

Forum Resources to Assist With Current Challenges



The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) has several best practice resources that may be helpful during the challenging circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The resources listed below can help education agencies address some of the new situations and issues that states, districts, and schools are confronting during the pandemic. To learn more about the Forum and its free resources available to the public, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/forum>.

Forum Resources

Forum Guide to Data Governance

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2020083.asp

Data governance is crucial to the effective and safe management, use, analysis, and communication of education data. A strong data governance program can help agencies respond to the many data challenges that have occurred as a result of the pandemic. This publication highlights how data governance programs benefit education agencies and provides timely and useful best practices, examples, and resources for agencies implementing or updating their data governance programs.

Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2017007.asp

It can be challenging to define, measure, and collect student attendance data in remote learning environments. This publication addresses the collection, reporting, and use of attendance data to improve student and school outcomes. It suggests best practices and features real-life examples of how education agencies have used attendance data.

Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2016095.asp

Many states and districts have provided virtual education in response to the pandemic. This publication addresses the impact of virtual education on established data elements and methods of data collection, as well as the scope of changes, the rapid pace of new technology development, and the proliferation of resources in virtual education.

Related materials from the Forum-SLDS webinar *Responding to SEA and LEA Needs for Virtual Learning Solutions*: <https://slds.ed.gov/#communities/pdc/documents/18909>

Forum Guide to Planning for, Collecting, and Managing Data About Students Displaced by a Crisis

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2019163.asp

Crisis management practices can help education agencies respond to the pandemic. This publication highlights best practices that agencies can adopt before, during, and

after a crisis. Although this resource focuses on data about students who have temporarily or permanently enrolled in another school or district because of a crisis, many of the principles and practices can be applied to collecting and managing student data during a pandemic.

Related materials from the Forum-SLDS webinar *Planning for, Collecting, and Managing Data About Displaced Students*:

<https://slds.ed.gov/#communities/pdc/documents/18977>

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

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2018156.asp

School facility maintenance and management must continue during the pandemic, even when facilities are closed to students and staff. Education agencies also are reviewing building capacity/density for appropriate physical distancing measures and considering more stringent cleaning and disinfection protocols so that students and staff can safely return to school. This publication addresses the importance of facility information management and identifies common measures and data elements, including management and condition measures, utilization and density factors, and environmental impact measures.

Forum Guide to Metadata: The Meaning Behind Education Data

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2009805.asp

Metadata are structured information that describe, explain, locate, or otherwise make it easier to retrieve, use, or manage information. Metadata can be used to indicate the impact of the pandemic on education data, which will be particularly important for longitudinal data analysis. This publication offers best practice concepts, definitions, implementation strategies, and templates/tools for an audience of data, technology, and program staff in state and local education agencies.

Forum Guide to Education Data Privacy

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2016096.asp

Many agencies have recently transitioned to remote working and learning in response to the pandemic. Remote methods of working and learning present unique challenges to data privacy, as well as new opportunities to strengthen privacy practices. This publication provides information to assist school staff in protecting the confidentiality of student data in instructional and administrative practices. For more information on protecting student privacy during the pandemic, please visit the U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>.

Forum Guide to Data Ethics

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2010801.asp

A strong commitment to appropriate ethical behavior can help education agencies confront the unique data challenges introduced by the pandemic. Data ethics help ensure that all individuals who access, use, and manage education data do so in a

responsible manner. This publication presents a code of ethics for data management and use in education settings.

Forum Guide to Building a Culture of Quality Data: A School and District Resource

https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2005801.asp

The pandemic has forced many education agencies to quickly implement new methods of collecting, managing, and using data. The rapid changes in data procedures and processes must not compromise the essential components of data quality: accuracy, security, utility, and timeliness. This publication shows how quality data can be achieved in a school or district through the collaborative efforts of all staff.

Accessing Forum Resources

Forum publications, supplementary content, and select presentations can be accessed at <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/publications.asp>. The Forum also maintains an outreach toolkit with downloadable presentations and publication summaries, which can be accessed at <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/outreach.asp>.