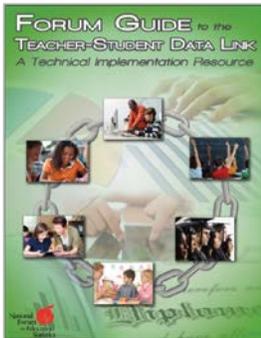


Publication Summary

Forum Guide to the Teacher-Student Data Link: A Technical Implementation Resource



Teachers and students have always been informally linked through data—via class rosters, report cards, and numerous other connections that describe the instructional relationship between a teacher and learner. The teacher-student data link (TSDL), sometimes referred to as the educator-student data link, formally identifies the relationship between teacher and student data in education data systems, and is most often based on a student’s enrollment in a course section and a teacher’s assignment to the same course section. In the past, rudimentary versions of the TSDL were used simply for scheduling purposes and were stored in data systems that were neither interoperable nor longitudinal in nature, and focused on aggregate rather than individual student data. Education data systems have become more sophisticated and are now able to more precisely reflect the complexity inherent to teacher-student relationships at a scale that can be useful for policymaking, management, and operations at the state, district, school, and building levels.

The *Forum Guide to the Teacher-Student Data Link: A Technical Implementation Resource* is intended to serve as a practical guide for implementing a teacher-student data link that supports a range of uses at the local, regional, and state levels. Chapter 1 describes the TSDL, including information about why education agencies should be concerned about the TSDL and what data are needed beyond a compliance-based link. Chapter 2 recommends policies, data components, business rules, system requirements, and professional practices for the collection and use of the TSDL. Chapter 3 details components necessary for establishing the TSDL, including data quality and roster verification. Chapter 4 presents TSDL use cases, including educator access to student data to support student learning, research and analysis, targeted professional development, educator preparation program feedback and evaluation, teacher placement/allocation decisions, compliance reporting, educator evaluation, and teacher compensation. The document also includes appendices covering examples of state policies related to the TSDL, a description of the typical structure of the TSDL in the local source system, and related resources.

The primary audience for the *Forum Guide to the Teacher-Student Data Link: A Technical Implementation Resource* includes all of the individuals charged with implementing the TSDL or using TSDL data in state and local education agencies, including policymakers, data management professionals, program staff, curriculum coordinators, technology coordinators, superintendents, and educators. This guide highlights thoughtful advice and emerging practices to help education agency staff implement the TSDL in a responsible manner—and ultimately generate high-quality data for high-stakes decisionmaking.

The *Forum Guide to the Teacher-Student Data Link: A Technical Implementation Resource* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at

http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2013802.asp.