National Forum
on Education
Statistics

National Cooperative Education Statistics System
National Forum on Education Statistics

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018

Forum Officers, 2017-2018

Chairperson: Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Vice Chair: Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)

Standing Committees

National Education Statistics Agenda Committee (NESAC)
Chair: Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Vice Chair: Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education

Policies, Programs, and Implementation Committee (PPI)
Chair: Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Vice Chair: Charlotte Ellis, Maine State Department of Education

Technology Committee (TECH)
Chair: Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
Vice Chair: Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE)

Completed Working Groups, Publications, and Other Resources

Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data

Purpose: The Attendance Working Group developed this resource to help state and local education agency staff improve their collection, reporting, and use of attendance data to improve student and school outcomes. This resource explains why high-quality attendance data matter; provides a standard attendance taxonomy that supports improved attendance data quality and comparability; identifies common challenges and provides practical suggestions for collecting accurate and comparable attendance data in elementary and secondary schools; and defines role-based actions that agency staff can take to improve the collection of high-quality attendance data and promote responsible data use.

Jan Petro (Chair), Colorado Department of Education
Kara Arzamendia, Minnesota Department of Education
Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education
Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools (TN)
Mike Hopkins, Rochester School Department (NH)
Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
Bradley McMillen, Wake County Public School System (NC)
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish Schools (LA)
Peter D. Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cheryl L. VanNoy, Saint Louis Public Schools (MO)
Andrew Wallace, South Portland School Department (ME)

Consultants: Elizabeth Lieutenant and Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Forum Guide to Facility Information Management: A Resource for State and Local Education Agencies

Purpose: The School Facilities Data Working Group developed this new resource to help education agencies plan, design, build, use, and improve their facility information systems. This resource provides a framework for collecting, evaluating, and maintaining education facilities data, and builds upon information included in the 2012 publication *Forum Guide to Facilities Information Management: A Resource for State and Local Education Agencies*.

Marilyn King (Chair), Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Dan Brungardt, Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Unified School District 204 (KS)
Frank Cernik, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Robert Gorrell, Maryland Public School Construction Program
Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
Vijay Ramnarain, Virginia Department of Education
Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Brian Stocks, Loudon County Public Schools (VA)
Peter D. Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cheryl L. VanNoy, Saint Louis Public Schools (MO)

Consultants: Tom Szuba, Quality Information Partners
            Mary Filardo and Alex Donahue, 21st Century School Fund
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Forum Guide to Reporting Civil Rights Data

Purpose: The Civil Rights Data Working Group developed this new resource to help local education agency staff report civil rights data to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. This resource presents an overview of the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC); explores common challenges in reporting civil rights data; examines various models of voluntary support offered by some state education agencies to their local education agencies; explains the CRDC submission process; and presents six case studies that examine how specific education agencies report civil rights data.

Steve Smith (Chair), Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Sheri Ballman, Mason City School District (OH)
Janis Brown, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
Dan Brungardt, Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Unified School District 204 (KS)
DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education
Sonya Edwards, California Department of Education
Josh Klein, Oregon Department of Education
Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)
Stephanie Miller, National Center for Education Statistics
Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish Schools (LA)
Levette Williams, Georgia Department of Education

Consultant: Deborah Newby, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED v.5)

Purpose: School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) is a voluntary, common classification system for prior-to-secondary and secondary school courses. It can be used to compare course information, maintain longitudinal data about student coursework, and efficiently exchange coursetaking records. The SCED Working Group published SCED Version 5 in November 2017 as a sortable, downloadable file available on the Forum SCED webpage (https://nces.ed.gov/forum/SCED.asp). Version 5 focused on updates to Subject Area 5: Visual and Performing Arts—in particular, new media arts courses—and Project Lead the Way, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses.

Susan Williams (Chair), Virginia Department of Education
Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE)
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education
Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Demetria Moon, Sioux Falls School District (SD)
Jan Petro, Colorado Department of Education
Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education

Consultants: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
             Colleen Spagnardi, RTI International
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

SCED Resources: Master List, Finder

Following the release of SCED Version 5, the Forum also updated the SCED Finder tool. This tool was originally released with SCED Version 3 and has since been revised to reflect new and updated SCED Version 5 courses. SCED Finder helps users select SCED codes and then assign elements and attributes to those codes. Users can search SCED using keywords or browse the entire SCED to find the appropriate course code. The tool allows users to create, edit, and export lists of courses with the selected course code and user-identified SCED elements. SCED Finder was developed through the collaboration of the Forum and the National Center for Education Statistics Transcript Studies.

Forum Video: School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED): Course Coding

Purpose: The SCED Working Group developed this video to explain course coding with SCED. The video begins by explaining the coding elements that make up SCED, including Course Code, Course Level, Available Carnegie Unit Credit (or Grade Span for prior-to-secondary courses), and Sequence of Course. It then illustrates the use of optional elements, called attributes, which SEAs and LEAs can add if they need to communicate additional information about a course. The video is the second in a series; the first video provided an introduction to SCED, and the third video will focus on SCED resources.

The video is available on the Forum SCED webpage: https://nces.ed.gov/forum/SCED.asp.

Current Working Groups and Projects

Early Warning Systems Data Working Group

Purpose: The Early Warning Systems Data Working Group is developing a new resource to help education agencies plan, develop, implement, and use an early warning system in their agency. The forthcoming *Forum Guide to Early Warning Systems* will provide best practice information on early warning systems and their data and feature seven case studies from SEAs and LEAs that have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, an early warning system.

Marilyn King (Chair), Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education
Carl Frederick, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Edward Goddard, Clark County School District (NV)
Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools (TN)
Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE)
Whitcomb Johnstone, Irving Independent School District (TX)
Ellis Ott, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (AK)
Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
Cheryl L. VanNoy, Saint Louis Public Schools (MO)

Consultant: Elizabeth Lieutenant, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Education Technology Working Group

Purpose: The Education Technology Working Group is developing a new resource that will address the widespread use and integration of technology in SEAs and LEAs and assist agencies with technology decisionmaking. The resource will focus on technology governance and planning, including needs assessments, as well as technology implementation, integration, maintenance, support, training, and evaluation.

Steve Smith (Chair), Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Mary Barkley, Clayton County Public Schools (GA)
DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education
Kristen DeSalvatore, New York State Education Department
Dawn Gessel, Putnam County Schools (WV)
Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
Rachel Johnson, Loudoun County Public Schools (VA)
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education
Peter D. Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Consultant: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Personalized Learning Data Working Group

Purpose: The Personalized Learning Data Working Group is developing a new resource that will help education agency staff learn more about personalized learning and consider whether and how to implement and expand personalized learning in schools and districts. The forthcoming resource will provide best practice information on collecting and using data for personalized learning and include case studies from districts and states that have implemented personalized learning.

Dean Folkers (Chair), Nebraska Department of Education
Rachel Anderson, Data Quality Campaign
Sheri Ballman, Mason City School District (OH)
Aaron Brough, Utah State Board of Education
Sonya Edwards, California Department of Education
Wendy Geller, Vermont Agency of Education
William Goodman, Mountain Home School District #193 (ID)
Phil Grace, Heber Springs School District (AR)
Mike Hopkins, Rochester School Department (NH)
Alvin Larson, Meriden Board of Education (CT)
Lee Rabbitt, Pawtucket School Department (RI)

Consultants: Bridget Thomas, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education

SCED Working Group

Purpose: SCED provides voluntary, common course codes 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 coursetaking records. SCED must reflect up-to-date course offerings to remain relevant, and the Forum SCED Working Group is tasked with reviewing and revising SCED to ensure that it is up to date and accurate, while also maintaining the established structure and integrity of the course codes. The Working Group is collaborating with subject matter experts and SCED users to review and update existing courses and identify new courses for SCED Version 6. In addition to updated course codes, the Version 6 release will include new SCED Finder search features; an updated Master List of all SCED codes and changes over time; and resources to help SCED users, such as case studies, a new video, and new frequently updated questions.

Susan Williams (Chair), Virginia Department of Education
Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE)
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education
Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Demetria Moon, Sioux Falls School District (SD)
Jan Petro, Colorado Department of Education
Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education

Consultants: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
        Colleen Spagnardi, RTI International
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Data Visualization Online Course Project Group

Purpose: The Project Group is developing a new resource to introduce the concept of data visualization, describe how to apply key data visualization principles and practices to education data, and explain how the data visualization process can be implemented to support effective data analysis and communication throughout an education agency. This online course will build upon the *Forum Guide to Data Visualization: A Resource for Education Agencies*, published in 2016, and will be useful to federal, state, and local education agency staff who are interested in improving the utility of their agency's data visualizations.

Mike Hopkins (Chair), Rochester School Department (NH)
Heather Boughton, Ohio Department of Education
Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)
Ellis Ott, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (AK)
Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultants: Denise Lawson and Elizabeth Lieutenant, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Communications Subcommittee

Purpose: The Communications Subcommittee meets on an ad hoc basis to identify and develop methods for advancing Forum communications. The Subcommittee has been reconvened to address the Forum's evolving communications needs; consider the ways in which the Forum communicates with its members, potential partner organizations, and other audiences; and work to promote the dissemination of information about the Forum and Forum publications. The Subcommittee is currently updating Forum member resources.

Marilyn King (Chair), Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education
Sonya Edwards, California Department of Education
Carl Frederick, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Dawn Gessel, Putnam County Schools (WV)
Chandra Haislet, Maryland State Department of Education
Rachel Johnson, Loudoun County Public Schools (VA)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish Schools (LA)
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultants: Elizabeth Lieutenant, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Forum Virtual Activities

As part of the Communications Subcommittee's effort to improve communication between Forum members and partner organizations, the Forum has held webinars with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS), the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program, the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant Program, and the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC).

The Role and Impact of Technology on Education: The NCES ED TECH Equity Initiative

Halima Adenegan, National Center for Education Statistics, delivered a virtual presentation to the Technology Committee on September 13, 2017. Halima provided information about the NCES ED TECH Equity Initiative and received feedback on the Initiative from Forum members.

Steering Committee and New Members' Meeting

The Forum Steering committee, led by Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education, held a virtual meeting for new Forum members on September 13, 2017. Meeting attendees reviewed the Forum mission; shared feedback on the Summer 2017 Forum meeting; and discussed how to strengthen engagement with and understanding of the REL Program.

CEDS 101: An Introduction to CEDS

Members of the CEDS team delivered a virtual presentation to the Forum on November 1, 2017. The presentation provided a basic introduction to CEDS for Forum members who are unfamiliar with CEDS.

Using CEDS

Members of the CEDS team delivered a virtual presentation to the Forum on November 8, 2017. The presentation included information on using CEDS, including a discussion of CEDS tools Align, Connect, and Generate.

Introduction to the REL Program

Liz Eisner and Chris Boccanfuso, National Center for Educational Evaluation and Regional Assistance, delivered a virtual presentation to the Forum on December 12, 2017. Liz and Chris provided a brief overview of the REL program and discussed how state and local education agencies can work with their RELs.

PPI Meeting

The PPI committee, led by PPI Chair Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA), and PPI Vice Chair Charlotte Ellis, Maine State Department of Education, held a virtual meeting on January 9, 2018. Meeting attendees reviewed the PPI mission; shared feedback on the Summer 2017 Forum meeting; and discussed topics of interest, plans, and ideas for the Summer 2018 Forum meeting.

New Members' Meeting

The Forum hosted a virtual meeting for new Forum members on January 18, 2018. Meeting attendees reviewed the Forum website; offered their perspectives on member roles and responsibilities; began planning for the 2018 New Member Orientation; and discussed how to strengthen engagement with and understanding of the REL Program.

TECH Meeting

The TECH committee, led by TECH Chair Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education, and TECH Vice Chair Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE), held a virtual meeting on March 20, 2018. Meeting attendees reviewed and discussed the outline for a new Forum resource being developed by the Education Technology Working Group. The Working Group Chair Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA), facilitated the discussion. The TECH committee also discussed topics of interest, plans, and ideas for the Summer 2018 Forum meeting.

Joint Webinars

The Forum strives to collaborate and coordinate with multiple groups such as the SLDS Grant Program, PTAC, the REL program, and others to provide helpful information on topics of interest to education agencies.

- Representatives from the Forum, PTAC, the REL program, and the SLDS Grant Program participated in a joint webinar, *Student Data in Times of Crisis: Collecting and Managing Data of Displaced Students*, on December 18, 2017 to provide helpful information for state and local education agencies dealing with displaced students due to extreme weather events or other crises. They discussed how to manage data for students moving into or out of an agency, privacy considerations, practitioners' perspectives, and contact information for additional support. (https://slds.grads360.org/#communities/pdc/documents/15581)
- Representatives from the Forum, PTAC, the REL network, and the SLDS Grant Program participated in a joint webinar, *Increasing Education Data Use through SEA, LEA, and Researcher Partnerships*, on June 5, 2018 to provide helpful information for state and local education agencies interested in working with researchers. They discussed how to successfully collaborate with researchers on projects that reflect education agency information needs, privacy considerations, practitioners' perspectives, and contact information for additional support.

Meetings

Summer 2017 Forum Meeting and STATS-DC Data Conference

The 2017 Summer Forum Meeting took place July 30 – August 1 in Washington, DC. Past Forum Chair Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA), welcomed Forum members to the meeting, and introduced Marilyn Seastrom, Chief Statistician at NCES, who delivered an overview of the NCES publication *Best Practices for Determining Subgroup Size in Accountability Systems While Protecting Personally Identifiable Student Information*. Members discussed new and ongoing topics in the field of education data in joint sessions, committee meetings, and working groups. Joint sessions included presentations on using Forum products and student privacy and panel presentations on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the CRDC. For more information, please see the meeting notes which are available at http://nces.ed.gov/forum/meeting_notes.asp.

The STATS-DC Data Conference followed the Forum meeting. Forum members delivered presentations on the *Forum Guide to Reporting Civil Rights Data*, the *Forum Guide to Facility Information Management: A Resource for State and Local Education Agencies*, SCED, and the *Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data*.

Summer 2018 Meeting: The Summer 2018 Forum Meeting is scheduled for July 23 – July 25 at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC.

Other Activities

Forum Steering Committee

The Steering Committee oversees and coordinates all Forum activities. Members conducted monthly conference calls to discuss Forum events and to review the status of Forum projects. Facilitated and led by Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education, the conference calls allowed Steering Committee members to discuss, plan, and review Forum projects and meetings.

For more information about the Forum, please go to https://nces.ed.gov/forum.