



## National Forum on Education Statistics Overview



**Purpose:** The National Forum on Education Statistics—commonly known as the Forum—is a voluntary, democratic, participative, and cooperative federal-state-local body that works to improve the quality, comparability, and utility of elementary and secondary education data, while remaining sensitive to data burden concerns. The Forum is sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

**Mission:** The mission of the Forum is to plan, recommend, and develop education data resources that support local, state, and national efforts to improve pre-kindergarten through secondary education throughout the United States.

**Membership:** The Forum membership includes representatives from federal offices involved with education data, including the U.S. Department of Education, and representatives from state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. All Forum SEA and LEA representatives are appointed by their respective chief state school officers. The Forum also includes representatives from education agencies in the extra-state jurisdictions and national organizations with an interest in elementary and secondary education data.

**Organization:** The Forum achieves its mission and goals primarily through the deliberations and work of the Forum Steering Committee and three standing committees designed to address the mission and goals of the Forum. The Forum meets to discuss and work on data issues and specific topics related to education data at the federal, state, and local levels.

The Forum also establishes working groups to address specific issues and develop resources on topics of interest to the education data community. The Forum is currently supporting working groups on the topics of data literacy, technology for teaching and learning, student learning data during pandemic school closures and beyond, educator workforce data, and the School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED).

**Resources:** The Forum develops resources on a variety of issues that affect education agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. All Forum resources are available free of charge.

- **Best practice publications.** Since 1990, the Forum has published numerous best practice publications on topics of interest to the education data community.
- **Online courses.** The Forum has developed several online courses based on Forum best practice publications. Education agencies regularly use these courses to train staff.
- **SCED.** SCED is a voluntary, common classification system for prior-to-secondary and secondary school courses that can be used to compare course information, maintain longitudinal data about student coursework, and efficiently exchange course-taking records.
- **Videos.** The Forum has developed several videos that provide stakeholders in federal, state, and local agencies with information on the work of the Forum.

The information and opinions published are the product of the Forum and do not necessarily represent the policy or views of NCES, IES, or ED. To download Forum resources or learn more about the Forum, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/forum>.