



FY2025 Coordinates in the HS Sponsor File Are Systematically Wrong

94% of FY2025 sponsor latitude/longitude values point to the wrong location — confirmed by two independent methods. FY2022–24 and FY2026 are clean.

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The Lat/Long columns for fiscal year 2025 are corrupt. Account, address, city, state, ZIP, drives, and units all look correct — but the coordinates place sponsors hundreds to thousands of miles from where they actually are. Any map, dashboard, or geographic count built on FY2025 coordinates is wrong. The other fiscal years are unaffected.

How It Was Verified — Two Independent Tests

94.2%

TEST A — STATE VS. ITS OWN COORDINATES

For every geocoded row, compare the row's own State field to the U.S. state that the row's own Lat/Long actually falls in. A mismatch means the coordinate is wrong. FY2025: **41,604 of 44,149 rows mismatched (94.2%)**. By contrast FY2022 = 0.0%, FY2023 = 0.0%, FY2024 = 0.0%, FY2026 = 0.0%. Only FY2025 fails.

95%

TEST B — EACH SPONSOR AGAINST ITS OWN HISTORY (NO EXTERNAL MAP)

Sponsors recur year to year. Compare each FY2025 coordinate to the *same sponsor's* coordinate in the clean years. **95% of FY2025 sponsors are more than 100 miles from their own prior location; the median displacement is 750 miles.** This test uses only the file itself — no outside geography — so it cannot be explained by any mapping choice on our end.

Nature of the Corruption

Of the misplaced FY2025 coordinates, **46% exactly match the real location of a *different* sponsor** elsewhere in the file. That pattern indicates the FY2025 Lat/Long values were **shuffled or misaligned across rows** during file production — not random noise and not a projection error. The fix belongs upstream, where the FY2025 coordinates are assigned.

Worked Examples — Verify These by Hand

Each sponsor's city, state, and ZIP (straight from the file) are correct. The FY2025 coordinate lands in a different state entirely. None of these institutions has moved.

SPONSOR (PER FILE)	LOCATED (FILE)	FY2025 COORD LANDS IN	MILES OFF
Saint Mary's College	Moraga, CA 94575	Maine	2,771
Dartmouth College	Hanover, NH 03755	Oregon	2,498
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Ballston Spa, NY 12020	California	2,497
Cabrillo College	Aptos, CA 95003	Virginia	2,491
Tidewater Community College	Chesapeake, VA 23322	Oregon	2,481
Temple University (Kappa Psi)	Philadelphia, PA 19122	Oregon	2,468
Plymouth State University	Plymouth, NH 03264	Oregon	2,460
Princeton University	Princeton, NJ 08544	Oregon	2,450

Impact

Anything that places or counts FY2025 sponsors by coordinate is affected: maps, county/region/division roll-ups by geography, per-capita and coverage metrics, and any dashboard that plots FY2025 drive locations. As one measure of scale, a single region's FY2025 unit total read **290,815** when sponsors were attributed by the bad coordinates, versus **192,999** after repair — a ~51% overstatement caused purely by out-of-region points landing inside the region.

Recommended Action

1. Confirm at the source how FY2025 Lat/Long are produced and re-issue the file with correct coordinates.
2. Audit any downstream application that maps or geographically aggregates FY2025 data.
3. Until corrected, derive FY2025 location from address/ZIP or from the same sponsor's prior-year coordinates rather than the FY2025 Lat/Long field.