

# NCES Locale Framework

NCES classifies geographic locations as City, Suburban, Town, and Rural, with additional subclassifications for population size and proximity to larger areas. The NCES Locale framework relies on urban area criteria defined by the Census Bureau, and NCES extends standard urban and rural classifications to provide additional detail. The NCES classifications and corresponding two-digit locale codes are included below and can be visualized with the [Locale Lookup](#) map tool. Additional information is available from the NCES Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates ([EDGE](#)) Program and the [Locale Boundaries Technical Documentation](#).

| Locale Code | Locale Type - Subtype | Definition  |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| 11          | City - Large          | Territory inside an urban area with population of 50,000 or more and inside a principal city with population of 250,000 or more.  |
| 12          | City - Midsize        | Territory inside an urban area with population of 50,000 or more and inside a principal city with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.  |
| 13          | City - Small          | Territory inside an urban area with population of 50,000 or more and inside a principal city with population less than 100,000.   |
| 21          | Suburban - Large      | Territory outside a principal city and inside an urban area with population of 250,000 or more.   |
| 22          | Suburban - Midsize    | Territory outside a principal city and inside an urban area with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.   |
| 23          | Suburban - Small      | Territory outside a principal city and inside an urban area with population less than 100,000 and greater than or equal to 50,000.  |
| 31          | Town - Fringe         | Territory inside an urban area with population less than 50,000 that is less than or equal to 10 miles from an urban area with population of 50,000 or more.  |
| 32          | Town - Distant        | Territory inside an urban area with population less than 50,000 that is more than 10 miles and less than or equal to 35 miles from an urban area with population of 50,000 or more.   |
| 33          | Town - Remote         | Territory inside an urban area with population less than 50,000 that is more than 35 miles from an urban area with population of 50,000 or more.  |
| 41          | Rural - Fringe        | Territory outside an urban area that is less than or equal to 5 miles from an urban area with population of 50,000 or more, as well as territory outside an urban area that is less than or equal to 2.5 miles from an urban area with population less than 50,000.   |
| 42          | Rural - Distant       | Territory outside an urban area that is more than 5 miles but less than or equal to 25 miles from an urban area with population of 50,000 or more, as well as territory outside an urban area that is more than 2.5 miles but less than or equal to 10 miles from an urban area with population less than 50,000. |
| 43          | Rural - Remote        | Territory outside an urban area that is more than 25 miles from an urban area with population of 50,000 or more and is also more than 10 miles from an urban area with population less than 50,000.   |

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