NCES Discussion on Revised Standards for Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

National Forum on Education Statistics

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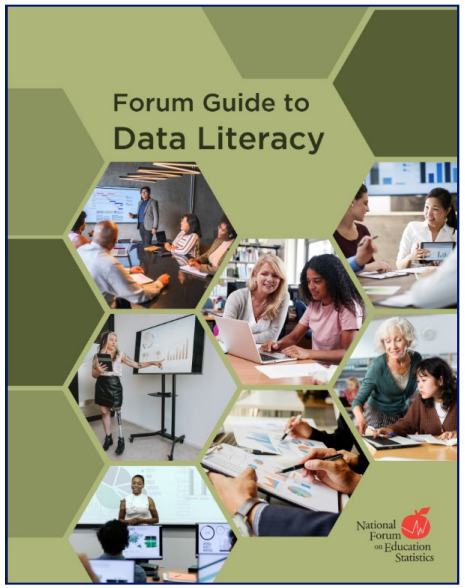
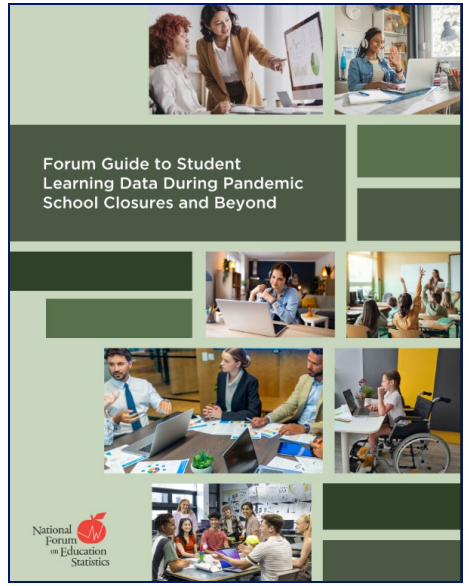
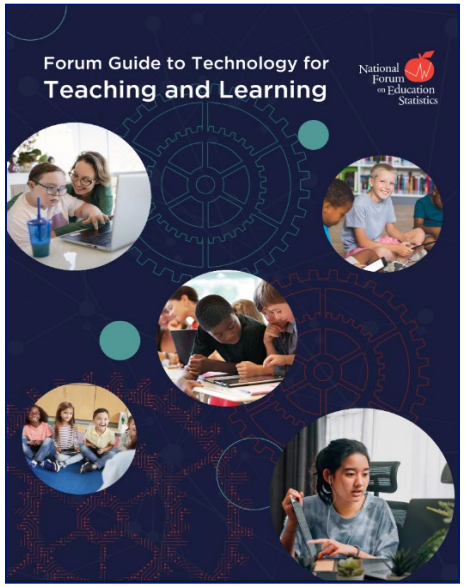
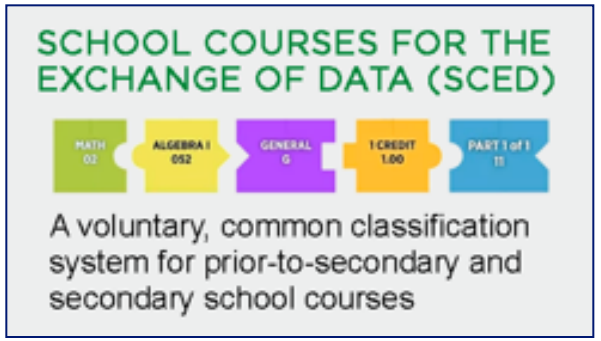
New Forum Resources









History of Federal Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards – *OMB's SPD 15*

Established: 1977

Last revised: 1997

Goal: To provide a common statistical framework to promote uniformity, comparability, and consistency across Federal information collections that include race and ethnicity

Reasons for SPD 15 Revisions

This review and update of SPD 15 was necessary to address **growing data quality and utility issues**, including:

Data quality for Hispanic and Latino respondents

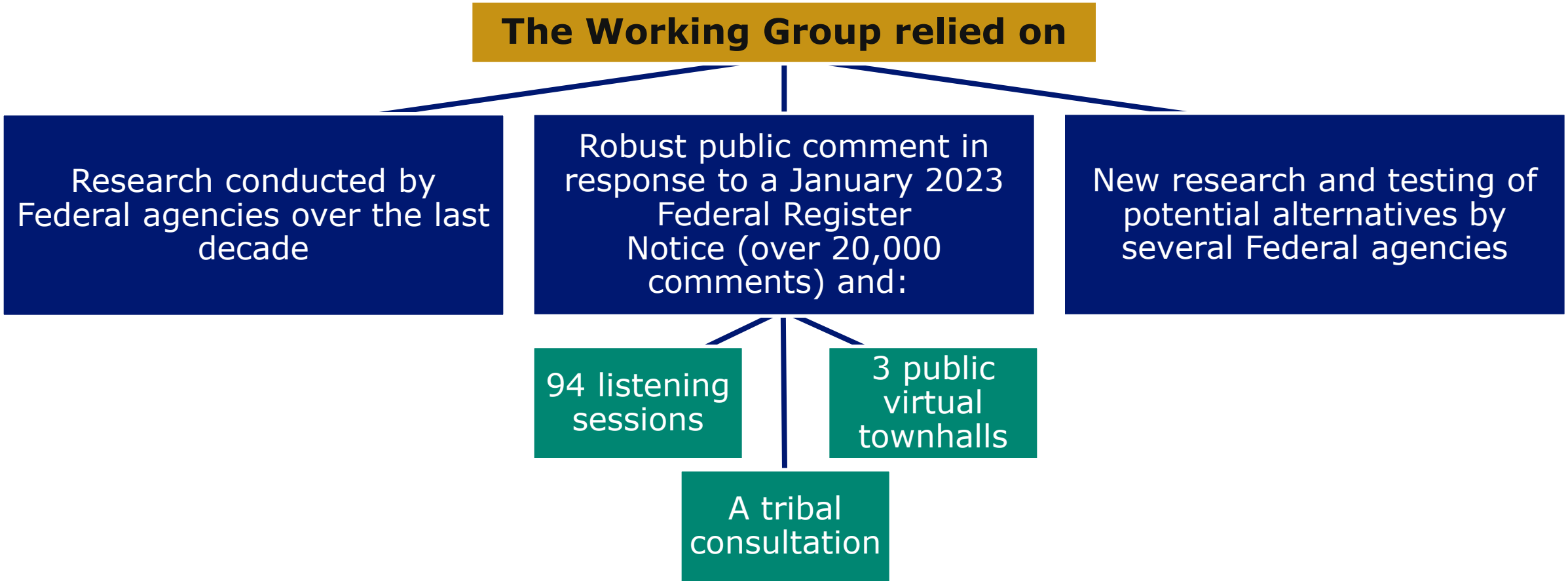
Lack of a separate response category for Middle Eastern and North African respondents, who view their identity as distinct from the White racial category

Need for disaggregated data to better understand within-group disparities and outcomes

Inconsistent and outdated terminology

Process for SPD 15 Revisions

OMB convened an **Interagency Technical Working Group** to develop recommendations for improving the quality and usefulness of Federal race and ethnicity data.



Revisions to Federal Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards – *OMB's SPD 15*

- Revisions to OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) effective on **March 28, 2024**
- Revisions include
  - Collecting race and ethnicity together with **a single question** (includes "Hispanic or Latino" option)
  - Adding a response category for **Middle Eastern or North African**, separate and distinct from the "White" category
  - Updating **inconsistent and outdated terminology**
  - Requiring **collection of detailed data on race and ethnicity** beyond the minimum categories (unless agency determines benefit doesn't justify the additional burden or risk to privacy or confidentiality; requires exemption from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs)

Updated Question Format

1997 Statistical Policy Directives 15's Two-Question Format for Self-Response

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

☐ No, not Hispanic or Latino

☐ Yes, Hispanic or Latino

What is your race? *Select one or more.*

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ White

EXAMPLE

2024 Statistical Policy Directives 15's One-Question Format for Self-Response

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply.

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ Middle Eastern or North African

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ White

EXAMPLE

Updated Detailed Question Format

☐ **Hispanic or Latino –** *Provide details below.*

☐ Mexican ☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Salvadoran
☐ Cuban ☐ Dominican ☐ Guatemalan

Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.

☐ **American Indian or Alaska Native –** *Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.*

☐ **Asian –** *Provide details below.*
☐ Chinese ☐ Asian Indian ☐ Filipino
☐ Vietnamese ☐ Korean ☐ Japanese
Enter, for example, Pakistani, Hmong, Afghan, etc.

☐ **Black or African American –** *Provide details below.*
☐ African American ☐ Jamaican ☐ Haitian
☐ Nigerian ☐ Ethiopian ☐ Somali
Enter, for example, Trinidadian and Tobagonian, Ghanaian, Congolese, etc.

☐ **Hispanic or Latino –** *Provide details below.*
☐ Mexican ☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Salvadoran
☐ Cuban ☐ Dominican ☐ Guatemalan
Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.

☐ **Middle Eastern or North African –** *Provide details below.*
☐ Lebanese ☐ Iranian ☐ Egyptian
☐ Syrian ☐ Iraqi ☐ Israeli
Enter, for example, Moroccan, Yemeni, Kurdish, etc.

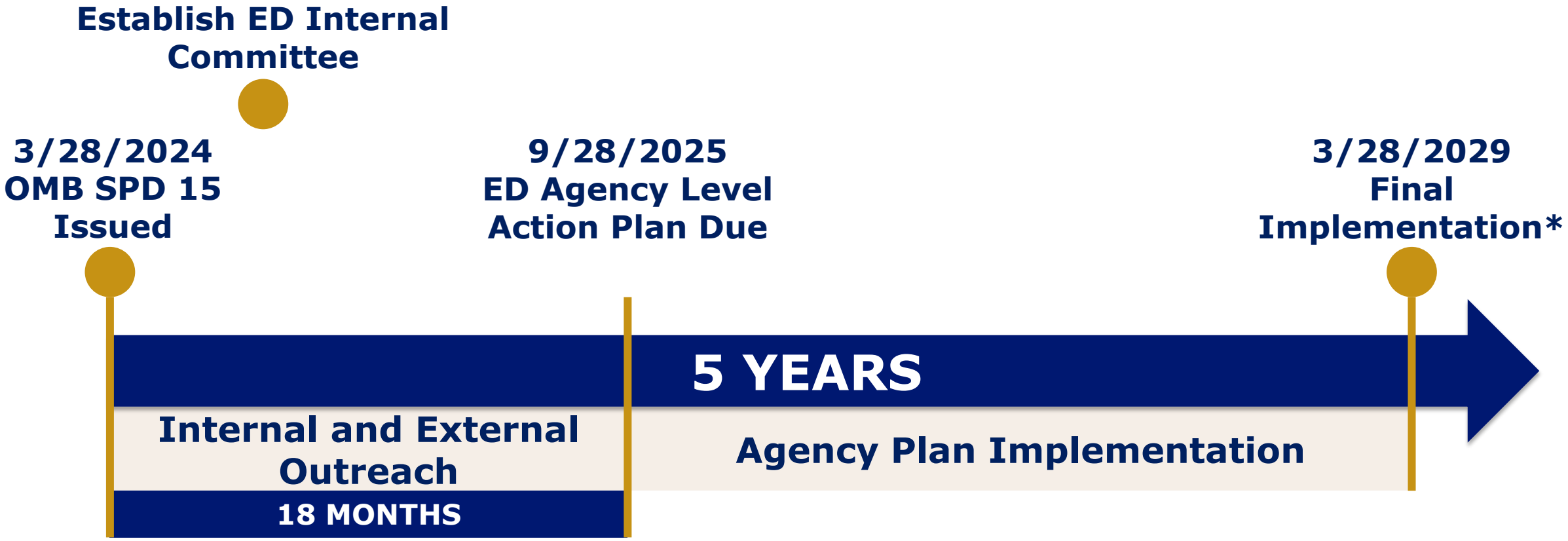
☐ **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander –** *Provide details below.*
☐ Native Hawaiian ☐ Samoan ☐ Chamorro
☐ Tongan ☐ Fijian ☐ Marshallese
Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

☐ **White –** *Provide details below.*
☐ English ☐ German ☐ Irish
☐ Italian ☐ Polish ☐ Scottish
Enter, for example, French, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.

Major Milestones on Federal Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards – *OMB's SPD 15*

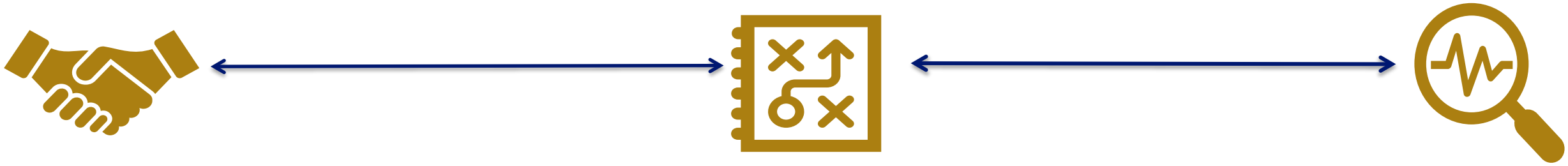
- U.S. Department of Education Action Plan to OMB due by **September 28, 2025**
  - Describes how agencies intend to bring data collections and publications into compliance
  - Will be available on websites at submission
- All Federal Government collections must be in compliance by **March 28, 2029**
  - Other data collectors or multi-agency data collections (e.g., school districts, hospitals) may require additional planning, but must meet the deadline

SPD 15 Major Milestones



* Third-party data collectors or multi-agency data collections that may require additional planning must meet this deadline.

Focus Areas for SPD 15



Area of Focus

Outreach: Internal and External

- Outreach materials for guidance (e.g., brochures, one-pager, video)
- Listening tours and Brown Bag sessions
- Social media
- Blogs
- Informational presentations
- Additional materials as needed (e.g., toolkit, FAQs)

Area of Focus

Develop U.S. Department of Education Action Plan

OMB requires action plans across all government departments

Action plan template is in OMB clearance

Action plan due to OMB on 9/28/25

Review Process

Submitted through Statistical Official

Coordination with agency Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, Senior Agency Officials for Privacy, and other agency officials as appropriate

Area of Focus

Evaluate Research Needs in Conjunction With New Standards

Evaluate

- The impact on trend lines using bridge studies and crosswalks
- Differential stakeholder progress in implementation by 3/28/29 deadline
- Other critical areas (e.g., detailed question format, privacy issues, reporting granularity)

Discussion

Questions from Forum SEAs and LEAs

What is the overarching vision of using the new information? Are there any specific examples?

How will NCES want states to submit these data?

If there are changes to Federal reporting (EDFacts), in what school year will those changes take effect?

A Discussion Question for the Forum

How will the new categories impact LEA and SEA data collections and reporting?

Thank You