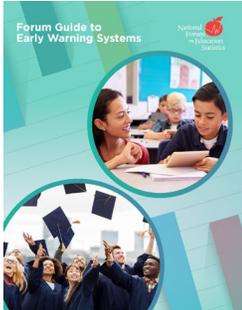


Publication Summary

Forum Guide to Early Warning Systems



Timely academic progression and graduation can strongly influence a student's future life outcomes. In recognition of the critical need to support educational attainment and graduation, many state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) are considering methods and strategies to improve the provision of student interventions, services, and supports. Early warning systems use predictive analytics to identify students who are at risk of dropping out of school, which provides targeted data that SEAs and LEAs can use to develop student interventions that minimize negative student outcomes.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the *Forum Guide to Early Warning Systems* to help education agency staff plan, develop, implement, and use an early warning system in their agency. It is intended for staff in education agencies who are considering implementing or have already implemented an early warning system. This includes program and data staff, administrators, policymakers, and anyone else involved in planning, developing, implementing, or using an early warning system at the school, district, or state level.

The guide is organized into the following chapters and appendices:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction to Early Warning Systems** defines early warning systems, reviews their use in education agencies, and explains how to adopt an effective early warning system planning process.
- **Chapter 2: Early Warning System Indicators, Data, and Analytics** reviews the role of indicators and quality data in early warning systems, summarizes techniques for analyzing early warning data, and previews trends and innovations in early warning systems, indicators, data, and analytical models.
- **Chapter 3: Effective Practices in Early Warning Systems Development, Implementation, and Use** recommends best practices in developing, implementing, and using early warning systems.
- **Chapter 4: Case Studies from State and Local Education Agencies** highlights case studies from state and local education agencies that have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, an early warning system.
- **Appendix A: Checklist of Early Warning System Tasks and Activities** contains a checklist of tasks and activities involved in planning, implementing, using, and evaluating an early warning system.
- **Appendix B: Select List of Early Warning Indicators and Data Elements** lists early warning indicator topics, student-level indicators, and related data elements.

The *Forum Guide to Early Warning Systems* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2019035.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.