

Forum Guide to Core Finance Data Elements





National Cooperative Education Statistics System

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) established the National Cooperative Education Statistics System (Cooperative System) to assist in producing and maintaining comparable and uniform information and data on early childhood education and on elementary and secondary education. These data are intended to be useful for policymaking at the federal, state, and local levels.

The National Forum on Education Statistics (the Forum) is an entity of the Cooperative System, and among its other activities, proposes principles of good practice to assist state and local education agencies in meeting this purpose. The Cooperative System and the Forum are supported in these endeavors by resources from NCES.

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June 2007

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Foreword

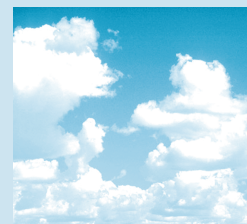
The National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum) is pleased to release *The Forum Guide to Core Finance Data Elements*. This guide fulfills our responsibility to establish current and consistent terms and definitions to maintain, collect, report, and exchange comparable information related to education finances.

This new publication is designed to accompany the *Financial Accounting for Local and State School Systems: 2003 Edition* by identifying common reporting requirements and defining frequently used indicators and calculations using data elements from accounting and other data systems.

This national effort was undertaken by the Core Finance Data Task Force of the Forum, made up of representatives from state education agencies and local education agencies (school districts). Those individuals and organizations involved in the process truly reflect the interested stakeholders in elementary and secondary education. The work was coordinated by the Education Statistics Service Institute under contract to NCES.

NCES and the Forum have a strong commitment to provide technical assistance and support to the education community to facilitate the collection, reporting, and the use of high-quality education information. This guide is one outcome of that commitment. It is a key part of a series of related handbooks, manuals, and Forum guides that NCES has published and will continue to develop in the future.

We hope that you find this publication to be a useful document that will serve you well in many activities.



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