

National Longitudinal Transition Study (NLTS-2012)

More than two million children receive federally funded special education services. For youth with disabilities, the transition to adulthood is often marked by challenges that can impede their education, employment, and ability to live independently. This study will help educators and policymakers identify and address the barriers to successful transition.

NLTS-2012 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and is part of the congressionally mandated National Assessment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

The study will compare a national sample of youth with disabilities to those without disabilities, examining:

- Youth characteristics
- Services and accommodations received in school, and courses of study
- Transition experiences and outcomes as youth leave school, including the extent to which they enter postsecondary education, secure jobs, and live independently

To examine changes in youth experiences and outcomes over time, the study will also compare the current cohort of youth with disabilities to two cohorts studied previously.

Data collection will occur in spring 2012 and spring 2014 and include a sample of 15,000 students in approximately 300 school districts. The nationally representative sample will be randomly selected from among all public school students ages 13 to 21 as of December 2011. In addition to collecting students' school records, the study team will conduct surveys with youth and their parents, teachers, and principals.

The study is being conducted by Mathematica Policy Research (www.mathematica-mpr.com), the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota (<http://ici.umn.edu>), and Decision Information Resources (www.dir-online.com).

If you have questions, please contact Mathematica's project director, John Burghardt, by phone at (609) 275-2395 or by email at jburchardt@mathematica-mpr.com.

Responses to all data collection activities will be kept confidential and be used only for research purposes. The reports prepared for the study will summarize findings across large groups of participants and will not associate responses with a specific district, school, or individual.

All collected information from students, parents, teachers, principals, and school districts will be kept confidential in compliance with federal regulations and will be used only for research purposes. No information identifying any individual, school, or district will be made public or shared outside the study. The reports prepared for the study will summarize findings across large groups of participants.