

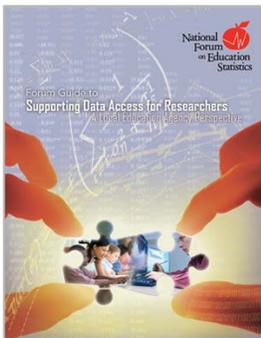
Publication Summary

Forum Guide to Supporting Data Access for Researchers: A State Education Agency Perspective

Forum Guide to Supporting Data Access for Researchers: A Local Education Agency Perspective



Data-driven decisionmaking and the application of research-based methods of inquiry are widespread practices in our education system. As such, both state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) view responding to requests from researchers for access to data as a major responsibility to their stakeholders, even though doing so can require a significant amount of staff effort. These demands are particularly taxing if an education agency has not established standard procedures for managing requests. However, once an efficient and effective process has been developed, agencies can expect to reduce this workload and—more importantly—support research findings that are likely to have a positive impact on student learning.



The *Forum Guide to Supporting Data Access for Researchers: A State Education Agency Perspective* and the companion *Forum Guide to Supporting Data Access for Researchers: A Local Education Agency Perspective* are intended to help SEAs and LEAs determine whether and how to voluntarily fulfill requests from researchers for access to new and existing education data, including confidential or otherwise restricted data. Chapter 1 of each document focuses on the benefits of data partnerships with researchers and provides information about the foundations of data sharing and common challenges. Chapter 2 provides core practices to help SEAs and LEAs effectively manage data access requests. Appendices support the core practices in chapter 2 and provide case studies of successful SEA and LEA collaboration with the research community.

The primary audience for these documents is data policymakers and managers in SEAs and LEAs who are generally responsible for managing and responding to requests from researchers for data access. An additional important audience for this resource is the research community that submits requests for data to SEAs and LEAs. This includes diverse sources, ranging from members of the research community to advocacy organizations, the media, the public, and other parties interested in education data.

The *Forum Guide to Supporting Data Access for Researchers: A State Education Agency Perspective* and the *Forum Guide to Supporting Data Access for Researchers: A Local Education Agency Perspective* are products of the National Forum on Education Statistics and are available on the Forum website at <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/publications.asp>.