



NLTS2 Update

Spring 2005



The National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) is an exciting study being conducted for the U.S. Department of Education. It includes more than 11,000 youth nationwide who were ages 13 through 16 when the study began in the 2000-2001 school year. We are following the progress and life experiences of these youth by collecting information from youth, parents, and schools at various points over 9 years. We are in the fourth year of this study, and this is the third time we are speaking with parents. Thank you to the thousands of parents, youth, and teachers who have taken the time to be part of this important study by filling out a questionnaire or answering questions during telephone interviews. We greatly appreciate your time and help.

Parent and youth interviews will begin this spring and end in the fall. Parents will be asked to update us on the recent experiences of their sons and daughters. We also will contact youth directly who are able to complete a telephone interview or a mail questionnaire about their experiences.

Who is conducting this study?

SRI International, with help from RTI, two large and respected research organizations that have been conducting research for many years, are conducting this study for the U.S. Department of Education.

Why should we be in NLTS2?

It is very important that NLTS2 represent young people with all kinds of backgrounds, abilities, and school programs. On the basis of your family's unique experiences, along with those of other families nationwide, we will be able to recommend improvements to programs and policies that help youth have successful school and early adult experiences.

Weren't we interviewed 2 years ago?

We hope to talk with you again to learn about how things have changed for the youth over time. By interviewing families and youth periodically, we will be able to understand better how life changes for youth as they go from high school to adult life.

Do we have a choice?

Of course you have a choice! Your participation is completely voluntary, but we strongly encourage you to take part. As a thank-you for completing a telephone interview or written questionnaire, you will receive a \$20 check.

A few interesting NLTS2 findings:

- More students with disabilities have a job now than similar students did 15 years ago.
- Eighty percent of parents report they are somewhat or very satisfied with their children's schooling.
- Parents tend to be more satisfied with their children's teachers and special education services than with their children's schools.

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