



Career and College Readiness

Steps to Identify Rural and Non-Rural School Districts/Schools

Step 1: Identify rural and non-rural school districts/schools on <https://nces.ed.gov/> - National Center for Education Statistics

- Go to <https://nces.ed.gov/> - National Center for Education Statistics
- Under the “Menu” tab, click on “Data & Tools.”
 - There are two ways you can look up information:
 - Search for Public School Districts - This allows you to search by school district and access a downloadable file that lists all schools within the school district.
 - Search for Public Schools - This allows you to search by school name.
 - Scroll down and click on “Search for Public School District” or “Search for Public Schools.”
 - If searching for “Public School District,” enter the district name and click “Search.”
 - Once the search results are displayed, click “District Name.”
 - The Locale determines the status (see NCES Locale Classification List)
 - To view a district school, click “Schools for this District.”
 - Then click on the school name (this will display the school Locale information).
 - To download the file, click “Download Excel File” (This will download the file for the entire district).
 - If searching for “Public Schools,” enter the school details (i.e., school name, state, etc.) and click “Search.”
 - Once the search results are displayed, click “school name” to show the school’s information.
 - The Locale determines the status (see NCES Locale Classification List)
 - To download the file, click “Download Excel File” (This will download the file for the school).
 - If the Locale classification is rural, it will be listed as:
 - Rural - Fringe (41)
 - Rural - Distant (42)
 - Rural- Remote (43)

The United States Census determines classifications: LDOE does not classify school districts or schools.



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NCES Locale Classifications and Criteria

The NCES locale framework is composed of four basic types (City, Suburban, Town, and Rural), and each contains three subtypes. It relies on standard urban and rural definitions developed by the U.S. Census Bureau, and each type of locale is either urban or rural in its entirety. The NCES locales can be fully collapsed into a basic urban–rural dichotomy or expanded into a more detailed collection of 12 distinct categories. These subtypes are differentiated by size (in the case of City and Suburban assignments) and proximity (in the case of Town and Rural assignments). For additional information about the locale criteria, see the [Locale Boundaries User's Manual](#).

City – Large (11): Territory inside an Urbanized Area and inside a Principal City with population of 250,000 or more.

City – Midsize (12): Territory inside an Urbanized Area and inside a Principal City with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.

City – Small (13): Territory inside an Urbanized Area and inside a Principal City with population less than 100,000.

Suburban – Large (21): Territory outside a Principal City and inside an Urbanized Area with population of 250,000 or more.

Suburban – Midsize (22): Territory outside a Principal City and inside an Urbanized Area with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.

Suburban – Small (23): Territory outside a Principal City and inside an Urbanized Area with population less than 100,000.

Town – Fringe (31): Territory inside an Urban Cluster that is less than or equal to 10 miles from an Urbanized Area.

Town – Distant (32): Territory inside an Urban Cluster that is more than 10 miles and less than or equal to 35 miles from an Urbanized Area.

Town – Remote (33): Territory inside an Urban Cluster that is more than 35 miles from an Urbanized Area.

Rural – Fringe (41): Census-defined rural territory that is less than or equal to 5 miles from an Urbanized Area, as well as rural territory that is less than or equal to 2.5 miles from an Urban Cluster.

Rural – Distant (42): Census-defined rural territory that is more than 5 miles but less than or equal to 25 miles from an Urbanized Area, as well as rural territory that is more than 2.5 miles but less than or equal to 10 miles from an Urban Cluster.

Rural – Remote (43): Census-defined rural territory that is more than 25 miles from an Urbanized Area and also more than 10 miles from an Urban Cluster.