National Cooperative Education Statistics System
National Forum on Education Statistics
Annual Report
2014–2015

Officers
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Vice Chair: Peter Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Past Chair: Lee Rabbitt, Pawtucket School Department (RI)

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Vice Chair: Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)

Policies, Programs and Implementation Committee (PPI)
Vice Chair: David Weinberger, Yonkers Public Schools (NY)

Technology Committee (TECH)
Chair: Michael Hopkins, Rochester School District (NH)
Vice Chair: Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education

Completed Working Groups & Publications

SCED Version 3.0
Purpose: School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) is a voluntary, common classification system for prior-to-secondary and secondary school courses that can be used to compare course information, maintain longitudinal data about student coursework, and efficiently exchange coursetaking records. SCED includes elements and attributes that identify basic course information and that can be adopted and adapted to meet the specific needs of education agencies. The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) established a SCED Working Group to regularly review and update SCED with the assistance of subject matter experts at the local, state, and national levels. SCED Version 3.0 was released December 2014. It focused on new and updated standardized courses, including International Baccalaureate and Project Lead the Way; new and updated Family and Consumer Sciences courses; and new courses from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Transcript Studies. As part of the SCED project, SCED courses were mapped to the NCES Classification of Secondary School Courses (CSSC) system, and NCES Transcript Studies now use SCED.

Lee Rabbitt (Chair), Pawtucket School Department (RI)
Marilyn King, Bozeman Public Schools (MT)
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education

Zachary Mangold, Maryland State Department of Education
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)
Janice Petro, Colorado Department of Education
Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultants:
Kristina Dunman and Beth Young, Quality Information Partners
Nicole Ifill, RTI International

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Forum Guide to College and Career Ready Data
Purpose: This guide was developed by the College and Career Ready (CCR) Working Group to explore how state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) can use data to support college and career readiness initiatives. It identifies five ways that high-quality data can support CCR efforts: (1) fostering individualized learning for students; (2) supporting educators in identifying and addressing student-specific needs; (3) guiding CCR programmatic decisions through the use of postsecondary feedback loops; (4) measuring progress made by education agencies in achieving CCR accountability and continuous improvement goals; and (5) maximizing career opportunities for all students. The document presents five data use cases related to these goals. The use cases and appendices are intended to serve as a practical guide for determining the appropriate data elements, metrics, and reporting tools needed to support specific CCR initiatives within SEAs and LEAs.

Lee Rabbitt (Chair), Pawtucket School Department (RI)
Justin Baer, formerly of the Regional Education Laboratory (REL) Appalachia
Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education
Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education
John Kraman, formerly of the Oklahoma State Department of Education
Christina Tydeman, formerly of the Hawaii State Department of Education
David Weinberger, Yonkers Public Schools (NY)

Consultant: Deborah Newby, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Forum Guide to Alternative Measures of Socioeconomic Status in Education Data Systems
Purpose: This guide was developed by the Alternative Socioeconomic Status (SES) Measures Working Group to identify alternative measures of SES that meet the needs of the education community. It provides encyclopedia-type entries for eight different SES measures. Because

there is no single "best practice" recommendation, the document also includes a thorough discussion concerning how an education agency can evaluate, adopt, and implement alternative SES measures. The document focuses on the needs and possible solutions for administrative records in education data systems and does not reflect the full spectrum of opportunities available to the research community.

Matt Cohen (Chair), Ohio Department of Education
Chris Chapman, National Center for Education Statistics
Sonya Edwards, California Department of Education
Michael Hawes, U.S. Department of Education
Michael Hopkins, Rochester School District (NH)
Thomas Howell, Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information
Robert Rodosky, Jefferson County Public Schools (KY)
Ross Santy, National Center for Education Statistics
Marilyn Seastrom, National Center for Education Statistics
Todd Stephenson, U.S. Department of Education
Marie Stetser, National Center for Education Statistics
William Ward, National Center for Education Statistics

Consultant: Tom Szuba, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Current Working Groups

Virtual Education Working Group
Purpose: The Virtual Education Working Group is reviewing and updating the 2006 Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education, which was developed to assist SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders with best practices and elements for incorporating virtual education data into education data systems. Virtual education has expanded and changed since 2006, and the Forum Virtual Education Working Group will revise the guide to ensure that it is comprehensive, up-to-date, and accurate.

Laurel Krsek (Chair), San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Noralee Deason, Effingham County Schools (GA)
James Hawbaker, Appleton Area School District (WI)
Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education
Adrian Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
Peter Tamayo, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Consultant: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) Working Group
Purpose: Course offerings and course descriptions evolve over time. SCED must reflect up-to-date course offerings to remain relevant, and updates must be implemented in a manner that maintains the structure and integrity of the established SCED standard. This Working Group is tasked with regularly reviewing and updating SCED. The most recent SCED Version (3.0) was released December 2014, and the Working Group is currently updating the following SCED Course Subject Areas in preparation for the next release:

- Course Subject Area 01: English Language and Literature
- Course Subject Area 02: Mathematics
- Course Subject Area 03: Life and Physical Sciences
- Course Subject Area 04: Social Sciences and History
- Course Subject Area 06: Foreign Language and Literature
- Course Subject Area 07: Religious Education and Theology
- Course Subject Area 08: Physical, Health, and Safety Education
- Course Subject Area 09: Military Science
- Course Subject Area 22: Miscellaneous
- Course Subject Area 23: Non-Subject-Specific
- Standardized Courses in multiple Course Subject Areas, such as International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and Project Lead the Way

Lee Rabbitt (Chair), Pawtucket School Department (RI)
Marilyn King, Bozeman Public Schools (MT)
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education
Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Janice Petro, Colorado Department of Education
Thomas Purwin, Jersey City Public Schools (NJ)
Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultants:
Kristina Dunman and Beth Young, Quality Information Partners
Nicole Ifill, RTI International

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Communications Subcommittee
Purpose: The Communications Subcommittee is charged with considering the ways in which the Forum communicates with its members, potential partner organizations, and other audiences. Moreover, Forum Communications Subcommittee members work to promote the dissemination

of information about the Forum and Forum publications. The Communications Subcommittee meets at the annual Forum meeting and in the spring. Recent discussion topics have included improving access to existing Forum materials, increasing the usability of the Forum website, introducing new collaborative tools, identifying Forum meeting topics, and engaging new members in Forum work.

David Weinberger (Chair), Yonkers Public Schools (NY)
Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Thomas Purwin, Jersey City Public Schools (NJ)
Lee Rabbitt, Pawtucket School Department (RI)
Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish School System (LA)
Andre Smith, Florida Department of Education
Levette Williams, Georgia Department of Education
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultant: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Forum Virtual Activities

Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) Update
In October 2014, each Forum Standing Committee (Technology Committee [TECH], National Education Statistics Agenda Committee [NESAC], and Policies, Programs and Implementation Committee [PPI]) conducted webinars with Abby Potts (NCES) on the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). The presentations included an overview of the 2013-14 CRDC and a preview of the new online tool that will be used in the 2013-14 data collection. Abby highlighted unique functions within the tool and facilitated a Q&A discussion regarding resources on the CRDC GRADS 360 website (https://crdc.grads360.org/#program). Discussion topics included the fl at file submission process, communications to LEAs and SEAs, vendor involvement, resources on the website, and the online submission timeline. Information from the pilot will be shared with Forum members.

Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) Update
Dale King, Director of the Family Policy Compliance Office, led a full Forum webinar presentation titled "Update from the Family Policy Compliance Office on Privacy Issues and Recent Guidance." Dale's presentation offered in-depth reviews of key issues and major questions on recent guidance. Topics included the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and disclosures to community-based organizations; guidance on the Uninterrupted Scholars Act; protecting student privacy while using online educational services; letters of significance to the University of Massachusetts, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B and C crosswalk; and health and safety emergency exception. Dale also

encouraged participants to utilize the new FPCO resources website (http://familypolicy.ed.gov/). Dale and Forum members engaged in further discussion about FERPA exceptions around directory information and disclosures to community-based organizations.

Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands (REL-NEI) College Readiness Data Catalog Tool

Julie Riordan, REL-NEI Director of Research, led a Forum webinar on the REL-NEI Data Catalog Tool: User Guide. Julie provided Forum members with an overview of the REL-NEI research alliance topics and explained how the data catalog tool was developed in response to research questions posed by the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) College and Career Readiness Research Alliance. The tool is designed to identify college readiness indicators and determine the availability and reliability of data elements. It is adaptable and can be customized to meet the needs of other education agencies as well as other topic areas. Julie discussed the organization of the tool according to three overarching constructs and the indicators that accompany each construct: (1) High School Academic Performance and Engagement, (2) Postsecondary Access and Enrollment, and (3) Postsecondary Certification and Success. She noted that the tool is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of indicators, and she invited Forum members to suggest additional indicators for each construct or to share information on indicators collected in their SEAs and LEAs.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
William Ward, Senior Research Scientist in the Assessments Division: National Assessment Branch of NCES, led a presentation titled "Beyond the Pencil: The Nation's Report Card; Transition to Technology." The presentation provided an overview of NAEP, the transition to technology-based assessments (TBAs), and the NAEP suite of online tools.

TECH Committee Webinar with REL-West
BethAnn Berliner and Noelle Caskey of REL-West led the presentation "Listening to Student Voice." BethAnn described the laboratory's interest in learning about effective ways to listen to what students think so that school leaders can strengthen school improvement efforts. The presentation highlighted the REL-West toolkit: Speak Out, Listen Up! Tools for Using Student Perspectives and Local Data for School Improvement. Districts can use the toolkit to learn more about why students left school, why students persist, and other considerations for better outcomes. The toolkit can also help districts to identify issues and inform interventions. BethAnn and Noelle provided videos to demonstrate the tools in action as well as suggestions for using the tools. The development of the tools is grounded in the idea that everyone wants to have their voice heard and to know that their voice matters.

Office of Educational Technology (OET)
Joseph South, Deputy Director of the OET, and Zac Chase, ConnectEd Fellow at the U.S. Department of Education, gave a presentation titled "ConnectED Next Steps: Future Ready Schools." Joseph provided a broad overview of ConnectED goals in the next five years: (1)

broadband to 99% of classrooms; (2) affordable, interactive devices; (3) professional development for teachers and leaders; and (4) high quality, low cost digital content.

Other Activities

Forum Steering Committee
The Steering Committee oversees and coordinates all Forum activities. Members conduct monthly conference calls to discuss Forum events and to review the status of Forum projects. Facilitated and led by Forum Chair Thomas Purwin (Jersey City Public Schools [NJ]), the conference calls allowed Steering Committee members to plan and review Forum events such as the Summer 2014 and 2015 Forum Meetings as well as virtual meetings with the FPCO, REL-NEI, REL-West, NAEP, and OET. In addition to planning for and providing feedback on the usefulness of in-person and virtual meetings, Steering Committee members discussed the development, implementation, and use of the new community website: https://forum.grads360.org/.

Meetings

Summer 2014 Meeting: July 28-30, 2014 in Washington, DC