



# Private Secondary School Licensed Data Set—2009 Database Overview

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Peterson's Private Secondary School Database is the only comprehensive private school database available. Within it you will find information about hundreds of day, boarding, special needs, and junior boarding schools throughout the United States, Canada, and many other foreign countries. This database is one of the longest standing at Peterson's, and is the authoritative source of information on privately provided secondary education.

This Overview is designed to give you a broad sense of the database. A Data Dictionary, comprised of detailed descriptions of the tables and fields in the database is available in a separate document.

## **UNIVERSE:**

The database for 2009 contains 1,509 private schools (including 99 special needs schools and 18 junior boarding schools). All schools in the database, except for those identified as special needs or junior boarding, have curricula that are primarily college preparatory.

Each year, Peterson's conducts a comprehensive review of the membership lists of accrediting and approving bodies for secondary schools. Newly listed schools are added to Peterson's database and surveyed.

## **TIME FRAME:**

The database contains information from 2008-2009 or the most recent academic year for which data was provided. The database is updated annually, in conjunction with the release of updated guides and electronic products. Archived databases are available, beginning with the 1996-1997 academic year. Databases from the 1996-1997 and 1997-1998 academic years are stored in legacy structures; databases from the 1998-1999 academic year forward are stored in structures consistent with the current set.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA VERIFICATION:**

In October, *Private Secondary Schools Online Survey* is made available to the appropriate personnel at all schools in the universe. For schools that have previously been included, prior year figures are available for review. Officials from the schools submit responses by confirming that pre-existing information is correct or providing new or updated information. For institutions within key categories that do not initially respond, considerable effort is undertaken in follow-up to obtain information.

## **GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

As noted above, the Private Secondary School Database includes approved/accredited institutions in the United States and U.S. territories (1,317), Canada (112), and 33 other nations (80).

## **DATABASE VERSATILITY AND EXTENT OF USE:**

Peterson's Private Secondary School Database is the source of information published in *Private Secondary Schools 2010* (30th Edition) and Peterson's Education Supersite (K-12 Schools and Programs Channel) at <http://www.petersons.com/>.