

**Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi):  
On using the Federal State label in conjunction with data of the  
National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)  
in the starting cohorts of schools and higher education institutions**

(January 2015)

In concurrence with the regulations of the Research Data Center at the Institute for Educational Quality Improvement (Institut zur Qualitätsentwicklung im Bildungswesen, IQB), using the Federal State label in conjunction with NEPS data collected in connection with schools or higher education institutions is permitted in the following cases:

- a) Using the Federal State label in the context of exploring scientific research questions is permitted if it is exclusively used for control purposes in order to incorporate it as a co-variate in the planned analysis. The identification of individual Federal States in the displayed results is impermissible.
- b) Using the Federal State label in the context of exploring scientific research questions is permitted if it is exclusively used for incorporating contextual characteristics or other third-party variables. The identification of individual Federal States in the displayed results is impermissible.
- c) Using the Federal State label in the context of exploring scientific research questions is permitted if it is exclusively used for comparing aggregated groups of Federal States where at least two states are combined to form a single meaningful group with regard to substantive issues. The identification of individual Federal States in the displayed results is impermissible.
- d) Using the Federal State label in the context of exploring scientific research questions is permitted if it is exclusively used for sample descriptions (e.g., the distribution of participants by state and by different types of schools within states).

When using data collected in connection with schools or higher education institutions, it is not allowed to use Federal-State-related information directly or indirectly contained in the data for analyses aiming at a direct Federal State comparison, direct conclusions to be drawn about a Federal State, or a reconstruction of the concrete Federal State affiliation of persons, households, and institutions.

The Federal State label in the starting cohorts of schools and higher education institutions is provided by LifBi to the scientific community only via remote access (remoteNEPS) and—depending on availability—via guest working stations in Bamberg (on-site). The respective analysis results are reviewed by LifBi to ensure that this agreement has been observed before being passed on electronically to the researcher in a password-protected environment. The abovementioned restrictions concerning the use of the Federal State label do not apply to data collected in a nonschool context and/or in Federal-State-specific educational reform studies.