Forum Guide to Personalized Learning Data

Educators employ different methods of teaching and learning to help their students succeed. One such method is personalized learning, which aims to tailor instruction to the needs, talents, and skills of each individual learner. Effective personalized learning requires the collection, understanding, and implementation of data across many variables. Schools and districts that are interested in implementing personalized learning need to be prepared to ensure the data access, data privacy, and time and training to use data that are necessary to making personalized learning successful.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the Forum Guide to Personalized Learning Data to assist education agencies as they consider whether and how to use personalized learning. It provides an overview of personalized learning and describes best practices used by education agencies to collect data for personalized learning; to use those data to meet personalized learning goals; and to support the relationships, resources, and systems needed for the effective use of data in personalized learning. Because personalized learning is still a developing prospect in many locations, the concepts and examples provided are intended to help facilitate idea sharing and discussion.

The guide is organized into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Personalized Learning in Schools, Districts, and States** provides an overview and definition of personalized learning, as well as a list of commonly used key terms.
- **Chapter 2: Key Concepts for Personalized Learning** discusses four key concepts that provide the foundation for personalized learning, including instruction and content tailored to student needs; a focus on content mastery; the use of data-informed, real-time feedback; and effective use of technology.
- **Chapter 3: Personalized Learning Data** explains the importance of personalized learning data, which are necessary to determine and meet the specific needs of students. It discusses six categories of data and the types of data elements that may be included in these categories.
- **Chapter 4: Strategies to Support Personalized Learning** discusses key strategies used by states and districts to successfully implement and support personalized learning, which include careful strategic planning, modifying infrastructure and learning environments, planning for sustainability, ensuring data privacy, developing and maintaining support structures, developing and sustaining key relationships, and communicating effectively with stakeholders.
- **Chapter 5: Case Studies From States and Districts** offers case studies from across the country that highlight various experiences of states and districts that have implemented personalized learning, with a particular focus on how they are managing and using data to support, monitor, or evaluate the process.
- **Chapter 6: Issues to Consider** highlights the varied trajectories different education agencies have followed in their paths to personalized learning, and discusses several issues and questions that states and districts should consider, whether they are far along in their personalized efforts or just beginning.

The Forum Guide to Personalized Learning Data is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at [https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2019160.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2019160.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 the National Center for Education Statistics.