Readme file

Manuscript Title: "Can Achievement Peer Effect Estimates Inform Policy? A View from Inside the Black Box"

Details on replication of Table 2 of the manuscript

The data are proprietary and can be obtained through contract from the North Carolina Education Research Data Center (http://childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/research/nc-education-data-center/). The researcher must meet receive IRB approval and meet other requirements for handling sensitive data (such as necessary data security protocols) as outlined on their website.

The raw data files for this table are the End of Grade files from grades 3 to 8, 1995 to 2006.

- Co_S_EOG_limitedA.do
    - This file calls in each of the raw EOG data files corresponding to each grade/year (and treating the files as if they were in the present directory) and chooses a subset of variables to keep.
- Co_S_EOG_Rescale.do
    - Calls in 2 files used to deal with rescaling of the tests that are provided by the NCERDC. These are: EOGReadRescale.txt and EOGMathRescale.txt.
- Cl_S_EOG_limtedA.do
    - Cleans the data, creating relevant variables and making sure race/gender, etc are consistent across years
- Cl_S_EOG_limitedA_testrescale.do
    - Rescales math and reading tests when new scales introduced to keep consistent across years
- Cr_eog.do
    - Further data cleaning, standardizing test scores,etc
    - Note that test scores are standardized for each grade to use 1997 as the base year. They are also transformed into deviations from the cutoff for passing the exam before standardizing, to help adjust for changes in exams over the period where the passing threshold changed. The paper mistakenly reports that test scores are standardized for each grade/year rather than benchmarking to 1997.
- Cr_peer.do
    - Creates peer variables
- Anpeer.do
    - Runs regressions in Table 2