

# TECHNOLOGY AND K-12 EDUCATION: THE NCES ED TECH EQUITY INITIATIVE

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity responsible for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations. In carrying out this mission, NCES has found that inequities in student achievement persist, but may differ when technology (i.e., digital resources) is a factor.

NCES launched *The NCES Ed Tech Equity Initiative* (the Initiative) to better inform the condition of American education by giving greater attention to ed tech equity in the context of K-12 education. More specifically, ed tech equity (education technology and equity) refers to the difference between students' educational experiences and outcomes when technology is a factor, with a particular focus on key subgroups (e.g., by English language learner status, disability status, geographic location, race/ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, etc.).

NCES intends to position itself as the go-to source for ed tech equity information by collecting policy-relevant data and communicating these data in a way that is accessible, understandable, and actionable for education stakeholders. The stages described below highlight the key steps of the process NCES is taking to advance the Initiative.

## ADVANCING THE INITIATIVE

NCES will continue to stay apace with rapid changes in technology in order to be responsive to the needs of education stakeholders.

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**CONDUCT EXTENSIVE RESEARCH:** NCES will conduct extensive internal and external research to gain a thorough understanding of ed tech equity in K-12 education. In addition to analyzing NCES' existing technology-related efforts, NCES will complete an external literature review. **Completed.**
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**CREATE A FRAMEWORK:** NCES will design *The NCES Ed Tech Equity Initiative Framework* (the Framework) as a guide to ensure that its technology-related efforts are focused on the most critical areas that inform the relationship between technology and K-12 students' educational experiences and outcomes. **Completed.**
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**CONVENE AN EXPERT PANEL TO ANALYZE THE FRAMEWORK:** NCES will consult a panel of renowned ed tech equity experts to assess the preliminary version of the Framework and provide insight and recommendations to help the Framework better serve its intended purpose. **Completed.**
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**REFINE THE FRAMEWORK:** Using the expert panel's input as a guide, NCES will refine the Framework to better guide its ed tech equity efforts. This Framework will not be static; rather, it will evolve over time to remain aligned with changes in ed tech and K-12 education. **Completed.**
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**DEVELOP A PRELIMINARY STRATEGY:** NCES will analyze its existing technology-related efforts to determine the extent of alignment with the Framework. Based on this assessment, NCES will develop a preliminary strategy to guide its collection, reporting, and dissemination of ed tech equity data. **Completed.**
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**CONVENE AN EXPERT PANEL TO ENHANCE NCES' PRELIMINARY STRATEGY AND RECOMMEND PRIORITIES:** NCES will consult a panel of renowned external ed tech equity experts to help strengthen its preliminary strategy and assist in setting priorities. **Completed.**
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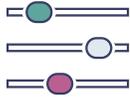

**REFINE AND OPERATIONALIZE A STRATEGIC PLAN:** Using the expert panel's recommendations as a guide, NCES will solidify and operationalize its strategy to further advance the Initiative. **Ongoing.**

# OUTCOMES OF THE INITIATIVE

As a result of the work of the Initiative, stakeholders will have access to information that will better inform ed tech equity in the context of K-12 education. More specifically



**IMPROVED DATA:** NCES will update its database of technology-related survey questions. These questions will be integrated into relevant NCES surveys to capture the data needed to provide stakeholders with the ed tech equity information they need.



**CUSTOMIZABLE RESOURCES:** NCES intends to develop a suite of resources (e.g., web tools, fact sheets, infographics, etc.) that allows users to easily access the information that is most important to them.

## GLOSSARY

**ED TECH EQUITY:** education technology and equity—the difference between students’ educational experience and outcomes when technology is a factor, with a particular focus on key subgroups (e.g., by English language learner status, disability status, geographic location, race/ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, etc.).

**ED TECH EQUITY EXPERTS:** individuals—including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and innovators—with extensive expertise as it relates to ed tech equity in the context of K-12 education.

**TECHNOLOGY:** digital resources (e.g., internet, smart phones, laptops, tablets, and software).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE INITIATIVE:** to learn more about this exciting work, explore *The NCES Ed Tech Equity Initiative* brochure.

**THE FRAMEWORK:** to learn more about the Framework NCES is using to guide its ed tech equity efforts, explore *The NCES Ed Tech Equity Initiative Framework* fact sheet.

**DATA COLLECTION PRIORITIES:** for information about the specific subtopics that NCES will prioritize within each of the Framework indicators, explore *The NCES Ed Tech Equity Initiative Data Collection Priorities* fact sheet.

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