

# **IPEDS Community Tutorial Script 2021-22 Data Collection Cycle**

Welcome to this tutorial on the IPEDS community, which will describe a number of useful resources to help you stay up-to-date with IPEDS activities.

This tutorial discusses four important resources:

Technical Review Panels (or TRPs); the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (or NPEC); This Week in IPEDS; and the IPEDS Listserv.

Together, these four items provide data providers and users with additional resources and information to better understand and use IPEDS data. Links to each of these resources are available below this tutorial.

Meetings of the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP) are conducted by RTI International to obtain peer reviews of IPEDS-related project plans and products and to foster communications with potential users of the data. This group of technical experts meets around 3 times a year. TRP meetings are typically held over a 2-day period and are conducted within the Washington, DC area. RTI selects a group of approximately 30 TRP panel members to attend these meetings dependent on the particular topics being addressed. Additionally, NCES staff and staff from other federal agencies in the DC area may attend these meetings. RTI welcomes comments and suggestions from interested parties on IPEDS-related products and plans. At the completion of each TRP meeting, TRP suggestions are typically posted on this website and comments are solicited.

The TRP Website, hosted by RTI, is accessible from the main IPEDS website. Click “Join in” and then “Technical Review Panel”.

The TRP website includes past meeting reports, information on upcoming meetings, and contact information for key TRP personnel.

The National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) was established by NCES in 1995 as a voluntary organization that encompasses all sectors of the postsecondary education community including federal agencies, postsecondary institutions, associations, and other organizations with a major interest in postsecondary education data collection. NPEC's mission is to promote the quality, comparability and utility of postsecondary data and information that support policy development at the federal, state, and institution levels. NPEC is charged with developing a research and development agenda for IPEDS.

NPEC is comprised of 15 members. Six are from the major presidential associations, which include the American Council on Education (ACE), National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), American Association of State Colleges and Universities, (AASCU) Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU), and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

The other nine representatives are from all sectors of higher education, which include:

- A private, non-profit college;
- a private, for-profit college;
- a community college;
- a public 4-year college;
- a regional organization;
- a data user group;
- a state higher education agency or system;
- a community college system; and a state independent college association.

In addition to core membership, members serve on and lead working groups to explore targeted research and development topics, as well as participate in Technical Review Panels.

Many reports are available on the NPEC website for public viewing as well as a list of current NPEC members.

This Week in IPEDS is an almost weekly email that goes out to all IPEDS Keyholders explaining important information or changes related to IPEDS. But, you can see this information without being a keyholder by going to the IPEDS webpage, clicking on "Join in", and selecting "This Week in IPEDS".

Finally, the IPEDS Listserv is a great way to stay active and engaged in the IPEDS community. You can set up personal preferences so that you receive a daily digest or an email every time a comment is posted. Although the Help Desk is the best source for questions about IPEDS, many find the listserv to be helpful. The Listserv is monitored by the Help Desk and NCES Staff who provide assistance when needed.

Learning more about these four important IPEDS resources will prove useful as you continue your career and seek to become more involved with the IPEDS community.