

# Publication Summary

Forum Guide to  
Strategies for Education Data  
Collection and Reporting (SEDCAR)

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A comprehensive data strategy is a robust, integrated approach to using data to deliver on a mission, serve stakeholders, and steward resources, while respecting privacy and confidentiality. A data strategy enables education agencies to leverage data to improve education, increase agency effectiveness, facilitate oversight, and promote transparency. Data strategies encompass data principles and practices such as governance, access, privacy, security, dissemination, and use by internal and external stakeholders.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the *Forum Guide to Strategies for Education Data Collection and Reporting (SEDCAR)* 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. This publication builds upon the 1991 publication *Standards for Education Data Collection and Reporting (SEDCAR)* and is designed to be relevant to current state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs). In today's agencies, data are collected regularly for multiple purposes, and data collection and recording may be conducted by many people within an agency, which makes a sound, agency-wide data strategy imperative. The guide also features six case studies from SEAs and LEAs that discuss

- the specifics of their agencies' data strategy plans;
- how their overall data strategy was envisioned and developed; and
- potential challenges and solutions they experienced along the way.

This guide is intended for staff and stakeholders in education agencies who are responsible for governing, collecting, and implementing data strategies and data collection and reporting practices.

The guide is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 1: Data Strategy in Education Agencies** introduces data strategy and its use in education agencies.
- **Section 2: Data Collection and Reporting** includes an in-depth discussion of strategies for education data collection and reporting.
- **Section 3: Case Studies** features the experiences of SEAs and LEAs that have developed or are in the process of developing a data strategy.

The information is presented in this manner to be easily accessible and as responsive as possible to the needs of readers. Some agencies may find one of the above sections more useful than the others. Alternatively, for many agencies, all three sections will be equally applicable to their current needs.

The *Forum Guide to Strategies for Education Data Collection and Reporting (SEDCAR)* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at [https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub\\_2021013.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2021013.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, the Institute of Education Sciences, or the National Center for Education Statistics.