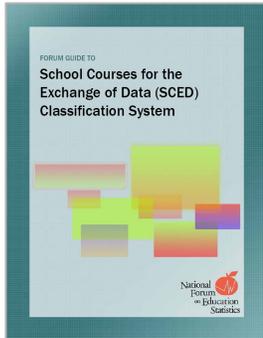


Publication Summary

Forum Guide to School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) Classification System



An individual student's educational experience often includes multiple transitions: advancing through K12 school levels, progressing to postsecondary education or the workforce, and sometimes changing schools. It is important for both the student and the school systems that course information be easily understood and transferrable through each transition. Moreover, education stakeholders, including administrators, content-area organizations, postsecondary admissions officers, and researchers, are increasingly interested in comparing course offerings across schools. The School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) Classification System provides a voluntary, common classification system for prior-to-secondary and secondary school courses that can be used to compare course information, maintain longitudinal data about students' coursework, and efficiently exchange course-taking records.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the *Forum Guide to School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) Classification System* to provide best practices for new and existing SCED users. The guide accompanied the release of Course Codes at <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/SCED.asp>. Chapter 1 explains the SCED codes and the development process. Chapter 2 outlines the structural components of the SCED system. Chapter 3 highlights implementation best practices at state education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs). Chapter 4 provides examples of innovative uses of SCED, including the use of SCED codes in teacher-student data links, community college course coding systems, and indices of core courses for college admission. Five appendices include resources such as FAQs, other changes, information on course taxonomy, and related Forum publications.

The audience for this document includes

- staff in SEAs and LEAs responsible for implementing and maintaining course codes, establishing data governance practices, tracking teacher schedules and qualifications, and data reporting;
- federal agencies such as the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) that review national course offerings and produce transcript studies, monitor programs, and determine federal funding allocations;
- content-area organizations that set professional standards for course offerings;
- organizations that conduct education research;
- colleges and universities that review transcripts for student admissions or evaluate teacher preparation programs; and
- education software vendors that provide tools for education agencies to track and manage student course information.

The *Forum Guide to School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) Classification System* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at

http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2014802.asp.