

Review and Adjudication

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Thorough review of each NCES data product is a cornerstone of quality control in all [Center reports and data products](#). The Statistical Standards Program has the responsibility of ensuring that both internal and external reviewers comments are taken into account and that statistical standards are met in each NCES product. Published reports that describe data or present analyses of data go through a multistage internal and external [review process](#). A Center-wide team defined this process in the spring of 1995. In an effort to clarify this process, a two-page summary of the process was developed and then reviewed by the NCES Quality Systems Task Force, NCES Senior Staff, and the Advisory Council on Education Statistics. The summary was issued as a Directive from the Commissioner of Education Statistics.

Technical documentation and electronic data products undergo a modified review process that includes program, Division, and Statistical Standards and Technology reviews. In an effort to increase consistency throughout the Center and maintain a high level of quality control, there is currently a Quality Improvement Team working on specifications for use in reviewing electronic data products.

The recent increase in the use of the Internet as a dissemination tool for NCES reports and data products has given rise to a need for extending current quality control procedures to encompass this new medium. Most published Center reports and public-use data products are available on the Internet. These products have all undergone existing review processes. Increasingly, however, new products are designed specifically for the Internet and fall outside of the established review procedures. The Statistical Standards Program is working collaboratively with the Technology Program and the NCES Communications Officer to ensure that high quality products are delivered to the public, regardless of the medium.

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