



Data Tip: Zeroes, Null and NS

Below are some guidelines about when to use zeroes, nulls or NS in reporting CRDC data.

When to Report 0

If data are available and applicable for a given school or LEA, but no students fall in that particular category, report 0.

When the CRDC data are published, zeroes are included in calculations for averages, means, percentages and other statistical measures.

When to Use Null Values

When entering data on screen, if a data element does not apply, leave the cell null (i.e., blank).

When submitting data through a flat file, use a null value (i.e., blank) if data are missing or not applicable. For example, elementary schools will have null values (i.e., blanks) for items that only apply to middle schools or high schools.

When to Use NS

There may be situations where a data value was incorrectly uploaded and needs to be deleted. A null value (i.e., blank) in a file upload will not overwrite an existing value in a field, so in these cases, submit the value "NS" to return the data to a "not submitted" or null status.

NS only applies to file uploads and is not used in the on-screen data entry.

A null value means data are missing or not applicable.

NS returns a data cell to "not submitted" or null status.