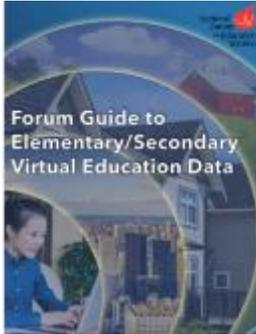


Publication Summary

Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data



Rapid advancements and innovations in virtual education are providing education agencies, educators, and students with new opportunities for teaching and learning. Virtual education has become an integral part of K12 education and nearly every student is exposed to virtual learning in some context—whether as a single aspect of a traditional course or program, in an entirely virtual program, or in any combination of traditional and virtual learning. Many state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) are interested in expanding virtual teaching and learning opportunities, but they do not yet have the ability to collect accurate, high-quality virtual education data. Some organizations have not yet specified the data they want to collect, while others have not developed reliable processes for gathering and managing data.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) developed the *Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data* to assist state and local education agencies as they 1) consider the impact of virtual education on established data elements and methods of data collection, and 2) address the scope of changes, the rapid pace of new technology development, and the proliferation of resources in virtual education. Chapter 1 provides an overview of virtual education by examining common terminology and organizational structures, discussing the importance of high-quality data collection, and determining potential data collection challenges and policy implications. Chapter 2 identifies data elements commonly used in virtual education data systems. Chapter 3 introduces a list of topic areas and examples, policy questions, and common practices designed to aid SEAs and LEAs as they develop data elements and systems. The appendices include examples of SEA and LEA policies, a list of SEA virtual and distance learning websites, suggested elements for virtual education data systems, and a list of references and related resources.

The primary audience for this publication includes state and local education agencies as well as various education stakeholders including, but not limited to, policymakers, researchers, data management and technology professionals, program coordinators, local school and district staff, and the parents of school-aged children interested in virtual education.

The *Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2016095.asp. This online publication was developed through the National Cooperative Education Statistics System and funded by the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education. The Virtual Education Working Group of the National Forum on Education Statistics is responsible for its content. The information and opinions published therein do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the U.S. Department of Education or the National Center for Education Statistics.