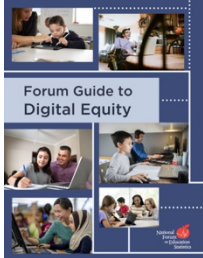# Forum Guide to Digital Equity

Digital inequity has been a long-standing issue in the education community. A lack of home internet and technology devices can not only hinder students' ability to access educational resources at home, but can also have a detrimental effect on student achievement. Education agencies have taken steps over the past decades to address digital inequity by providing internet access in schools and implementing 1:1 device programs. Schools have also provided internet access outside of schools in various ways through community partners, public Wi-Fi, and, more recently, through various programs that provide home internet access.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the *Forum Guide to Digital Equity* to help education agencies close digital equity gaps through the collection and use of digital equity data. This publication defines digital equity; explains the importance of having comparable, high-quality digital equity data; and discusses how those data can be used to identify issues, prioritize action, and create new programs or sustain existing efforts to address digital inequities. The primary audience for this resource includes staff in federal, state, and local education agencies whose responsibilities include any aspect of collecting, reporting, analyzing, or using data on student and staff access to the Internet and technology devices.

The resource includes the following chapters and appendices:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** defines the concept of digital equity and discusses the importance of digital equity for all education stakeholders.
- **Chapter 2: Digital Equity Data** identifies common categories of digital equity data and describes the different ways that state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) are collecting quality digital equity data.
- **Chapter 3: Closing Digital Equity Gaps** discusses how agencies are using data to identify issues, prioritize action, and close digital equity gaps.
- **Chapter 4: Case Studies from SEAs and LEAs** features case studies from education agencies about their use of digital equity data, challenges experienced, and lessons learned.
- **Appendix A** contains a sample list of digital equity resources developed by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as organizations.
- **Appendix B** lists sample questions that could be included in a digital equity survey.
- **Appendix C** provides resources for conducting a digital equity audit.

The *Forum Guide to Digital Equity* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2022098.asp. The information and opinions published in the guide are the product of the Forum and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Education Sciences, or the National Center for Education Statistics.

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