

**National Cooperative Education Statistics System
National Forum on Education Statistics
Annual Report
2016-2017**



Officers

Chairperson: Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Vice Chair: Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Past Chair: Peter Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

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National Education Statistics Agenda Committee (NESAC)

Chair: Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education
Vice Chair: Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)

Policies, Programs, and Implementation Committee (PPI)

Chair: Levette Williams, Georgia Department of Education
Vice Chair: Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA)

Technology Committee (TECH)

Chair: Mike Hopkins, Rochester School Department (NH)
Vice Chair: Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education

Completed Working Groups, Publications, and Other Resources

Forum Guide to Data Visualization: A Resource for Education Agencies

Purpose: The Forum Data Visualization Working Group developed this new resource to recommend sound data visualization practices that will help education agencies analyze the meaning of data and, subsequently, present data in a format that is appropriate for public audiences. The resource introduces the concept of data visualization and the ways in which data visualization can improve how education data are viewed, analyzed, communicated, and understood by a range of education stakeholders; describes key data visualization principles and practices that can be applied to education data; and explains how the data visualization process can be implemented throughout an education agency.

Mike Hopkins (Chair), Rochester School Department (NH)
Clare Barrett, New Jersey Department of Education
Heather Boughton, Ohio Department of Education
Wendy Geller, Vermont Agency of Education
Chandra Haislet, Maryland State Department of Education
Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
John Q. Porter, Mississippi Department of Education
Grady Wilburn, U.S. Department of Education
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultant: Tom Szuba, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED v.4)

Purpose: School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) is a voluntary, common classification system for prior-to-secondary and secondary school courses. It can be used to compare course information, maintain longitudinal data about student coursework, and efficiently exchange coursetaking records. The SCED Working Group published SCED Version 4 in September 2016 as sortable, downloadable file available on the Forum SCED webpage (<https://nces.ed.gov/forum/SCED.asp>). Version 4 focused on subject areas that had not been revised as part of previous versions, including English Language and Literature; Mathematics; Life and Physical Sciences; Social Sciences and History; World Languages and Literature; Religious Education and Theology; Physical, Health, and Safety Education; Military Sciences; and miscellaneous courses.

Susan Williams (Chair), Virginia Department of Education
Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE)
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education
Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Janice Petro, Colorado Department of Education

Consultants: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
Colleen Spagnardi, RTI International
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) Resources: Master List, Finder

Following the release of SCED Version 4, the Forum also updated the SCED Finder tool. This tool was originally released with SCED Version 3 and has since been revised to reflect new and updated SCED Version 4 courses. SCED Finder helps users select SCED codes and then assign elements and attributes to those codes. Users can search SCED using keywords or browse the entire SCED to find the appropriate course code. The tool allows users to create, edit, and export lists of courses with the selected course code and user-identified SCED elements. SCED Finder was developed through the collaboration of the Forum and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Transcript Studies.

Forum Video: School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED): An Introduction

Purpose: The SCED Working Group developed this introductory video to explain SCED and provide information on how to access SCED resources. The video begins by discussing the need for common course codes and then describes the development of SCED and the ways that SEAs and LEAs have used SCED to benefit their agencies. It includes a demonstration of how the SCED Elements are organized to provide course information and briefly discusses the use of optional elements, called attributes, which SEAs and LEAs can add if they need to communicate additional information about a course. The video is intended as the first in a series; the second

video will focus on course coding with SCED. The video is available on the Forum SCED webpage: <https://nces.ed.gov/forum/SCED.asp>.

Forum Video: About the Forum

Purpose: The Forum developed this video to provide information on the work of the Forum to Forum stakeholders in federal, state, and local agencies, as well as associates and others interested in Forum resources. The video begins by identifying legislation that led to the creation of the Forum and then discusses the Forum's purpose, membership, organizational structure, and work processes. It highlights the resources produced by the Forum and includes the Forum website address where viewers can access and download these resources. The video is available on the Forum homepage: <https://nces.ed.gov/forum/index.asp>.

Current Working Groups and Projects

Civil Rights Data Working Group

Purpose: The Civil Rights Data Working Group is developing a new Forum resource, to be released in September, that will feature a number of case studies examining how LEAs and SEAs can streamline the reporting of high-quality civil rights data. The *Forum Guide to Reporting Civil Rights Data* will identify promising practices that SEAs and LEAs have developed to collect and report civil rights data as part of the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).

Steve Smith (Chair), Cambridge Public Schools (MA)

Sheri Ballman, Mason City Public Schools (OH)

Janis Brown, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

Dan Brungardt, Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Unified School District (KS)

Dede Conner, Kentucky Department of Education

Sonya Edwards, California Department of Education

Josh Klein, Oregon Department of Education

Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)

Stephanie Miller, National Center for Education Statistics

Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish School System (LA)

Levette Williams, Georgia Department of Education

Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultant: Deborah Newby, Quality Information Partners

Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Attendance Data Working Group

Purpose: The Attendance Data Working Group is developing a new resource to help state and local education agency staff improve the collection, reporting, and use of attendance data to improve student and school outcomes. This resource revises and expands the information included in *Every School Day Counts: The Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data*, published in 2009, and incorporates current best practices, real-world examples, and role-specific tip sheets.

Janice Petro (Chair), Colorado Department of Education
Kara Arzamendia, Minnesota Department of Education
Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education
Laura Hansen, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (TN)
Mike Hopkins, Rochester School Department (NH)
Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
Brad McMillen, Wake County Public School System (NC)
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
Linda Rocks, Bossier Parish School System (LA)
Peter Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cheryl VanNoy, St. Louis Public Schools (MO)
Andrew Wallace, South Portland School Department (ME)

Consultants: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
Elizabeth Lieutenant, Quality Information Partners
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

School Facilities Data Working Group

Purpose: In 2012, the Forum published the *Forum Guide to Facilities Information Management: A Resource for State and Local Education Agencies*, which provides a framework for collecting, evaluating, and maintaining education facilities data. The School Facilities Data Working Group is developing a new guide that will build on information and references included in the previous guide. This new guide will reflect recent changes in facilities information management and technological advances that have occurred since 2012 and will include updated data elements and indicators.

Marilyn King (Chair), Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Dan Brungardt, Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Unified School District (KS)
Frank Cernik, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Bob Gorrell, Maryland State Department of Education
Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)
Zenaida Napa Natividad, Guam Department of Education
Vijay Ramnarain, Virginia Department of Education
Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA)
Brian Stocks, Loudon County Public Schools (VA)
Peter Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cheryl VanNoy, St. Louis Public Schools (MO)

Consultants: Tom Szuba, Quality Information Partners
Mary Filardo, 21st Century School Fund
Alex Donahue, 21st Century School Fund
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

SCED Working Group

Purpose: SCED provides voluntary, common course codes for prior-to-secondary and secondary school courses that can be used to compare course information, maintain longitudinal data about student coursework, and efficiently exchange coursetaking records. SCED must reflect

up-to-date course offerings to remain relevant, and the Forum SCED Working Group is tasked with reviewing and revising SCED to ensure that it is up to date and accurate, while also maintaining the established structure and integrity of the course codes. As part of the SCED Version 5 revision, the Working Group is collaborating with subject matter experts and SCED users to review visual and performing arts codes; standardized courses such as Project Lead the Way, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate; early learning courses; and interdisciplinary courses.

Susan Williams (Chair), Virginia Department of Education
Kenneth Hutchins, Appoquinimink School District (DE)
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Rachel Kruse, Iowa Department of Education
Kristina Martin, Macomb Intermediate School District (MI)
Raymond Martin, Connecticut State Department of Education
Janice Petro, Colorado Department of Education
Robin Utz, U.S. Department of Education

Consultants: Kristina Dunman, Quality Information Partners
Colleen Spagnardi, RTI International
Project Officer: Ghedam Bairu, National Center for Education Statistics

Data Visualization Online Course Project Group

Purpose: The Project Group is developing a new resource to introduce the concept of data visualization, describe how to apply key data visualization principles and practices to education data, and explain how the data visualization process can be implemented to support effective data analysis and communication throughout an education agency. This online course will build upon the *Forum Guide to Data Visualization: A Resource for Education Agencies*, published in 2016, and will be useful to federal, state, and local education agency staff who are interested in improving the utility of their agency's data visualizations.

Mike Hopkins (Chair), Rochester School Department (NH)
Heather Boughton, Ohio Department of Education
Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT)
Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA)
Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA)
Ellis Ott, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (AK)
Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education

Consultants: Tom Szuba, Quality Information Partners
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Forum Virtual Activities

New Member Meeting

The Forum Steering committee, led by Forum Chair Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA), held a virtual meeting for new Forum members on Monday, December 5, 2016. The goal of the virtual meeting was to ensure that new members are engaged in the work of the Forum between the Forum's annual in-person meetings. Meeting attendees reviewed the Forum mission statement and expectations for Forum members. Attendees also reviewed the Forum website and shared suggestions for improving the website. Steering committee members spoke about how they use Forum products currently and encouraged new members to share Forum resources with state and local education agency colleagues.

NESAC

The NESAC committee, led by NESAC Chair Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education, and NESAC Vice Chair Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT), held a virtual meeting on December 14, 2016. Meeting attendees reviewed the NESAC mission statement and recent Forum accomplishments. The NESAC committee members also discussed how SEAs and LEAs track out-of-school learning and use data inventories to communicate information about data practices and respond to parent inquiries.

PPI

The PPI committee, led by PPI Chair Levette Williams, Georgia Department of Education, and PPI Vice Chair Steve Smith, Cambridge Public Schools (MA), held a virtual meeting on December 9, 2016. Meeting attendees reviewed the Summer 2016 Forum Meeting and PPI mission statement. The PPI committee members then discussed the Civil Rights Data Collection and student data privacy and suggested topics of interest for the summer Forum meeting.

TECH

The TECH committee, led by TECH Chair Mike Hopkins, Rochester School Department (NH), and TECH Vice Chair Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education, held a virtual meeting on December 8, 2016. Meeting attendees reviewed the TECH mission statement and received an update on Forum activities. The TECH committee members then discussed data security and data privacy in relation to the TECH mission and technology partnerships between state and local education agencies in relation to education data.

Meetings

Summer 2016 Forum Meeting and STATS-DC Data Conference

The Summer 2016 Forum Meeting took place July 10-12 in Washington, DC. Past Forum Chair Peter Tamayo, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Chief Statistician Marilyn Seastrom welcomed Forum members to the meeting. Members discussed new and ongoing topics in the field of education data in joint sessions, committee meetings, and working groups. Joint session topics included an SEA/LEA panel presentation on chronic absenteeism and presentations on improving the transparency of data practices, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and an update on Office of Educational Technology initiatives. Forum members also had the opportunity to attend a poster presentation on Regional Educational Laboratory research.

Standing Committees received updates on Forum Working Group progress, engaged members through discussions on topics from the floor, and held follow-up discussions on the topic of chronic absenteeism. Standing Committees also welcomed presenters who discussed *EDFacts* and ESSA, Privacy Protections in Public Data Reporting, the Civil Rights Data Collection, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, NCES Middle Grades Longitudinal Studies, and NCES School Climate Surveys. NESAC devoted time to discuss strategies for keeping systems up to date and to learn about LEA approaches to school climate. PPI learned about the What Works Clearinghouse, discussed accountability reporting related to the National School Lunch Program Free and Reduced-Price Lunch/Community Eligibility Option, and received a presentation on school finance data. TECH discussed personalized learning, out-of-school access to digital learning resources, ESSA implementation, Privacy Working Group use cases, and new measures of virtual education data in NCES surveys.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from NCES Acting Commissioner Peggy Carr, who provided an update on NCES projects and discussed recent Forum publications. The Forum presented certificates to members of completed Working Groups, recognized the 2015-16 Officers for their service, and elected a new slate of officers led by Forum Chair Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA). Meeting notes are available at http://nces.ed.gov/forum/meeting_notes.asp.

The STATS-DC Data Conference followed the Forum meeting. Forum members delivered presentations on the *Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data*, the *Forum Guide to Data Visualization: A Resource for Education Agencies*, the School Courses for the Exchange of Data, the *Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Disaggregated Data on Racial/Ethnic Subgroups*, and the *Forum Guide to Education Data Privacy*.

Summer 2017 Meeting: The Summer 2017 Forum Meeting is scheduled for July 30 - August 1 at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC.

Other Activities

Forum Steering Committee

The Steering Committee oversees and coordinates all Forum activities. Members conducted monthly conference calls to discuss Forum events and to review the status of Forum projects. Facilitated and led by Forum Chair Laurel Krsek, San Ramon Valley Unified School District (CA), the conference calls allowed Steering Committee members to discuss, plan, and review Forum projects and meetings.

Forum Blogs

Forum Working Groups wrote four blog posts about new Forum publications that were featured on the NCES blog (<http://nces.ed.gov/blogs/nces/>):

- A New Guide to Education Data Privacy (<http://nces.ed.gov/blogs/nces/post/a-new-guide-to-education-data-privacy>)
- New Release: *Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education Data* (<http://nces.ed.gov/blogs/nces/post/new-release-forum-guide-to-elementary-secondary-virtual-education-data>)

- New Release: *Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Disaggregated Data on Racial/Ethnic Subgroups* (<https://nces.ed.gov/blogs/nces/post/new-release-forum-guide-to-collecting-and-using-disaggregated-data-on-racial-ethnic-subgroups>)
- Data Visualization: Helping Education Agencies Communicate Data Meaning to Stakeholders (<https://nces.ed.gov/blogs/nces/post/data-visualization-helping-education-agencies-communicate-data-meaning-to-stakeholders>)

Blogging is a new approach to Forum product dissemination that is intended to help expand the reach of the Forum. Each blog post includes a brief overview of the new publication, links to the publication and the Forum webpage, an image of the cover, and an overview of the Forum.

For more information about the Forum, please go to <https://nces.ed.gov/forum>.