

# **U.S. Public School Characteristics**

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# Introduction

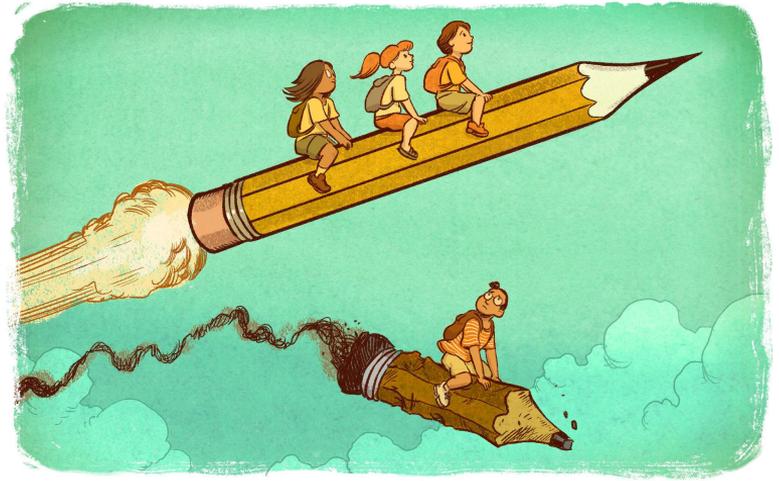
Our data is focused on Public School Characteristics in the United States focused on basic directory and information for schools and districts, as well as characteristics on student demographics, number of teachers, school grade span, and various other administrative conditions.



# Our Problem Statement

This Public Schools Characteristics dataset was designed to share certain characteristics and demographics of each public school in the United States.

How would this dataset imply any sort of inequality among public schools and what might this dataset be leading out that lets us see inequality more?





# Dataset's Variables

We made sure to clean out the variables, as many cells were left blank in the variable spaces leading to no new information. Here is the total list of our variables:

OBJECTID = System-generated **unique identifier** for each record in the dataset (used internally for data management).

NCESSCH = School identification number

SURVYEAR = **Survey year** in which the school data were collected or reported.

STABR = **Two-letter U.S. state abbreviation** identifying the state where the school is located (e.g., OR, CA, NY).

LEAID = Agency identification number

ST\_LEAID = State-assigned **Local Education Agency (LEA) identification number**. This code uniquely identifies a school district within a state.

LEA\_NAME = Official **name of the Local Education Agency (school district)** responsible for the school.

SCH\_NAME = Official **name of the school**.

LSTREET1 = **Primary street address** of the school

LSTREET2 = **Secondary address information** for the school, such as suite number, building name, or apartment number

LCITY = **City** in which the school is located.

LSTATE = State abbreviation

LZIP = **Five-digit ZIP code** for the school's mailing address.

LZIP4 = Four-digit ZIP+4 postal code extension for the school's mailing address (if available).

PHONE = Primary phone number for the school

CHARTER\_TEXT = Indicates whether the school is a **charter school**

VIRTUAL = Indicates whether the school operates as a **virtual/online school**.

GSLO = **Lowest grade level** offered by the school (e.g., PK, KG, 1).

GSHI = **Highest grade level** offered by the school (e.g., 5, 8, 12)

SCHOOL\_LEVEL = General school level classification (e.g., elementary, middle, high).

STATUS = Operational status of the school (e.g., open, closed, inactive).

SCHOOL\_TYPE\_TEXT = Descriptive category of the school type (e.g., regular school, alternative school, special education school).

SY\_STATUS\_TEXT = School year operational status description for the reported year.

ULOCAL = **Urban-centric locale code** describing the school's geographic setting (e.g., city, suburban, town, rural).

NMCNTY = Name of the **county** in which the school is located.

TOTFRL = Total number of students eligible for **Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL)**.

FRELCH = Number of students eligible for **free lunch**.

REDLCH = Number of students eligible for **reduced-price lunch**.

DIRECTCERT = Number of students **directly certified** for free meals without an application (e.g., through SNAP or TANF participation).

PK = Enrollment count of **prekindergarten (PK)** students.

KG-G12-AE = Total enrollment of students in **Kindergarten through Grade 12 and Adult Education**.

TOTMENROL = Total number of **male students** enrolled.

TOTFENROL = Total number of **female students** enrolled.

TOTAL = Total student enrollment across all grades.

MEMBER = Total **membership count**, representing students officially enrolled during the reporting period

FTE = **Full-Time Equivalent** count, representing enrollment adjusted for part-time students.

AMALM = Number of **American Indian or Alaska Native male** students enrolled

AMALF = Number of **American Indian or Alaska Native female** students enrolled

AM = Total number of **American Indian or Alaska Native** students enrolled

ASALM = Number of **Asian male** students enrolled

ASALF = Number of **Asian female** students enrolled

AS = Total number of **Asian** students enrolled

BLALM = Number of **Black or African American male** students enrolled

BLALF = Number of **Black or African American female** students enrolled

BL = Total number of **Black or African American** students enrolled

HPALM = Number of **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander male** students enrolled

HPALF = Number of **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander female** students enrolled

HP = Total number of **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** students enrolled

HIALM = Number of **Hispanic or Latino male** students enrolled

HALF = Number of **Hispanic or Latino female** students enrolled

HI = Total number of **Hispanic or Latino** students enrolled

TRALM = Number of **Two or More Races male** students enrolled

TRALF = Number of **Two or More Races female** students enrolled

TR = Total number of **Two or More Races** students enrolled

WHALM = Number of **White male** students enrolled

WHALF = Number of **White female** students enrolled

WH = Total number of **White** students enrolled

LATCOD = **Latitude coordinate** of the school's geographic location

LONCOD = **Longitude coordinate** of the school's geographic location

# Dataset's Variables

Within all of the variables, we chose a specific set that we believed we could find trends or correlations between to learn more on possible inequality through US public schools.

**CHARTER\_TEXT** - Indicates whether the school is a charter school

**VIRTUAL** - Indicates whether the school operates as a virtual/online school.

**LSTATE** - State abbreviation

**ULOCAL** - Urban-centric locale code describing the school's geographic setting (e.g., city, suburban, town, rural).

**TOTFRL** - Total number of students eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL).

**FRELCH** - Number of students eligible for free lunch.

**REDLCH** - Number of students eligible for reduced-price lunch.

**DIRECTCERT** - Number of students directly certified for free meals without an application (e.g., through SNAP or TANF participation).

**TOTAL** - Total number of students enrolled across all grade levels

# Conclusions on Dataset- Meso-level

## School Lunch



After analyzing our datasets variables through our given methods, we have found that:

- free and reduced lunch numbers are the only indicators of inequality, but we can use it as a metric for wealth in the schools.
- It seems peculiar that the dataset presents info about free lunches, acknowledging the disparity in wealth between schools, but fails to address it directly.
- Race variables are a large portion of the variables present. you can also see discrimination and inequality when comparing schools with a higher diversity count.

# Missing Variables- Deconstructive



School Income

Average Test Scores



- Quality of Food Given to Students

- Graduation Rate



- Average Teacher's Salary

- GPA of Students

- average income of students after high school (if applicable)

The free school lunch data leaves out all students that may be just above the maximum income level for the program. this can paint a picture of a more wealthy student population without it actually being the case.



# Why Does It Matter?

School inequality impacts the future of all students. Focusing on these variables can highlight any possible educational or health impact to students in these districts and bring more recognition to educational inequality or bias.

- As this problem continues, the inequality in the United States will exponentially increase as the wealthier get a better education.
  - Having a dataset show information that is misleading or misconstruing can belittle the problem
  - Missing many variables that would demonstrate inequality within public schools acts as a cover up.





**Thanks!**