

Figure 1. Cover letter for Transcript Survey materials

February 3, 2000

Dear Principal:

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago is conducting a survey called the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). The survey is intended to collect, on a nationwide basis, information pertaining to the employment, job training, education, and family experiences of young adults born from 1980 to 1984. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and supervised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the survey provides researchers with data relevant for examining linkages between family, education, and employment outcomes.

While we collect a great amount of information about the home environment for these youth, it also is vital that we learn about their school environment and academic success. For this reason, the U.S. Department of Labor is asking for your voluntary cooperation in providing information about the school experiences of these youth.

Specifically, we would appreciate your help in providing the following:

- School transcripts for the student(s) listed on the enclosed permission forms
- Answers to the enclosed one-page questionnaire that will provide additional information to help us interpret the transcript information we collect from schools across the nation
- A copy of your course catalog or a listing of your course offerings

Enclosed is a copy of the signed permission form for each student for whom we are requesting information. NORC obtained signatures from the student and from the parents of all students under the age of 18 years. For students 18 years of age and older, we accepted the youth's signature as adequate consent. NORC is sensitive to the need to maintain the confidentiality of all respondents in this survey. Identifying information is protected in accordance with the Privacy Act statement provided on the back of this form. In addition, we have enclosed a brochure to provide additional information about this important longitudinal research effort.


NORC estimates that it will take an average of 30 minutes per student to complete the enclosed questionnaire and prepare a copy of the transcript information.

Please fill out the enclosed reimbursement form, which allows you to be reimbursed in the amount of \$10.00 per student for any costs associated with reproducing transcripts. Also enclosed is a postage-paid business reply envelope for returning the student list, transcript(s), completed questionnaire, and course listings to NORC.

We look forward to receiving your completed documents within the next two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please call our project information line at 1-877-400-0449. You may call at any time; if we are not able to assist you at the time of your call, we will return your call within one business day. You may also write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Survey, 2 Massachusetts Avenue N.E., Washington, DC 20212. The OMB clearance number for this survey is 1220-0157. Without this current OMB number, BLS could not conduct this survey.

We appreciate your support and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Michael Horrigan
Program Director, BLS



A. Rupa Datta
Project Director, NORC

Figure 2. Cover sheet for school-specific information

TRANSCRIPTS COVER SHEET		NORC/4896 1/00
National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 - Transcript Survey Supplement		
SCHOOL NAME: EXAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL		
SCHOOL ID: _____		
PREPARER'S NAME: _____		DATE PREPARED: _____
PREPARER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: (____) _____		E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
Please answer the following questions about the transcripts being provided. Your answers will help us analyze the transcripts.		
1. Please specify below your school's grade scale (the percentage equivalent of each letter grade). (If your school uses different grade scales for different difficulty levels of courses or tracks (honors, general, special education, etc.), please specify the scale associated with each. If your school has only one scale, record the information in the first column.)		
LEVEL _____	LEVEL _____	LEVEL _____
A = _____ % to _____ %	A = _____ % to _____ %	A = _____ % to _____ %
B = _____ % to _____ %	B = _____ % to _____ %	B = _____ % to _____ %
C = _____ % to _____ %	C = _____ % to _____ %	C = _____ % to _____ %
D = _____ % to _____ %	D = _____ % to _____ %	D = _____ % to _____ %
F = _____ % to _____ %	F = _____ % to _____ %	F = _____ % to _____ %
2. Is any of the information below unavailable at your school, and consequently not included on the transcripts enclosed? Check off each variable that is <u>unavailable</u>. (Please retrieve any information that is available at your school from other sources, such as guidance records, and write the information on each student's transcript.)		
3. <u>Student-level information</u>		
_____	number of absences per year or term	
_____	rank in class and class size	
_____	date student left school	
_____	reason student left school (graduated, transferred, etc.)	
_____	GPA	
_____	standardized test scores for the:	
_____	PSAT	ACT
_____	SAT	AP
<u>Course-taking histories for grades 9 (or 10) through 12, including:</u>		
_____	course title	
_____	grade level, year, and term course taken	
_____	number of credits earned	
_____	grade assigned	
4. Please feel free to record below any information about the transcripts enclosed that you believe would be helpful in processing them.		

Thank you for your help. We appreciate your cooperation.		

Figure 3. Student Request list identifying sample students

STUDENT TRANSCRIPT REQUEST LIST

National Longitudinal survey of Youth 1997 - Transcript survey Supplement

2/03/00

School Name: EXAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL
 School ID#: XXXXXXXX
 State: ST

INSTRUCTIONS: Please return transcripts for each student listed below. Please indicate whether he/she has participated in a special education, bilingual education, or gifted course or program by circling yes or no. If you are unable to provide a transcript for a student, please indicate the reason (such as "never attended", "transferred") in the "COMMENTS" column to the right of the student's name. If a student transferred to or from another school, please return any transcripts that you have, and write in the name, city and state of the transfer school in the "COMMENTS" column.

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS DOCUMENT WHEN RETURNING TRANSCRIPTS.

STUDENT INFORMATION	Has the student participated in any courses or programs in the following areas? (PLEASE CIRCLE ANSWER.)			TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION	
	Special Education?	Bilingual Education?	Gifted Courses or Program?	Transcript Returned?	COMMENTS: (Additional information? Reason transcript not returned? If applicable, transfer school name, city, state.)
Please supply transcripts and answer questions for each student listed below: ID#: XXXXXX1 Student Name: LAST NAME III, FIRST NAME Birth Date: XX/XX/19XX Attendance Last Verified: XX/19XX	Yes	No	Yes	No	
ID#: XXXXXX2 Student Name: LAST NAME III, FIRST NAME Birth Date: XX/XX/19XX Attendance Last Verified: XX/19XX	Yes	No	Yes	No	

Figure 4 continued. Student permission form (reverse side)

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C.552a), you are hereby notified that this survey is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, under authority of 29 U.S.C.2. Your participation is vital to the success of the survey and is voluntary. The information collected in this survey will be used by BLS and other researchers to understand the labor market experience of individuals over time. BLS makes available to the general public and other federal agencies conducting labor force research information that are not individually identifiable. Under written agreements to protect the confidentiality and security of identifying information, BLS provides potentially-identifying geographic information to researchers to conduct specific research projects that further the mission and function of BLS. Unless required by law, or necessary for litigation or legal proceedings, and except as provided in the Privacy Act or as indicated in this statement, we will hold personal identifiers (e.g., name, address, or social security number) in confidence and will not release them to the public. BLS may release identifying data to the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) and the Ohio State University, and contractors, grantees, and their employees or volunteers who are working on this project for BLS and who need access to the material, or to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration for records management purposes.