

APPENDIX 2: Survey Methodology and Data Sources

From January 24 to April 12, 2018, EdChoice administered a first-of-its-kind survey of New Hampshire's private K–12 schools. The purpose of that assessment was seven-fold: (1) forecast a count of currently available seats and capacities to enroll additional students, (2) measure the familiarity with and potential interest in various private school choice programs, (3) determine the rules and regulations that concern schools the most, (4) estimate the average and median private school tuition, (5) document how many schools provide tuition assistance, (6) determine the current testing programs, if any, in effect for those schools, and (7) document how many schools serve students with special needs.

According to the USDOE, there were 259 private schools serving 19,993 students overall in New Hampshire during 2015–16.¹ The EdChoice survey received responses from 36 private schools operating in New Hampshire serving approximately 3,772 K–12 and ungraded students. Based on the USDOE's total number of New Hampshire private school students, this represents nearly one-fifth (19%) of the state's private school population; based on the USDOE's total number of New Hampshire K–12 private schools, this represents approximately one-seventh (14%) of the state's private schools.

EdChoice used a November 2017 list of New Hampshire non-public schools obtained from the state's Department of Education website. There were 136 private schools on the survey contact list that met at least the following three conditions:

- (1) the school had a working email address or phone number; and
- (2) the school was not part of a residential treatment facility, such as an in-patient mental health hospital.
- (3) the school taught at least one grade within the K–12 grade level range

An additional school that was not on the state's list but was referred by an endorsing organization was also surveyed, resulting in a total of 137 surveys sent to New Hampshire private schools. No schools refused the survey, and 36 submitted responses. Therefore, the EdChoice survey had a 26 percent school-level response rate for enrollment and capacity and equal or lower response rates for the other data points. Complete responses were received from 33 private schools, which equates to a 24 percent complete response rate.²

To minimize coverage bias, the authors took the following steps:

- compiled private school email list from the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue;
- called schools to collect missing email addresses;
- contacted all 137 schools at least three times directing them to the SurveyMonkey link containing the survey;
- verified school email addresses through school websites, where possible; and
- called remaining non-respondents to ensure email was received and to further encourage participation.

EdChoice's survey sample should provide a meaningful representation of the state's private school sector.

¹ Stephen P. Broughman, Adam Rettig, and Jennifer Peterson (2017), *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2015–16 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2017-073), table 15, p. 21, retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2017/2017073.pdf>

² EdChoice incentivized schools to complete the survey by entering them into a randomized drawing to win a \$1,000 gift card or one of five \$200 gift cards.