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.