



APPLICABILITY TO SCHOOLS

School district and charter school communities have a stake in an accurate count. Census data directly affects special education dollars, Title I grants, school meal programs, and early childhood education initiatives. Census data indirectly affects Medicaid, housing, and paying for college. At the local level, one missed individual, especially a school-aged child, can cost a community and school district or charter school thousands of dollars over time. A conservative estimate states that the annual disbursement by federal agencies based on the 2010 Census count is \$675 billion – or trillions of dollars over the ten-year census term. A George Washington University study has indicated that, based on 2015 figures, Idaho's state budget included \$2.4 billion dollars in federal funding. That is about \$1,473 per person.

The cost of undercounting is high, particularly in the education community. Undercounting children ages 0-5 is costly in the long term, and that age is statistically the most likely to be undercounted. An estimated 5% of children from birth through preschool-age were not counted in 2010. Imagine what the loss of funds might do to your schools if that student population is undercounted.

Distributions based on accurate census data mean that funding responsibilities do not fall on statewide taxpayers. Census data from 2020 will be used to determine each state's share of federal funding for the next decade, so accuracy is vital!