identified by the state.

Pseudo Districts

In addition to regular functioning school districts, the TIGER/Line shapefiles also contain a small set of records for pseudo-school districts. These additional cases occur infrequently and are used to address situations where a district may operate different grade spans in different parts of the district. For example, a county may operate schools to serve grades K-12th throughout the county, except in a portion of the county where a city operates a separate K-8th district. Within the territory overlapping the city, the county only operates schools that serve 9th-12th. District boundary files are not designed to reflect multiple grade spans, so in these cases a separate pseudo-Secondary district would be created to account for the territory in the County coterminous with the city that only functions for grades 9th-12th. Although pseudo-districts are not functioning districts, they are administratively necessary to help the Census Bureau allocate children for Title I purposes. Pseudo-districts occur in California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont, and their names reflect the functional associations between the two interacting districts. A list of these pseudo-secondary school districts and their codes appears in Appendix A below.

3.0 2012 CENSUS BUREAU TIGER/LINE SHAPEFILES

Content, Vintage, and Scope

The 2012 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain 2010 Census geography and current geography for the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Current geography is defined as the latest version of the geographic extent of legally defined geographic areas as reported, generally reflecting the boundaries of governmental units in effect as of January 1, 2012, or legal and statistical area boundaries that have been adjusted and/or corrected since the 2010 Census. This vintage enables users to see the most current boundaries of governmental units that match the data from the surveys that use 2012 geography, such as the 2012 Population Estimates and the American Community Survey. The features in this release reflect updates that were made in the MAF/TIGER database through May 2012.

Boundary Changes

The 2012 TIGER/Line boundaries for Elementary, Secondary, and Unified school districts are collected through a biennial survey of state education officials under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and are current as of the 2011-2012 school year.

Spatial Accuracy

The Census Bureau uses various internal and external processes to update the MAF/TIGER database and maintain the currency of TIGER/Line boundaries. While it has made a reasonable and systematic attempt to gather the most recent information available about the features in this file, the Census Bureau cautions users that the files are no more complete than the source documents used in their compilation, the vintage of those source documents, and the translation of the information on those source documents.

Sources of Geographic Data

The Census Bureau obtains data from numerous sources to update the MAF/TIGER database.

Initially, the Census Bureau used the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:100,000-scale Digital Line Graph (DLG), USGS 1:24,000-scale quadrangles, the Census Bureau's 1980 geographic base files (GBF/DIME Files), and a variety of miscellaneous maps for selected areas outside the contiguous 48 states to create the TIGER database (predecessor to the current MAF/TIGER database).

The Census Bureau makes additions and corrections to its database mainly through partner supplied data (federal, state, local, and private partners), the use of aerial imagery, and fieldwork. The Census Bureau has numerous partner programs where federal, state, and local government partners supply updates to boundaries, features, and addresses. The Census Bureau underwent a major realignment of the TIGER database in the 2000's to improve the spatial accuracy of the road network. Since this realignment, the Census Bureau has added quality standards for data sources used to update the MAF/TIGER database.

3.0 STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

Composite Files

The 2012 Composite School District shapefile combines the boundaries of all TIGER/Line school districts (Elementary, Secondary, and Unified) into a single file, rather than three separate layers. This simplifies the task of linking school district boundaries with other types of school district data by eliminating the need to join data to multiple boundary files. Likewise, it simplifies mapmaking by providing wall-to-wall school district geographic coverage for all U.S. territory in a single file.

The TIGER/Line Elementary and Unified district boundaries are mutually exclusive, and the combination of the two exhausts the full extent of the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. Secondary and Elementary districts are usually not mutually exclusive. Most Elementary district boundaries overlap Secondary district boundaries. Although the composite school district file includes all records for both Elementary and Secondary districts, the two types of districts are difficult to visualize at the same time because they often share boundaries. Since Elementary districts are more common than Secondary districts, the composite file places Elementary district boundaries on top of Secondary district boundaries by default.

Structure, Format, Naming Conventions

The 2012 composite school district boundaries are offered in a compressed ZIP format. The shapefile is a collection of six individual files with separate suffixes that function together.

The name of each file is:

SCHOOLDISTRICT_SY1112_TL12.<ext>

Where:

SCHOOLDISTRICT = general descriptor for type of geography

SY1112 = School year 2011-2012

TL12 = original shapefiles were sourced from TIGER/Line 2012

<ext> = the file extension:

- .shp – the feature geometry
- .shx – the index of the feature geometry
- .dbf – the tabular attribute information
- .prj – the coordinate system information
- .sbn – the shape information in rectangles
- .shp.xml – the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) metadata

Datum (GCS NAD 83)

The composite shapefile includes a .prj file in the GIS industry standard well-known text (WKT) format that describes the coordinate system/projection/datum information for each shapefile. All Census Bureau generated shapefiles are in Global Coordinate System North American Datum of 1983 (GCS NAD83). The .prj file contains the following projection specification:

```
GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GR  
S_1980",6378137,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199  
43295]]
```

Metadata

The composite school district shapefile includes metadata that describe various characteristics about data quality, purpose, spatial extent, publication date, attribute descriptions, valid field values, contact information, and various other features. The metadata file is compatible with a text editor, web browser, and common GIS applications, and are provided in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format, the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Content Standard for digital geospatial metadata (CSDGM) - shp.xml

RECORD LAYOUT

Composite School District Shapefile Record Layout for SCHOOLDISTRICT_SY1112_TL12

Field	Length	Type	Description
STATEFP	2	String	State FIPS code
SCSDLEA	5	String	Current secondary school district local education agency code
GEOID	7	String	School district identifier; a concatenation of the current state FIPS code and school district local education agency code
NAME	100	String	Current school district name
LSAD	2	String	Legal or statistical area description, currently 00 for all school districts
LOGRADE	2	String	Current lowest grade covered by school district
HIGRADE	2	String	Current highest grade covered by school district
MTFCC	5	String	MAF/TIGER Feature Class Code: G5400 = Elementary School District, G5410 = Secondary School District, G5420 = Unified School District
SDTYP	1	String	Current school district type: A=Pseudo, B=DoD, C=Interstate, D=BIA, E=Same Name
FUNCSTAT	1	String	Current functional status: E=Active government providing special-purpose functions, F=Fictitious Entity created to fill the Census Bureau geographic hierarchy
ALAND	14	Number	Current land area
AWATER	14	Number	Current water area
INTPTLAT	11	String	Current latitude of the internal point
INTPTLON	12	String	Current longitude of the internal point
ELSDLEA	5	String	Current elementary school district local education agency code
UNSDLEA	5	String	Current unified school district local education agency code

PSEUDO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

2011-2012 School District Review Program Pseudo-School Districts (stored as Secondary School Districts)

Column headers:

STATEFP12 2012 ACS state FIPS code
 SDLEA12 2012 ACS secondary school district local education agency code
 NAME12 2012 ACS secondary school district name

STATEFP12	SDLEA12	NAME12
06	06001	Yosemite Unified School District in Bass Lake
06	06002	Yosemite Unified School District in Raymond-Knowles
06	06003	Twin Rivers Unified School District in Elverta
06	06004	Twin Rivers Unified School District in Robla
06	06005	Scott Valley Unified School District in Forks of Salmon
06	06006	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Burnt Ranch
06	06007	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Coffee Creek
06	06008	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Cox Bar
06	06009	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Douglas City
06	06010	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Junction City
06	06011	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Lewiston
06	06012	Trinity Alps Unified School District in Trinity Center
06	06013	Turlock Unified School District in Chatom Union
06	06014	Turlock Unified School District in Keyes Union
06	06015	Santa Cruz City High School District (9-12) in Soquel
06	06016	Dinuba Unified (9-12) in Kings River Union
06	06017	Dinuba Unified (9-12) in Monson-Sultana Joint Union
06	06018	Washington Unified School District (9-12)
06	06019	Santa Barbara Unified School District (7-12)
06	06020	Lammersville Joint Unified School District (9-12)
06	06037	Alhambra Unified (9-12) School District
06	06053	Gonzales Unified (9-12) School District
06	06107	Porterville Unified (9-12) School District
13	13053	Chattahoochee County for Fort Benning
13	13215	Muscogee County for Fort Benning
17	17901	Flanagan-Cornell District 74 in Cornell
17	17902	Flanagan-Cornell District 74 in Pontiac
17	17903	Flanagan-Cornell District 74 in Rooks Creek
21	21001	Laurel County School District for East Bernstadt ISD
21	21002	Pulaski County School District for Science Hill ISD
21	21003	Elizabethtown Independent School District for West Point ISD
25	22222	Mohawk Trail Regional School District in Hawley and Charlemont towns
25	25002	North Adams School District in Clarksburg (9-12)
25	25003	Gill-Montague School District in Erving (7-12)
25	25004	Southwick-Tolland School District in Granville (9-12)
25	25005	Swampscott School District in Nahant (7-12)
25	25006	Pittsfield School District in Richmond (9-12)
25	25007	Mohawk Trail School District in Rowe (7-12)
25	25008	Adams-Cheshire School District in Savoy (7-12)
25	25009	North Adams School District in Florida (9-12)

25	25010	Fairhaven/New Bedford School Districts in Acushnet (9-12)
25	25012	Nauset/Provincetown School Districts in Turo (7-12)
25	25013	Mount Greylock/New Lebanon (NY) School Districts in Hancock (7-12)
25	25014	North Adams School District in Monroe (9-12)
25	25015	Lee/Berkshire Hills in Farmington River Regional (7-12)
40	40001	Secondary Coverage Area in White Oak Public Schools (9-12)
40	40002	Secondary Coverage Area in Braman Public Schools (9-12)
45	45013	Beaufort County School District within Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station
45	45079	Richland County School District 2 within Fort Jackson
47	47001	Anderson County School District in Clinton
47	47029	Cocke County School District in Newport
47	47031	Coffee County School District in Manchester
47	47033	Crockett County School District in Alamo
47	47034	Crockett County School District in Bells
47	47073	Hawkins County School District in Rogersville
47	47077	Henderson County School District in Lexington
47	47079	Henry County School District in Paris
47	47103	Lincoln County School District in Fayetteville
47	47107	McMinn County School District in Athens
47	47108	McMinn County School District in Etowah
47	47123	Monroe County School District in Sweetwater
47	47143	Rhea County School District in Dayton
47	47149	Rutherford County School District in Murfreesboro
47	47187	Williamson County School District in Franklin
47	47189	Wilson County School District in Lebanon
48	48021	Elgin/Giddings Independent School Districts (9-12) in McDade
48	48143	Stephenville Independent School District (9-12) in Bluff Dale
48	48285	Hallettsville Independent School District (9-12) in Vysehrad
48	48309	West/Connally Independent School Districts (9-12) in Gholson
48	48355	Tuloso-Midway Independent School District (9-12) in London
48	48449	Mount Pleasant Independent School District (9-12) in Winfield
48	48489	Raymondville/Lyford Independent School Districts (11-12) in Lasara
50	50001	Harwood Union High School District 19 (9-12)
50	50002	Mount Anthony Union High School District 14 (7-12)
50	50003	Brattleboro Union High School District 6 (9-12)