



## KANSAS COUNTS

Kansas Counts is a statewide effort aimed at increasing engagement, awareness, and participation in the 2020 Census.



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### PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Statistics in Schools

The U.S. Census Bureau does a lot with the information we provide in the decennial census. Our responses range widely in how they assist our country: 1) they help determine the resource allocation of \$675 billion federal dollars for state and local funding; 2) they provide critical demographic information for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in cases of natural disasters; 3) it determines which political districts need to be redrawn based on population size; and 4) it helps us understand how our country has evolved over the course of a decade. Another way our Census responses help serve a purpose, is in our K-12 school programs.

The U.S. Census Bureau has launched a Statistics In Schools (SIS) initiative aiming to integrate SIS resources in the classroom during the 2019-2020 school year to support efforts that every child is counted in the 2020 census.<sup>i</sup> There are many activities for all grades ranging K-12, with an emphasis on relevant areas of learning for the age groups such as counting for kindergarten or examining career statistics for high schoolers.<sup>ii</sup> The exciting thing about these activities is that students get to learn why it is so important they are counted in the Census, and what different components of the Census process mean.

One example of a K-2 classroom activity provided by the U.S. Census SIS Initiative is creating and taking a survey. The way this is presented on the [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) website for each varying project, is an activity description, suggested grade level, materials required, approximate time required, the learning objectives, and downloadable teacher and student versions of the activity.<sup>iii</sup>

For the *Creating and Taking a Survey* the downloadable student worksheet has four sections starting with three different tables where students will write their results. The instructions ask students to collect data about their peers by asking questions such as: How old are you? Do you have a pet at home? How many people live in your home?

From there, students take a survey themselves through the next two questions ask how many people live in their home and how many pets they have. The integration of census data here is students are also required to answer how many people live in homes and pet stores there are on average in their respective state. This gives the teacher an opportunity to share this data and explain how the census uses a similar survey process to collect the data, like the students just completed.<sup>iv</sup>

Lastly, the students are prompted to come up with three additional questions they could ask their peers or family to create a survey. These students and teacher worksheets are not the only materials provided, there is also a *State Facts for Students* interactive map that allows students to explore population demographics, how people get to work, how many businesses we have, and so on. The combination of actual census data and interactive collection experiments for the students is a great example of how the census both gives back to our schools and teachers students' important information. The learning objectives for this particular example are count and write numbers from 0 to 100; compare quantities using the terms "more than," "less than," and "equal to;" understand the concept of a survey; and why it's important they are counted in the 2020 Census.<sup>v</sup>

In addition to these specific classroom activities for varying grade levels, there are also resources for Pre-K, English Language Learners (ELL), and Adult English as a Second Language (ESL). For these programs, there are materials available in both English and Spanish, to engage children under 5 and the adults who care for them.<sup>vi</sup>

For Pre-K, there is a storybook with varying activities and interactive narratives, a video series, a sing-along video, and interactive activities covering topics such as counting, colors, and animals.<sup>vii</sup> For the ELL program, adapted K-12 activities are offered for students and teachers. These activities resemble the activities English-speaking K-12 students and teachers used but updated with compatible learning language and easy-to-relay facts. Similarly, with ESL these materials are adapted from general Census SIS information into easy-to-understand language for those learning English and a detailed guide for those educating.<sup>viii</sup>

The 2020 Census aims to not only count everyone for a variety of reasons relating to the wellness of our country, but also to measure the growth and success of our students and learners. Whether it's through the various activities, videos, or interactive maps, the U.S. Census Bureau is attempting to connect with everyone on what the Census really means and all the varying ways we use the data. By integrating this data into schools, our students are gaining various competencies while learning about the diverse makeup of their country.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.census.gov/schools?#>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/k-12/creating-taking-survey.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/k-12/creating-taking-survey.html>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sis/activities/2020/stateside-k-12/ssk2-3-student.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> [census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/k-12/creating-taking-survey.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/k-12/creating-taking-survey.html)

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sis/resources/2020/sis-resources-for-every-grade.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sis/resources/2020/sis-resources-for-every-grade.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sis/resources/2020/sis-resources-for-every-grade.pdf>