



National Cooperative Education Statistics System
National Forum on Education Statistics

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



Forum Officers, 2020-2021

Chairperson: Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education

Vice Chair: Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)

Past Chair: Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)

Standing Committees

[National Education Statistics Agenda Committee \(NESAC\)](#)

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Vice Chair: Gunes Kaplan, Nevada Department of Education

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Chair: Bradley McMillen, Wake County Public School System (NC)

Vice Chair: Linda Jenkins, Arkansas Department of Education

[Technology Committee \(TECH\)](#)

Chair: DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education

Vice Chair: Dawn Gessel, Putnam County Schools (WV)

Completed Working Groups, Publications, and Other Resources

[*Forum Guide to Strategies for Education Data Collection and Reporting \(SEDCAR\)*](#)

Purpose: The SEDCAR Working Group created this resource to provide timely and useful best practices for education agencies that are interested in designing and implementing a strategy for data collection and reporting, focusing on these as key elements of the larger data process. It builds upon the 1991 Forum resource [*Standards for Education Data Collection and Reporting*](#). This new resource is designed to be relevant to the state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) of today, in which data are regularly collected for multiple purposes, and data collection and recording may be conducted by many different individuals within an agency.

Georgia Hughes-Webb (Chair), West Virginia Department of Education

Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education

DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education

Brenda Dixon, Illinois State Board of Education

Kathi Grossenbacher, Kansas State Department of Education

Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools (TN)

Rachel Johnson, Loudoun County Public Schools (VA)

Peggy Jones, Pasco County Schools (FL)

Jan Petro, Colorado Department of Education

Emily Rang, formerly of the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Andre Smith, Florida Department of Education

Consultant: Bridget Thomas, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

[*School Courses for the Exchange of Data \(SCED\) Uses and Benefits*](#)

Purpose: The SCED Working Group developed this resource to provide a brief overview of SCED, highlight the research application and benefits of SCED to users, and illustrate SCED uses with case studies. 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. SCED is a free resource intended for federal, state, and local education agencies.

Susan Williams (Chair), Virginia Department of Education

Ken Hutchins, Brandywine 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

Karen Millette, Minnesota Department of Education

Demi Moon, Sioux Falls School District (SD)

Jan Petro, Colorado Department of Education

Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education
Jonathan Wiens, Oregon Department of Education

Consultants: Beth Young and Alexandra Henning, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

[Forum Video: SCED Finder](#)

Purpose: The SCED Working Group developed this video to introduce the SCED Finder resource. [SCED Finder](#) is an online tool that helps users quickly and efficiently identify SCED codes, add elements, and save downloadable lists of courses. The video is the fourth in a series; the first video introduced SCED, the second explained the coding elements that structure SCED and how those elements can be used, and the third highlighted six resources that communicate information about SCED. The videos and SCED Finder are all available at <https://nces.ed.gov/forum/SCED.asp>.

[Forum Guide to Attendance, Participation, and Engagement Data in Virtual and Hybrid Learning Models](#)

Purpose: The Attendance, Participation, and Engagement Working Group developed this new resource as a companion publication to the 2018 [Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data](#), drawing upon the information included in that resource and incorporating lessons learned by SEAs and LEAs during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The information is intended to assist agencies in responding to the current need for these data, as well as future scenarios, such as courses with blended/hybrid learning models or natural disaster situations in which extended virtual education is required.

Jan Petro (Co-chair), Colorado Department of Education
Cheryl L. VanNoy (Co-chair), Saint Louis Public Schools (MO)
Ruth Calvo, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System
Dena Dossett, Jefferson County Public Schools (KY)
Charlotte Ellis, Maine Department of Education
Jan Fukada, formerly of the Hawaii State Department of Education
Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools (TN)
Carmen Jordan, Arkansas Department of Education
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education
Anita Larson, formerly of the Minnesota Department of Education
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
Ellis Ott, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (AK)
Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish Schools (LA)

Consultant: Bridget Thomas, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Adam Todd, National Center for Education Statistics

[Forum Guide to Virtual Education Data: A Resource for Education Agencies](#)

Purpose: The Virtual Education Working Group developed this resource to assist agencies with collecting data in virtual education settings, incorporating the data into governance processes and

policies, and using the data to improve virtual education offerings. This resource builds upon the 2016 resource [Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data](#), reflects lessons learned by the education data community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provides recommendations that will help agencies collect and use virtual education data.

Jay Pennington (Chair), Iowa Department of Education
Aaron Brough, Utah State Board of Education
Kristen DeSalvatore, New York State Education Department
Ken Hutchins, Brandywine School District (DE)
Peggy Jones, Pasco County Schools (FL)
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
Kris Williams, Blytheville School District (AR)
William Witkowsky, Illinois State Board of Education

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

[Forum Guide to Staff Records](#)

Purpose: The Staff Records Working Group designed this resource to help education agencies effectively collect and manage staff data, protect the privacy of staff data, and ensure that requests for data access and data releases are managed appropriately. The guide builds on information from the 2000 publication, [Privacy Issues in Education Staff Records: Guidelines for Education Agencies](#) and reflects how agencies have responded to changes in staff data over time. It includes a discussion of types of staff records, updated best practices for data collection and management, and case studies from SEAs and LEAs.

Dawn Gessel (Chair), Putnam County Schools (WV)
Shuwan Chiu, Illinois State Board of Education
DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education
Larry Fruth II, Access 4 Learning
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
John Lindner, South Washington County Schools (MN)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
Lee Rabbitt, Pawtucket School Department (RI)
Annette Severson, Colorado Department of Education
Cheryl L. VanNoy, Saint Louis Public Schools (MO)

Consultants: Kristina Dunman and Andrew Scott Pyle, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Current Working Groups and Projects

[Metadata Working Group](#)

Purpose: The Metadata Working Group is developing a new resource to provide timely and useful best practice information on metadata, including information on how metadata can help manage data complications, improve data quality, and resolve data anomalies. This publication builds on and updates the 2009 resource [Forum Guide to Metadata: The Meaning Behind Education Data](#). It is intended to assist agencies in using metadata to document operational changes that impact data.

Georgia Hughes-Webb (Chair), West Virginia Department of Education

Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education

Matthew Danzuso, Ohio Department of Education

Brenda Dixon, Illinois State Board of Education

Stephen Gervais, San Bernardino City Unified School District (CA)

Dawn Gessel, Putnam County Schools (WV)

Ryan Kuykendall, DeSoto County Schools (MS)

Rose LeRoy, New York State Education Department

Rich Nye, Ogden School District (UT)

Melanie Stewart, Milwaukee Public Schools (WI)

Debbie Yedlin, Arizona Department of Education

Consultants: Kristina Dunman and Andrew Scott Pyle, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

[EDFacts Modernization Working Group](#)

Purpose: The EDFacts Modernization Working Group was convened to provide feedback on the potential plans of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to modernize EDFacts, and provide information on how SEAs map their student information systems (SISs) to federal reporting requirements. The working group will provide ED with written feedback from SEAs on its plans to modernize EDFacts. It will also provide feedback on how SISs map to ED's federal data reporting requirements, allowing for ED to use modernization tools that have the correct definitions and foundations.

DeDe Conner (Chair), Kentucky Department of Education

Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education

Kristen DeSalvatore, New York State Education Department

Charlotte Ellis, Maine Department of Education

Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education

John Keller, Indiana Department of Education

Linda Roska, Texas Education Agency

Barbara Timm, National Center for Education Statistics

Jonathan Wiens, Oregon Department of Education
Kelly Worthington, National Center for Education Statistics
Debbie Yedlin, Arizona Department of Education

Consultant: Beth Young, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

[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. The 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 9.

Susan Williams (Chair), Virginia Department of Education
Ken Hutchins, Brandywine 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
Karen Millette, Minnesota Department of Education
Demi Moon, Sioux Falls School District (SD)
Jan Petro, Colorado Department of Education
Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education
Jonathan Wiens, Oregon 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 Data Visualization Online Course Project Group is developing a second data visualization online course module based on the [Forum Guide to Data Visualization: A Resource for Education Agencies](#). This module will build upon the concepts presented in [Module 1: Introduction to Data Visualization](#) and demonstrate the effective application of data visualization to common education topics through scenarios that highlight recommended best practices.

Georgia Hughes-Webb (Chair), West Virginia Department of Education
Stephen Gervais, San Bernardino City Unified School District (CA)
Rachel Johnson, Loudoun County Public Schools (VA)
Peggy Jones, Pasco County Schools (FL)

Ellis Ott, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (AK)
Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
Melanie Stewart, Milwaukee Public Schools (WI)

Consultant: Denise Lawson, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

[Two New Forum Training Suites](#)

Purpose: The Forum is developing two new training suites:

- A SCED Training Suite designed to introduce new users to SCED and provide information on the benefits of SCED, the SCED coding structure, and tools for implementing and adapting SCED for use in different education agencies.
- A New Member Training Suite designed to introduce newly-appointed members to the Forum; provide information on Forum work, and resources; and help new members understand their responsibilities as Forum members.

Each training suite will feature a new assessment with an automatically-generated certificate for users who successfully pass the assessment.

Forum Virtual Activities

[Disclosure Avoidance Webinar](#)

The Forum and the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) joined efforts to deliver a virtual presentation on February 3, 2021. Frank Miller, ED, and the PTAC team provided an overview of best practices and staff training in disclosure avoidance methodology and public reporting.

[Data Security and Destruction Best Practices Webinar](#)

The Forum and PTAC joined efforts to deliver a virtual presentation on March 9, 2021. The PTAC team provided an overview of current data security best practices for education data systems and best practices for data destruction.

[Attendance, Participation, and Engagement Panel Presentation](#)

Jan Petro, Colorado Department of Education, Cheryl L. VanNoy, Saint Louis Public Schools (MO), Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education, and Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools (TN), participated in a virtual panel presentation on March 25, 2021. The panelists provided an overview of the [Forum Guide to Attendance, Participation, and Engagement Data in Virtual and Hybrid Learning Models](#). They also shared information on how agencies approached these data in spring 2020 and what they were doing for school year 2020-21.

[Generate Overview and Update Webinar](#)

Charlotte Ellis, Maine Department of Education, Jill Aurand, Nebraska Department of Education, and members of the Generate team delivered a virtual presentation to the Forum on April 15, 2021. The presentation provided an overview of the Generate solution, described the process for states to implement Generate, and looked at how modernization efforts might leverage this tool for further value-added opportunities.

[Data Strategy and Metadata Panel Presentation](#)

Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education, Melanie Stewart, Milwaukee Public Schools (WI), and Laura Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Education, delivered a virtual presentation to the Forum on April 28, 2021. The presentation provided an overview of two Forum resources that are designed to help education agencies enhance their data practices: The [Forum Guide to Strategies for Education Data Collection and Reporting \(SEDCAR\)](#) and the forthcoming [Forum Guide to Metadata](#). The panelists also shared information on their agencies' data strategies and metadata practices.

Meetings

[Summer 2021 Virtual Meeting](#)

The Summer 2021 Forum Meeting will be held virtually July 12-15.

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 Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education, the conference calls allowed Steering Committee members to discuss, plan, and review Forum projects and meetings.

[Forum Presentations](#)

The Forum delivered two virtual presentations at the 2021 Pennsylvania Department of Education Data Summit:

- *Forum Resources on Data Visualization*—Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT), and Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education, delivered a virtual presentation on March 23, 2021. The presentation introduced two resources that are designed to help education agencies communicate data meaning in visual formats that are accessible, accurate, and actionable for a wide range of education stakeholders: The [Forum Guide to Data Visualization](#) and the [Forum Data Visualization Online Course](#).
- *Forum Resources on Cybersecurity & Virtual Education*—Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education, delivered a virtual presentation on March 24, 2021. This presentation provided an overview of two Forum resources that are designed to help education agencies secure virtual environments and collect virtual education data: The [Forum Guide to Cybersecurity: Safeguarding Your Data](#) and the [Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data](#).

Forum Participation in National Data Standards Virtual Activities

Several Forum members attended several data standard virtual meetings on behalf of the Forum. Participation in these meetings provided knowledge and insight into how Forum activities align with data projects in other organizations.

- *Computer-Using Educators (CUE) 2020 Conference*—Peggy Jones, Pasco County Schools (FL), and Andrew Swickheimer, Noblesville Schools (IN), attended the CUE Conference on October 22-26, 2020.
- *International Society for Technology in Education 2020 (ISTE20 Live) Conference & Expo*—Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT), and Brent Nelson, Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, attended the ISTE20 Live Conference & Expo on November 29-December 5, 2020.
- *Consortium on School Networking (CoSN) 2021 Annual Conference*—Rachel Johnson, Loudoun County Public Schools (VA), attended the CoSN 2021 Annual Conference on March 2-4, 2021.
- *Online Learning Consortium (OLC) Innovate 2021 Conference*—Peggy Jones, Pasco County Schools (FL), attended the OLC Innovate 2021 Conference on March 15-19, 2021.
- *Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) 2021 Data Summit*—DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education, attended the PESC 2021 Data Summit on April 20-22 and April 27-29, 2021.
- *International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Live 2021 Conference*—Andrew Swickheimer, Noblesville Schools (IN), will attend the ISTE Live 2021 Conference on June 26-30, 2021.

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