



**2021 Covered Agency Annual Report  
and Self-Assessment**  
*for*  
**Department of Education**

Geospatial Data Act of 2018  
Section USC 43 Sec 2808(a) Requirements

February 4, 2022



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## Introduction

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018. The GDA was included as a component of the FAA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 302, P.L. 115-254). The GDA is now in [U.S. Code, Title 43 – Public Lands, Chapter 46: GEOSPATIAL DATA](#).

USC 43 Sec 2808(b) of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) requires each covered agency<sup>1</sup> to submit to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) “an annual report regarding the achievements of the covered agency in preparing and implementing the strategy described in subsection (a)(1) and complying with the other requirements under subsection (a).” [<https://fgdc.gov/gda/online>]

This document serves as the Department of Education’s annual report to the FGDC covering the period from October 1, 2020 through Fiscal Year 2021 (September 30, 2021). The report was developed through a self-assessment template developed by the FGDC agencies. Annual reports span one fiscal year. The report includes a rating for each covered agency responsibility of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations," as required by the GDA. A summary and evaluation of all the covered agency reports will be generated by FGDC and provided to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for review and comment. The summary reports, along with the NGAC comments, will also become part of the biennial FGDC GDA report to Congress and will be published online via the [FGDC GDA pages \[https://fgdc.gov/gda\]](#).

This report is based on a standardized questionnaire and self-assessment score for each covered agency responsibility. The Department of Education has maintained documentation supporting the responses provided for this assessment. This information may be reviewed as part of the biennial Inspector General (IG) audits of covered agencies.

A recommended self-assessment key has been provided for each responsibility. In some cases, optional text is provided for additional insights or to justify a self-assessment selection. Any optional responses provided are not a factor in the self-assessment.

Where data or datasets are referenced,<sup>2</sup> information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of Education that are, or should be, available to the public.

To support a more comprehensive picture of agency compliance and related activities, each agency had the option to submit up to a 2-page document, using the survey, as part of the agency’s submission. If provided, the document may include highlights and examples that can supplement the FGDC report to Congress, support the feedback process with the NGAC, or provide context to Office of the Inspector General (OIG) findings.

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<sup>1</sup> GDA definition of *agency*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-“covered-agency”—means—an-executive-department-as-def>

<sup>2</sup> GDA definition of *geospatial data*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98geospatial-data%E2%80%99%E2%80%99%E2%80%94%E2%80%94means-information-that-is-tied-to-a>

## Self-Assessment for Department of Education

### USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 1.1 and 1.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 1.1 and No to Question 1.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 1.1 and 1.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 1. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**Clarifying Text:** FGDC developed and released a new national strategic plan for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) [the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2804(c)], which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in November 2020. Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies [the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1)], which will support the goals in the NSDI strategic plan, were due to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021, per FGDC guidance. For more information, please visit <http://fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>.

#### 1.1 Is your agency's strategy complete, approved, and being implemented?

- Yes

#### 1.2 Is your agency's strategy published?

- Yes

If yes, please provide the URL or briefly describe how public access is being provided.

[https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/docs/NCES\\_Geospatial\\_Data\\_Strategy.pdf](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/docs/NCES_Geospatial_Data_Strategy.pdf)

**1.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words):** Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1), "Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.

The Department of Education (ED) provides its mission-specific geospatial data strategy through the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates (EDGE) Program at the URL identified in response to item 1.2. The strategic principles guided NCES's

geospatial activities through FY21 and continue to frame activities for FY22. They include: (1) Develop geospatial data needed for ED programs and educational research; (2) Share geospatial data in common formats through easily accessible locations; (3) Apply geospatial data and methods to create new data solutions; (4) Provide supplemental resources to explain and visualize ED geospatial data. The plan is mission-focused on education-related needs, aligned with the Department's strategic vision for data use, and supportive of the principles and objectives articulated in the NSDI.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(2) Support Data Sharing

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users.
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for <b>all</b> agency appropriate parties for Question 2.1 and Yes to Questions 2.2 and 2.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for <b>some</b> appropriate parties for Question 2.1, <b>or</b> Question 2.2 and 2.3 have a mix of answers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 2. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(2) Support Data Sharing Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**Clarifying text:**

- ✓ This section does not include efforts related to partners, which are covered under Question 7, USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(7).
- ✓ Review the [GDA definition of geospatial data](#) to consider the questions in this section.
- ✓ Remember, your agency’s answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public in accordance with agency statutory authorities and missions; not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.
- ✓ Sharing data on the Internet using open standards, protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.
- ✓ Additional detail on the definition of geospatial data may be provided by OMB Circular A-16 when finalized.
- ✓ Geospatial data that will not or cannot be distributed to the public does not need to be considered for GDA-related responses as per the GDA.

**2.1 Does your agency ensure that all eligible geospatial data is managed so it can be readily shared and is it provided in open formats, as appropriate? (This will include agency open government and transparency guidelines.)** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.

**2.2 Does your agency disseminate eligible geospatial data in a way that can be readily shared in open formats (for example, using machine readable formats or searchable metadata)?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Yes, eligible geospatial data and metadata are shared in open formats.

**2.3 Are maintenance processes in place to ensure other federal agencies and non-federal users have access to the most recent data in addition to data and metadata updates and corrections? (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)**

- Yes, agency policies exist to ensure all programs implement data maintenance processes.

**2.4 Optional Question: Would the agency like to provide up to 5 key examples of ongoing or planned activities that ensure eligible geospatial data and associated metadata can be easily shared, understood, and re-used by others, now and in the future?**

- No

**2.5 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(2), "collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other Federal agencies and non-Federal users." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

ED's geospatial data collection is available to the public from the NCES EDGE Program in common machine-readable formats with supporting metadata and file documentation (<https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/Home>). ED also makes its geospatial data easily accessible in the form of data web services that are registered in common geospatial data catalogues like the federal GeoPlatform and ArcGIS Online that use open data standards to make geospatial data easy to find, search, and use. In addition to these public portals, ED makes its data available through the NCES EDGE Program's Open Data site (<https://data-nces.opendata.arcgis.com/>). The EDGE Open Data catalogue is maintained and updated by NCES with 84 records as of 11/17/2021. It also provides enhanced metadata and formatting to include its data as authoritative layers in Esri's Living Atlas. Additionally, ED recognizes that many data users prefer to engage with geospatial data through user-friendly analytic tools, so NCES provided a variety of web-based mapping applications to view education data in its geographic context.

## USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(3) Promote Data Integration

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partial to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 3. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(3) Promote Data Integration Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

### 3.1 Has your agency taken action to promote integration of data from multiple sources?

- Yes. The agency has taken appropriate action to promote data integration.

#### 3.1.a If yes or partial to Question 3.1, in what ways does your agency promote data integration from multiple sources? (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.

#### 3.2 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(3), "promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.

ED's web services and APIs provide easy access to its data collection, and its service-based architecture enables NCES web applications to consume geodata provided by other federal and non-federal sources. For example, the NCES EDGE program's Locale Lookup tool integrates NCES data with Urban and Metropolitan Areas developed by the Census Bureau, Opportunity Zones developed by the Department of Treasury, Congressional Districts determined by states and compiled by Census, and contextual base maps that combine data from National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, USGS, NASA, NOAA, and others. Over the course of the past year, NCES has expanded its relationship with state education offices as part of its State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) poverty pilot program and provided support for building spatial data infrastructure. As state data systems become more robust, additional opportunities for data integration will increase. In addition to integrating data through applications, NCES also attended various conferences to learn about additional data integration opportunities and to present and discuss NCES resources with potential new data users.



USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(4) Ensure Records Retention Schedule for Geospatial Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 4.1 and 4.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Partial to Questions 4.1 and 4.2 or</li> <li>○ No to either 4.1 or 4.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 4.1 and 4.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 4. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(4) Ensure Records Retention Schedule for Geospatial Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**4.1 To ensure approved National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) schedules are in place, does the appraisal process for your agency to determine which data is archived include geospatial data?**

- Yes. The agency program's archiving appraisal process is inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

**4.2 Are geospatial data assets included on agency record schedules?**

- Yes. Agency record schedules are inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

**4.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(4), "ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

Geospatial data produced by the NCES EDGE program are part of NCES's overall records schedule.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(5) Allocate Resources for Geospatial Data Management Responsibilities

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Toward Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partial to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 5. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(5) Allocate Resources for Geospatial Data Management Responsibilities Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**5.1 Are geospatial program resources (including full- or part-time federal employees or contractors) allocated to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee?** (Select the most appropriate answer and provide context for your agency’s response in Question 5.2.)

**Clarifying text:** Analyses of the requirements for the GDA are ongoing and it is anticipated that agencies will answer based on currently understood or anticipated requirements. Additional details can be provided in the 5.2 Brief Summary and in your agency’s 2-page PDF in Appendix B (if provided).

- Partial

**5.2 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words):** Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(5), "allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee." If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.

ED geospatial data are funded through NCES statistical program activities and supported by an FTE that oversees the NCES EDGE program. The integrated EDGE program portfolio includes demographic, economic, and geographic data production and dissemination, therefore NCES provides as much attention to geospatial activities as current resources allow. NCES collaborates with the Census Bureau to design and produce necessary geospatial data, and it relies on contractors to maintain its data collections. ED’s geospatial activities are necessary to support a variety of statutory and statistical programs, and the growth of geospatial data within ED provides substantial new opportunities to inform and improve other analytic and administrative operations if additional resources are provided.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(6) Use Data Standards

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Toward Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any other combination of Yes, No, and Partial to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 6. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(6) Use Data Standards Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**Clarifying Text:**

- ✓ Reestablishment of an active, resourced, and sustainable standards process with supporting governance is currently under consideration by the FGDC (Committee).
- ✓ The FGDC has not yet established any standards under the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2806.
- ✓ Answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public in accordance with agency statutory authorities and missions; not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.

**6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.

**6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

**Clarifying text:** Question does not include legacy datasets that are static and no longer modified or otherwise managed. Also, see the list of endorsed FGDC-endorsed standards <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/>.

- Partial. Some eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata, that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.

### 6.3 Is your agency geospatial metadata available through GeoPlatform.gov?

**Clarifying Text:** For the scope of the requirement, Section 758(b)(1)(A)(iv) provides for “includ[ing] download access to all open geospatial data directly or indirectly collected by covered agencies” and Section USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(6) requires that “metadata [be] available through the GeoPlatform.”

- Yes. Metadata for all public datasets are available via GeoPlatform.gov.

**6.4 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(6), “use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

The GDA directs the FGDC to set standards for each NSDA theme, but the final set of themes, component datasets, and associated standards was not fully defined in FY21. The FGDC and covered agencies anticipated receiving final guidance on these issues as part of an updated A-16 circular, but that was not available by end of FY21. As a result, official GDA-compliant data standards for ED geospatial data were undefined. ED’s goal is to provide high quality data for analysis and decision-making, therefore NCES worked closely with the Census Bureau to improve data quality and provide metadata in anticipation of satisfying future official standards. All ED geospatial data have been designed with appropriate data standards and metadata to ensure they can be registered in Data.gov, GeoPlatform.gov, ArcGIS Online, the Living Atlas, and other data portals that apply metadata validators to ensure proposed datasets meet appropriate data and metadata standards before being included in the collection. The inclusion of ED’s geospatial data in these catalogues reflects its effective application of appropriate standards. The inclusion of school district boundaries in the Census Bureau’s TIGER/Line collection provides additional confirmation that applicable data and metadata standards have been considered. ED’s geospatial data also adhere to data standards established for original ED data collections to help ensure consistent classification and presentation of data across the enterprise. For example, the address information included on the public school geocode file is consistent with the Common Education Data Standards applied to these fields in the annual EDFacts collection.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(7) Support Coordination and Partnerships

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 7.1 and Yes or Not applicable to Question 7.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any combination of Yes, Not applicable, Partial, or No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 7. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(7) Support Coordination and Partnerships Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**7.1 Are there processes in place to ensure that, when appropriate, partners and stakeholders have visibility into agency geospatial data management activities (e.g., collection, integration, maintenance, dissemination, and preservation)?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Yes. There are processes in place for all agency mission areas.

**7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

**Clarifying text:** The selection list provided was taken from the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2803(b)(C).

- States

**7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

**Clarifying text:** When answering this question think about activities such as using surveys, listening sessions, Request for Information, booths at stakeholder conferences.

- Partnership outreach activities

**7.2 Does your agency build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Yes. Agency builds upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible.

**7.2.a If yes or partial to Question 7.2, what ways do you build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?** (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing.

**7.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC43 Sec 2808(a)(7), “coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-Federal geospatial data to the extent possible.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

ED collaborated closely with the Census Bureau to design and produce geospatial data needed to support ED programs, and it engaged regularly with the FGDC to identify other agency resources to help support and augment these efforts. In addition to its federal coordination, ED relied on data provided by states to develop geospatial data for Elementary/Secondary schools and school districts, and it partnered with Census and state education departments to develop annually updated school district boundaries. As previously mentioned, NCES also collaborated with state departments of education through its State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) poverty pilot program to provide support and guidance for improving state spatial data infrastructure. Likewise, ED relied on annually reported data from colleges and universities to the NCES IPEDS system to maintain and improve current files of postsecondary school locations. These state, federal, and institutional partnerships were essential to ED’s geospatial data strategy.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Use geospatial information to— (A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; (B) enhance operations; (C) support decision making; and (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any combination of Yes, Partial and No to Questions 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*Table 8. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8)(A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;**

**8.1 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public?**

**Clarifying Text:** A number of examples of leveraging geospatial information for public use include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Making the data accessible
- ✓ Providing data in ingestible services
- ✓ Providing maps or visualizations of geospatial data - like a map of an agency’s jurisdictional regions so the public can identify their region on a website
- ✓ Provided data in an online application – like the COVID-19 case tracker
- ✓ Outreach/communications for user feedback
- ✓ Making data open, standardized, or machine readable
- Yes

**USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8)(B) enhance operations; USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8)(C) support decision making**

**8.2 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to improve operations and decision-making?**

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information in operations improvements or decision-making.

## USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8)(D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress

### 8.3 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting to the public or to Congress? (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information to enhance public and Congressional reporting.

### 8.3.a If yes or partial, for which of these audiences does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting? (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Public reports (e.g., fact sheets, data briefs, annual reports, other published agency reports).

### 8.4 Optional Question: Would the agency like to provide up to 5 key examples and links that demonstrate how geospatial data assets are used, internally and externally, to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; enhance operations; support decision making; and/or enhance reporting to the public and to Congress?

- No

### 8.5 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8), "use geospatial information to—

- (A) make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;
- (B) enhance operations;
- (C) support decision making; and
- (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;"

If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.

ED's geospatial data resources are accessed by thousands of people each week to answer questions and explore policy-relevant issues, and the Department's geospatial analytic and reference tools continue to be well used. The collection of geospatial data web services received more than 8 million requests in 2021, and efforts to use geospatial assets to improve internal operations have continued. Geospatial data were used to help ED staff evaluate grant proposals, examine student absence and homelessness, identify program locations for underserved and disadvantage postsecondary students, and visualize the distribution of federal funds. Additionally, NCES applied geospatial tools and methods to develop experimental poverty indicators needed for research and program administration, and ED relies on geospatial data about community locales to determine program eligibility and to report official statistics to the public and to Congress.



USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(9) Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 9.1 and 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Partial to Questions 9.1 or 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 9.1 or 9.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 9. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(9) Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**9.1 Are the agency’s Privacy Threshold Assessment or Privacy Impact Assessment (PTA/PIA) processes inclusive of your agency’s geospatial data?**

**Clarifying Text:** The Privacy Threshold Assessment/Analysis would be the mechanism that agencies use to determine if PII is, or is not, collected and whether a Privacy Impact Assessment needs to be done for an information system.

- Yes. The agency's PTA/PIA processes are inclusive of all agency data.

**9.2 Are the IT systems and applications that maintain and support your agency’s geospatial data covered by a current Authorization to Operate (ATO)?**

- Yes. All agency geospatial data is housed in a system covered by a current ATO and is appropriately protected in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**9.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(9), “protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

ED’s geospatial data assets are limited to publicly reported institutions or local governmental entities and therefore do not include personally identifiable information (PII). Additionally, these publicly available geospatial data are housed on appropriately protected IT systems.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(10) Declassified Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Not applicable to Question 10.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 10.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*Table 10. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(10)Declassified Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**10.1 If your agency handles declassified geospatial datasets, does it have a process to review these declassified datasets for inclusion in the NSDI?**

**Clarifying text:** Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.

- Not applicable: The agency does not handle declassified data.

**10.2 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(10), “participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.” If the assessment is “fails to meet expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

ED’s geospatial data assets are limited to publicly reported institutions or local governmental entities and therefore do not include personally identifiable information (PII), classified data, or declassified data.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(11) Non-Duplication of Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 11.1 or</li> <li>○ Yes to Questions 11.1 and 11.2 and all agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 11.1 and Partial or No to Question 11.2 and agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 11.1 and No to Question 11.2 and <i>No additional assessments are done</i> selected for Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 11. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(11) Non-Duplication of Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**11.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection for the reporting period?**

**Clarifying text:** “Expended funds” may include grant distribution, agency collection, or procurement of data.

- Yes

**11.2 If yes to Question 11.1, and as per [OMB Circular A-11 Guidance](#) (Section 25, Page 3), has your agency searched the [GeoPlatform](#) prior to making planned geospatial data investments to determine if an existing source for that data is available and meets mission requirements?**

- Yes. Agency has searched GeoPlatform prior to all geospatial data investments.

**11.3 If yes to Question 11.1, has your agency searched other sources to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data? (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)**

- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Database search

**11.4 Optional Question: If yes to Question 11.1, would the agency like to provide up to 5 examples of cases where the agency did find existing data that met its needs or partnered on a joint data acquisition?**

- No

**11.5 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(11), "Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

NCES regularly looks for new data sources that support ED's geospatial data needs. Reviews include searches of the GeoPlatform, Data.gov, Open Data, social science data archives, and other relevant sources. ED is obligated to make its geodata products available to the public free of charge, and therefore is unable to use external sources encumbered by licensing restrictions. ED's geodata are also associated with specific academic years and specific administrative contexts, so external sources must provide necessary data vintages and universes. They also need to provide essential elements. Concerns about data duplication often overlook critical attributes needed to support specific program purposes. Additionally, ED's geodata depend on inputs that are certified by state, local, and federal agencies, e.g., the poverty estimates that drive ED's Title I allocations to states must use school district boundaries provided to the Census Bureau by states. Therefore, ED must be selective with sources.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(12) Ensuring High-Quality Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 12.1 or</li> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <b>all</b> appropriate selections for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <b>some</b> agency appropriate selections for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <i>No official documented Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data</i> selected for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 12. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(12) Ensuring High-Quality Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**12.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection from non-federal sources during the reporting period?**

**Clarifying text:** The requirement for “a person receiving Federal funds” has been interpreted to mean non-federal organizations or corporations who are, for example, contract or grant recipients.

- No (Skips Question 12.3)

**12.2 If yes to Question 12.1, what methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?** (Check all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional methods used to ensure quality for geospatial data acquired by procurement or grant process - see Appendix A for complete list of optional responses)

- Not applicable

**12.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(12), “to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

ED does not contract with non-federal agencies to develop geospatial data. All ED geodata assets are developed in collaboration with the Census Bureau, and production is developed and reviewed within the Census Bureau’s data processing environment.

## USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(13) Point of Contact

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 13.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 13.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*Table 13. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(13) Point of Contact Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

### **13.1 Has your agency appointed a POC to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the NGDA data themes used by the covered agency?**

**Clarifying text:** According to the GDA Definitions, USC 43 Sec 2801(12), NGDA data theme means “the NGDA core geospatial datasets including electronic records and coordinates relating to a topic or subject designated under Section 756.” Also, OMB Circular A-16 may include additional guidance on covered agency responsibilities for theme coordination.

- Yes. An agency POC has been appointed.

**13.2 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2021 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(13), "appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency." If the assessment is “fails to meet expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

The NCES Commissioner represents ED as the Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) on the FGDC. The EDGE program director supports geospatial data operations and FGDC-related activity on behalf of the SAOGI. ED’s geospatial data activity primarily involves governmental, administrative, and statistical data that has been coordinated by the Census Bureau on behalf of other agencies. As a fellow statistical agency, NCES has a long-standing working relationship with the Bureau, therefore ED has well-established points of contact with the Lead Covered Agency most relevant to its geodata activities.

## Appendix A: Survey Picklists

This appendix provides the full set of choices presented in the self-assessment survey for questions that have multiple response options, including those that are “select all that apply.”

### **2.1 Does your agency ensure that all eligible geospatial data is managed so it can be readily shared and is it provided in open formats, as appropriate? (This will include agency open government and transparency guidelines.) (Select all that apply)**

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with federal partners.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with non-federal users.
- No data is currently shared to other federal agencies or non-federal users. (Note: For some agencies, this may be an appropriate response).

### **2.2 Does your agency disseminate eligible geospatial data in a way that can be readily shared in open formats (for example, using machine readable formats or searchable metadata)?**

- Yes, eligible geospatial data and metadata are shared in open formats.
- Eligible geospatial data are shared in open formats, but not all metadata is open format.
- Eligible geospatial metadata are shared in open formats, but not all data are open format.
- Some geospatial data, and its metadata, is shared in open formats.
- No geospatial data is shared, or geospatial data is only shared in proprietary formats.

### **2.3 Are maintenance processes in place to ensure other federal agencies and non-federal users have access to the most recent data in addition to data and metadata updates and corrections?**

- Yes, agency policies exist to ensure all programs implement data maintenance processes.
- Some programs/datasets have maintenance processes in place.
- Maintenance processes are in development or are partially implemented.
- No maintenance processes are currently in place or in development.

### **3.1.a If yes or partial to Question 3.1, in what ways does your agency promote data integration from multiple sources? (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional methods)**

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.
- Develops data integration processes to promote integration of non-agency data into applications.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.
- Develops data sharing agreements or Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.
- Other (Textbox provided)

**6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed? (Select all that apply)**

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC endorsed data standards under OMB A-16, 2002, or more current versions of those endorsed standards.
- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- No. Eligible agency geospatial datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed data standards or standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.

**6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format? (Select all that apply)**

**Clarifying text:** Question does not include legacy datasets that are static and no longer modified or otherwise managed. Also, see the list of endorsed FGDC-endorsed standards

<https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/>.

- Yes. Eligible non-legacy datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata, that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.
- No. Agency datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standards.

**7.1 Are there processes in place to ensure that, when appropriate, partners and stakeholders have visibility into agency geospatial data management activities (e.g., collection, integration, maintenance, dissemination and preservation)?**

- Yes. There are processes in place for all agency mission areas.
- Yes. There are processes in place, but some mission areas do not have requirements for geospatial data management partnerships.
- Partial. There are processes in place for some agency mission areas, but not others.
- No. There are no processes in place. (Skip to question 7.3)



**7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to add additional partners or stakeholders)

**Clarifying text:** The selection list provided was taken from the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2803(b)(C).

- Other federal agencies
- States
- Local governments
- Regional governments
- Tribal governments
- Private sector entities
- Geospatial information user industries
- Professional associations
- Scholarly associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Academia
- Licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals
- Other (Textbox provided)

**7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to add additional processes)

**Clarifying text:** When answering this question think about activities such as using surveys, listening sessions, Request for Information, booths at stakeholder conferences.

- Market research
- Partnership outreach activities
- Expert consultations
- Advisory committee(s)
- Working group(s) and sub-committee(s)
- Steering committees
- Councils
- Engage with trade groups
- Feedback opportunities (e.g., contact email/phone, call center)
- Federal Register Notices
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Use other public comment processes
- Other (Textbox provided)

## **7.2 Does your agency build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?**

- Yes. Agency builds upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible.
- Not applicable: no existing applicable data exists.
- Partial. Agency builds upon some existing non-federal geospatial data.
- No. Agency does not build upon existing non-federal geospatial data.

### **7.2.a If yes or partial to Question 7.2, what ways do you build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to add additional ways)

- Procurement/acquisition/grant
- Research partnership
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- Mission assignments or Interagency Agreements
- MOAs/data sharing agreements
- Other (Textbox provided)

## **8.3 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting to the public or to Congress?**

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information to enhance public and Congressional reporting.
- Not applicable: Agency does not leverage geospatial information in published reports.
- Partial. Agency leverages some geospatial information to enhance either public or Congressional reporting.
- No. Agency does not leverage geospatial information to enhance either public or Congressional reporting.

### **8.3.a If yes or partial, for which of these audiences does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting?** (Select all that apply)

- Public reports (e.g., fact sheets, data briefs, Annual reports, other published agency reports).
- Congressional reports.
- Internal agency and leadership plans, reports and communications.
- Not applicable: agency does not leverage geospatial information in published reports.

**11.3 If yes to Question 11.1, has your agency searched other sources to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional sources)

- Market research
- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy
- No additional assessments are done
- Other (Textbox provided)

**12.2 If yes to Question 12.1, what methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?**

(Check all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional methods used to ensure quality for geospatial data acquired by procurement or grant process)

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Geospatial data quality standards are specified in contract documents.
- Independent verification and validation (IV&V).
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- Data standards are enforced through automated processes such as database controls or script tools.
- The agency acquires data from another federal agency that is responsible for QA/QC.
- No official documented QA/QC process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data.
- Other (Textbox provided)