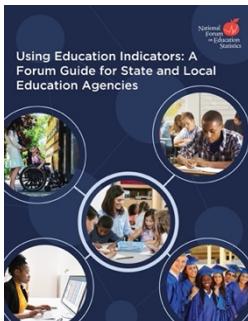


Publication Summary

Using Education Indicators: A Forum Guide for State and Local Education Agencies



An education indicator measures the status of, or change in, an educational system with regard to its goals. Indicators are composed of data elements that are meaningfully and mathematically combined to describe the status or change. Examples include class size, graduation and completion rates, and teacher retention rates.

Education indicators are critical to multiple areas of agency activities. They allow agencies to monitor student achievement and goals, identify gaps in student performance for potentially vulnerable populations, and evaluate the effectiveness of new policies and practices. Indicators inform important analyses, such as benchmarking, comparing groups, and assessing the benefits of funding allocations. They can offer greater transparency to stakeholders by providing easily accessible information and offering a means of clearer communication.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed *Using Education Indicators: A Forum Guide for State and Local Education Agencies* to provide timely and useful information on education indicators, how their collection and use have changed over time, and how agencies use them strategically. The primary audience for this resource includes staff in local, state, and federal education agencies whose responsibilities include any aspect of collecting, reporting, or analyzing the data used to create education indicators. This audience includes program and data staff, researchers, administrators, policymakers, and others who are tasked with using education indicators to improve student and school outcomes.

The resource includes the following chapters and appendix:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** defines the concept of education indicators, discusses why they are important, and describes how they are used to increase student achievement and success.
- **Chapter 2: Different Ways Agencies Use Education Indicators** describes the different ways in which schools, local education agencies (LEAs), and state education agencies (SEAs) may use particular indicators or groups of indicators.
- **Chapter 3: Changes in the Use and Classification of Education Indicators Over Time** discusses how the use of indicators has changed over recent decades due to increased data collection and use, changes in technology, and shifts in educational priorities.
- **Chapter 4: Common Challenges and Possible Solutions in Using Education Indicators** discusses common challenges and effective practices related to collecting, reporting, and using the data that form the basis of education indicators.
- **Chapter 5: Case Studies from LEAs and SEAs** features case studies from education agencies about their use of education indicators, challenges experienced, and lessons learned.
- **Appendix A** provides examples of LEA and SEA indicator categories.

Using Education Indicators: A Forum Guide for State and Local Education Agencies is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2022132.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.