

Institute of Education Sciences
National Center for Education Statistics

ADDENDUM ON PROJECTIONS OF EDUCATION STATISTICS:
PRESENTATION AND METHODOLOGY

ADDENDUM TO WHITE PAPER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is an addendum to the “White Paper on NCES Projections of Education Statistics: Presentation and Methodology” (Karr, 2009) delivered to NCES by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) and dated October 26, 2009. That White Paper was written specifically in terms of Hussar and Bailey (2008). However it is substantially applicable to the more recent Hussar and Bailey (2009), as well as future versions of the *Projections of Education Statistics*.

This addendum addresses in detail two issues identified at a meeting of NCES and NISS personnel held on January 12, 2010:

1. Whether to employ alternating shading of groups of rows, in tables, which is sometimes termed “zebra striping.”
2. The extent to which, and form in which, multiple scenarios are presented in projections or forecasts disseminated by other Federal statistical agencies.

Briefly, the principal recommendations in this addendum are that NCES:

1. Employ alternating shading of groups of one, two or three rows in tables, with the choice of grouping size determined by context.
2. In light of the investigation of the very limited use of scenarios by other agencies, consider seriously dropping the “Low” and “High” projections entirely, from both the online and PDF versions of the *Projections of Education Statistics*.

This addendum also contains an amplification of comments in Karr (2009) regarding the methodology used to prepare the *Projections of Education Statistics*.

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