



Council for American Private Education
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organizations:**

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Association of Christian
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Association of Waldorf
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North America

Christian Schools
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Council on Educational
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Juliana Pearson
PRA Coordinator
Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division
Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation & Policy Development
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Pearson,

The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Department's proposed framework for the biennial collection of data for the Private School Survey (PSS) for years 2025-26 and 2027-28.

CAPE strongly supports the continuation and updating of the PSS survey, as it is the only national source of significant data on the status of private schools, which constitute 23 percent of the nation's schools and 9 percent of elementary and secondary school students. The crucial data provided by the PSS contributes to a comprehensive picture of the national landscape of primary and secondary education in the United States.

In this era that has seen increased political focus and activity around alternatives in education, the need for, and the accuracy of, private school data complementary to and comparable with that of public education is necessary. The questions contained in this survey -- demographic, race/ethnic, and programmatic -- are necessary for a fuller picture of private schools and the populations they serve.

We call particular attention to Item 11 that asks whether in-person, virtual, and/or hybrid classes are offered. We agree with the need for this data, which can be used to estimate the types of learning modalities available to students who attend private schools and inform an understanding of the distribution and characteristics of private schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Schuttloffel
Executive Director