

Publication Summary

Forum Guide to Planning for, Collecting, and Managing Data About Students Displaced by a Crisis



Floods, fires, epidemics, winter storms, chemical spills, and other crises can have a significant effect on communities, schools, and students. When a crisis shuts down a school facility or otherwise disrupts school-level activities, educators must be prepared to respond in a manner that quickly restores a safe and stable learning environment. To do so, they need accurate data to inform student placement, deliver appropriate services, adjust school management practices, allocate disaster-relief funding, and track student performance.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the *Forum Guide to Planning for, Collecting, and Managing Data About Students Displaced by a Crisis* to help state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) collect and manage education data before, during, and after a crisis. It is intended for SEA and LEA leadership and staff whose primary role is in information systems and education data. This includes sending agencies (i.e., states, districts, and schools) that experience a natural disaster or crisis and receiving agencies that enroll students who have been displaced by a crisis.

The guide is organized into the following chapters and appendices:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction to Crisis Data Management** explains the importance of crisis data management and defines the terms *crisis* and *displaced student*.
- **Chapter 2: Before a Crisis: Planning for Data on Displaced Students** recommends planning activities that should occur prior to a crisis.
- **Chapter 3: During a Crisis: Restoring Data Systems and Recovering Data on Displaced Students** reviews the crisis declaration and response planning process, underscores the importance of communication, and provides recommendations regarding the restoration and recovery of data systems and data on displaced students.
- **Chapter 4: After a Crisis: Reporting and Evaluating Data on Displaced Students** describes effective data reporting and evaluation following a crisis.
- **Chapter 5: Data Challenges** identifies several challenges specifically related to managing data about displaced students.
- **Chapter 6: Crisis Data Management Tip Sheets for Stakeholders** presents role-specific tip sheets for key education agency stakeholders and a suggested timeline.
- **Appendix A: Understanding Relevant Federal Laws** provides a synopsis of relevant federal laws as they relate to privacy and homelessness and affect displaced students.
- **Appendix B: Select List of Displaced Student Status Indicators and Crisis Codes** provides aggregate information on each state's use of displaced student status indicators and crisis codes.
- **Appendix C: Checklist of Crisis Data Management Tasks and Activities** contains a checklist of tasks and activities to be undertaken before, during, and after a crisis.

The *Forum Guide to Planning for, Collecting, and Managing Data About Students Displaced by a Crisis* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2019163.asp. The information and opinions published in the guide are the product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, or National Center for Education Statistics.