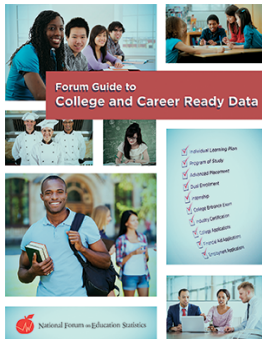## Forum Guide to College and Career Ready Data

Today's global, knowledge-based economy requires a better-educated workforce than that of previous generations. State and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) are being tasked not only to ensure that all students graduate from high school, but also to prepare students to be college and career ready (CCR) when they graduate. States are in the process of defining college and career readiness, implementing programs to support college and career readiness for all students, and developing data tools to support CCR efforts.

The *Forum Guide to College and Career Ready Data* examines how data are being used to support CCR initiatives. Chapter 1 presents an overview of college and career readiness. Chapter 2 focuses on five specific uses for data to support CCR programs: fostering individualized learning for students; supporting educators in addressing student-specific needs; guiding CCR programmatic decisions through the use of postsecondary feedback loops; measuring agency progress in meeting CCR accountability and continuous improvement goals; and maximizing career opportunities for all students. Each of the use cases includes policy and program questions to consider, a list of key data needs, useful analytics, suggested feedback to request from data users, and emerging needs related to the data use. Chapter 3 outlines a number of overarching issues for the use of CCR data, and Chapter 4 summarizes key points and emerging needs identified throughout the Guide. The appendices include references and resources, a list of state CCR definitions, a College and Career Readiness and Success Organizer developed by the College and Career Readiness and Success Center, and a crosswalk between the key data needs identified in the use cases and the Common Education Data Standards.

The primary audience for this document includes SEA and LEA staff responsible for the data needed to support CCR initiatives and metrics, or those who manage CCR programs. The higher education and workforce communities may also find this guide helpful as they partner with K12 agencies in designing and implementing CCR initiatives and supporting data systems.

The *Forum Guide to College and Career Ready Data* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2015157.asp.

National Forum on Education Statistics