

Comparable districts to Dresden School District

Statement of Purpose

This analysis provides four lists of districts comparable to Dresden Interstate District based on a different criteria. Because the district is unique in its structure and employment base as the home of Dartmouth College and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, as an interstate district, as a component district, and its location in a rural area, this report uses a number of variables to define comparability.

Methodology

Data Sources

Data was collected from three national data series. The first dataset includes demographic, housing, and social variables from School District Demographics, produced by the Census Bureau for the National Commission on Education Statistics (NCES), the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Education. The demographic data is for 2000. The variables used from School District Demographics were

- Total population of the school district,
- Percentage of persons employed in Management, professional, and related occupations,
- Percentage of persons employed in professional occupations of Education, training, and library,
- Percentage of persons employed in professional occupations of Healthcare practitioners, i.e. doctors and nurses,
- Median household income,
- Percentage of persons with a Master's degree, Professional degree, or PhD.,
- Percentage of black and Hispanic population (not significant),
- Percentage of persons 18 to 24 (proxy for college town),
- Value of owner-occupied housing (this is a proxy for wealth),

The second dataset is the Common Core of Data (CCD) from NCES. The CCD survey annually collects data about all public elementary and secondary schools and school districts throughout the United States. The variables used from CCD were

- Grades included in the district,
- Number of students enrolled,
- Locale codes. Locale codes are used to differentiate between central city, suburban, and rural districts. Locale codes also differentiate between schools in rural areas of urban counties (for example, fringe areas of large cities) and rural areas that are more isolated. Dresden has a locale code of 6, Small town: An incorporated place with population between 2,500 and 25,000 located outside a major metropolitan area. For the comparison of Dresden, data was also used for locale code 7: Rural district outside a metropolitan county. More information on Locale Codes is available from Supplemental Notes for the Condition of Education, <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/2003/notes/n01.asp>)
- School district type code. Dresden is defined as a component school district, that is, "a component of a supervisory union sharing a superintendent and administrative services with other local school districts."

The third data set is the 2001-2002 Census of Governments, collected by the Census Bureau from 2001 Annual Survey of Local Governments. This data set includes public elementary-secondary education finance data, such as revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets (cash and security holdings)