

Forum Purpose

To improve the quality, comparability, and utility of elementary and secondary education data.

Forum Mission

To develop and recommend strategies for building quality education data systems that will support local, state, and federal efforts to improve elementary and secondary education throughout the United States.

Forum Goals

- I. Develop a comprehensive system of comparable local, state, and federal basic data elements useful for education decisionmaking at all levels of government.
- II. Improve coordination, integration, and consolidation of the collection of quality education data.
- III. Promote the Forum as a widely recognized cooperative body addressing issues of education data policy, and a leader in setting data standards.

<http://nces.ed.gov/forum>

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Forum Membership

Forum members include approximately 120 representatives from local and state education agencies, federal agencies, and other national organizations with an interest in elementary and secondary education data.

For a current list of Forum members, visit http://nces.ed.gov/forum/member_state.asp.

Events

In addition to the many resources discussed in this brochure and on the Forum web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/forum>, the Forum and NCES organize and manage the following services and events:

- Biannual Forum meetings
- Annual NCES Summer Data Conference
- Annual Management Information Systems (MIS) Meeting
- Personnel Exchange Program
- NCES Fellows Program

For information about these and other services, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/conferences>.

Access Forum Resources Today

From data standards, to plans, to implementation, Forum resources can make a powerful difference in your education organization. To receive a free copy of any of the Forum's publications, call 1-877-4ED-PUBS or write to ED-Pubs, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Printable copies can be downloaded at no cost from the Forum's web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/forum>.

<http://nces.ed.gov/forum>

National Forum on Education Statistics



Shared Knowledge for Shared Success



A History of Practicality & Productivity

For two decades, the education community has looked to the National Forum on Education Statistics (the Forum) for data standards and practical best-practice recommendations on a range of education data issues. Established in 1989 by the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education, the Forum continually strives to provide states, districts, and schools with helpful advice on the collection, maintenance, and use of elementary and secondary education data. To this end, the Forum's diverse group of representatives from state and local education agencies, the federal government, and other organizations works collaboratively to address problems, develop resources, identify best practices, and consider new approaches to improving data collection and utility, all while remaining sensitive to privacy concerns and administrative burden.

Making Education Data Work for Educators

The Forum has long been a leader in the definition, development, and maintenance of national data standards. Its products provide a broad collection of data elements, definitions, code sets, and indicators that have been widely used as the building blocks for education data systems and programs across the country. The Forum has also created a host of best practice guides on a range of important education data issues. In sum, the Forum is committed to providing the information you need about your information needs.

A Diversity of Perspective and Expertise

The Forum's membership has a wide range of valuable knowledge of data standards implementation. The organization is unique because:

- 1) it includes school district representatives in addition to state and national leaders;
- 2) it reflects the perspective of all states rather than just a group of states; and
- 3) it is vendor neutral.

Put simply, the Forum is a collection of people who deal with practical education data issues at the local, state, and national levels.

Publications By and For Educators: From Building Blocks to Blueprints

Drawing on its unique range of perspectives and expertise, the Forum continues to develop new products/best practices to meet emerging needs and fill the gaps that exist in the national education data standards. Each publication is based on extensive, objective research and the collective experience of a wide variety of education professionals. Past publications are reviewed and updated periodically to keep up with changes in a dynamic educational system.

The following is a partial list of practical, user-friendly, and free Forum publications:

- Crisis Data Management: A Forum Guide to Collecting and Managing Data about Displaced Students
- Forum Guide to Data Ethics
- Forum Guide to Metadata: The Meaning Behind Education Data
- Every School Day Counts: The Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data
- Managing an Identity Crisis: Forum Guide to Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories
- Forum Guide to Core Finance Data Elements
- Forum Curriculum for Improving Education Data: A Resource for Local Education Agencies
- Accounting for Every Student: A Taxonomy for Standard Student Exit Codes
- Forum Guide to Elementary/Secondary Virtual Education
- Forum Guide to Decision Support Systems: A Resource for Educators
- Forum Guide to Building a Culture of Quality Data: A School & District Resource
- Forum Guide to Education Indicators
- Forum Guide to Protecting the Privacy of Student Information: State and Local Education Agencies
- Facilities Information Management: A Guide for State and Local Education Agencies
- Safety in Numbers: Collecting and Using Crime, Violence, and Discipline Incident Data to Make a Difference in Schools
- Privacy Issues in Education Staff Records

To access these and other Forum products, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/publications>.