Replication Archive

"Patterns and Implications of Ability Tracking: Evidence from Texas Public Schools"

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This document describes how to reproduce the results in "Patterns and Implications of Ability Tracking: Evidence from Texas Public Schools."

1. **Data Access – Obtain access to restricted-access data**
   Obtain access to test score records and other TEA administrative records through the Texas Education Research Center (ERC). To obtain Texas ERC data, please follow the instructions on their website (https://texaserc.utexas.edu).
   The required files are listed in "Data Guide.xlsx," tab "Data Requirements."

2. **Align File Paths – Copy restricted-access data to appropriate folders**
   ERC data files should be copied to the replication archive folder according to the file structure described in "Data Guide.xlsx," tab "Data Requirements." Briefly, all standardized test score files belong in "/data/TAASandTAKSandSTAAR/", and all other ERC files belong in "/data/TEA/."
   Then, open "paths.do" in the Replication Archive and input as ROOTFOLDER the full path of the Replication Archive. Other scripts require "paths.do" to find relevant files in the project folder.

3. **Run Code – Run .do and .r files in order**
   In order to generate all of our results, all scripts are required. These scripts are a mix of Stata dofiles which perform most of the analysis and few R files which organize some of the results to generate a few of the tables and figures. Most scripts depend on earlier scripts, so they must be run in order:
   tracking_0.do
   tracking_1.do
   tracking_2.do
   tracking_3.do
   tracking_4.do
   tracking_5.do
   tracking_6.do
   tracking_7.do - Note: This script may take several days to run.
   tracking_8.do
   tracking_9.do - Note: This script may take several days to run.

tracking_10.r
tracking_11.do
txtr_1.do
txtr_2.do
txtr_3.do
txtr_4.do
txtr_5.r
txtr_6.do
track_mob_1.do
track_mob_2.do
track_mob_3.do
track_mob_4.r
track_mob_5.do
track_mob_6.do
track_mob_7.r

4. **Examine Output – Output files should match our results**
   Code generates results in "/output/", intermediate datasets in "/working/", and Stata logs in "/log/". A list of the outputs and their relation to specific tables and figures can be found in "Data Guide.xlsx," tab "Data Requirements." Note that, as stated there, many statistics cited in the paper are collected in three of the Stata logs: "/log/tracking_11.log", "/log/track_mob-5.log", and "/log/txtr_6.log".