Steering Committee
Monday, July 22, 2024

Welcome and Review of Monday's Events

Forum Vice Chair DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education, welcomed the Steering Committee to the meeting and invited members to share their thoughts and comments on the day's events.

- The Steering Committee discussed the New Member Meeting, noting that new Forum members were enthusiastic and actively engaged in the discussions. Committee members agreed that holding an in-person meeting offers a valuable opportunity for Forum officers, new members, and their mentors to connect to a greater degree than in a virtual-only setting.
- The updates and discussion on revised standards for federal data on race and ethnicity presented by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Commissioner Peggy Carr were well received by the Forum. The Steering Committee felt the timeline details included in the presentation slideshow were particularly useful to state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs). In response to remaining questions about the ED*Facts* timeline for implementing the revised race/ethnicity standards, the committee discussed inviting the ED*Facts* team to present on a future Forum webinar.
- Steering Committee members appreciated hearing updates on Forum working groups during the joint session panel discussion. They shared that the follow-up discussions in standing committee meetings included robust conversations about student mobility data, artificial intelligence (AI) in education, and educator workforce data.
- National Education Statistics Agenda Committee (NESAC) members particularly enjoyed the SEA/LEA breakout session focused on revised standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and the implications for their agencies' data collections. They also appreciated hearing from NESAC member Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education (VADOE), about how the School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED), a Forum resource, contributes to a VADOE tool that generates customized reports on staff vacancies.
- In addition to follow-up discussions focused on joint session presentations, the Policies, Programs, and Implementation Committee (PPI) discussed analyzing and using geographic data at length, following a presentation by PPI member Stephen Gervais, San Bernardino City Unified School District (CA). PPI leaders also noted the increased representation of LEAs within the standing committee as compared to previous years.
- Technology Committee (TECH) leaders noted that Monday's standing committee discussions reflected an even balance of SEA and LEA perspectives. After holding follow-up discussions focused on the joint session presentation topics, TECH members discussed educational technology at length on Monday afternoon, including post-pandemic approaches to student devices, planning and budgeting for educational technology, and supporting districts and educators' educational technology use.
- The Steering Committee discussed the scheduling of future Forum meetings, reviewing past approaches to annual and biannual Forum meeting schedules. Committee members considered whether the Forum team should explore another time of year for the annual meeting beginning in 2026. Suggested timeframes included the second and third week of

July, October, or late January through the first week of March. Steering Committee members agreed that working group meetings potentially could be held on a Monday instead of a Sunday, and the Forum meeting could be held on Tuesday through Thursday, if the meeting is not connected to another conference such as STATS-DC in the future. However, committee members noted that some Forum members may prefer the Sunday-Wednesday schedule in order to maximize their time back at work later in the week. The Steering Committee suggested that LEA representatives, who are affected directly by the academic calendar, may face more consistent travel schedule limitations than SEA representatives. The committee agreed that standing committee leaders would ask LEAs for input on scheduling future Forum meetings during the LEA breakout sessions planned for Tuesday.

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Review of Tuesday's Events

- Steering Committee members discussed the cybersecurity in education agencies panel discussion presented by Steven Hernandez, U.S. Department of Education, and NESAC Vice Chair Will Goodman, Boise School District (ID). Committee members appreciated that the panel provided an overview of cybersecurity best practices at the federal, state, and local levels. Some Steering Committee members suggested narrowing the scope of subsequent cybersecurity Forum presentations to smaller, more focused subtopics, with an emphasis on practical strategies that will help make SEAs and LEAs less vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks.
- The committee also discussed time spent in standing committees. Several common agenda items were shared by all three standing committees on Tuesday. The standing committees held follow-up discussions to review lessons learned from the cybersecurity joint session presentation and to share their own agencies' cybersecurity experiences. Each standing committee participated in a Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) data breach response training exercise on Tuesday afternoon. Finally, all Forum SEA representatives participated in a breakout session focused on AI in state education agencies, while Forum LEAs held breakout discussions addressing AI in the classroom. In addition, the standing committees discussed the following topics:
    - NESAC members learned about a forthcoming online course the Forum is developing based on the *Forum Guide to Data Literacy* (https://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2024079.asp), then discussed data literacy plans and effective data use by stakeholders. NESAC also heard from Stephen Gervais about how education agencies are using geographic data. NESAC members expressed interest in future standing committee discussions focused on AI, cybersecurity, and analyzing and using geographic data.
    - PPI members discussed data privacy at length, including data sharing agreements and AI data privacy considerations. PPI also discussed policy and implementation considerations for implementing the revised standards for federal data on race and ethnicity. Members suggested that future PPI agenda topics may include data use and data sharing, as well as navigating vendor agreements.
    - TECH members engaged in a discussion about how their states and districts are addressing digital equity topics, including digital equity in teaching and learning,

using data to understand digital equity, and digital equity and interoperability. Stephen Gervais also presented to TECH on geographic information systems (GIS) mapping in education agencies. TECH Chair Andrew Swickheimer, Noblesville Schools (IN), reported on his attendance at the Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC). TECH members would like to discuss interoperability in greater detail in a subsequent meeting.

Forum Elections

Standing committee chairs reported the results of their elections. Nominated chairs and vice chairs for the 2024-25 year were as follows:

- NESAC Chair: Will Goodman, Boise School District (ID)
- NESAC Vice Chair: Linda Roska, Texas Education Agency
- PPI Chair: Peggy Jones, Pasco County Schools (FL)
- PPI Vice Chair: Annette Severson, Colorado Department of Education
- TECH Chair: Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education
- TECH Vice Chair: Jeff Dase, Decatur Public Schools District 61 (IL)

The Steering Committee nominated DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education, as the Forum chair, and Allen Miedema, Northshore School District (WA), as the Forum vice chair for 2024-25.

Ghedam Bairu thanked NESAC Chair Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education, PPI Chair Jon Wiens, Oregon Department of Education, and TECH Chair Andrew Swickheimer, Noblesville Schools (IN), for their service.

Other Issues

- Steering Committee members proposed additional future Forum action items, including developing a planned approach to reviewing and updating past Forum guides, and incorporating content into future Forum guides that addresses the unique needs of smaller and rural LEAs when navigating issues like cybersecurity, contracts, and data privacy with fewer resources than larger districts.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Welcome to New Steering Committee Chairs

Newly elected Chair DeDe Conner, Kentucky Department of Education, welcomed new Steering Committee members to the meeting.

Review of Day's Events

Steering Committee members discussed the time spent in standing committees and closing session. All three standing committees allotted time to a Forum website review and discussion. The standing committees also discussed the following topics.

- Stephen Cornman, NCES, led a presentation and discussion on the School Level Finance Survey (SLFS) with NESAC members. Will Goodman reported on his attendance at the California IT in Education (CITE) Conference, and Allen Miedema shared key takeaways

from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) National Conference on Student Assessment (NCSA). Members shared additional suggestions for future NESAC meeting agenda topics.

- PPI members heard from Jeff Dase about the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting and from Hope Moffett, Brandywine School District (DE), about the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Data Summit. PPI also discussed potential agenda topics for future meetings.
- TECH members discussed topics of interest that were not addressed during planned conversations or that members wished to revisit and discuss in depth, including district cell phone policies, engaging student and teacher voices in technology discussions, AI and cybersecurity, race/ethnicity data, and interoperability.
- The Steering Committee appreciated the closing session presentation by Gail M. Mulligan, NCES chief statistician. The presentation provided an overview of NCES data collection challenges and possible solutions, the importance of SEA and LEA participation in those collections, and ways the Forum can help improve response rates. Forum members engaged in questions and discussion following the presentation, and some members suggested strategies for improving SEA and LEA response rates.

Steering Committee meetings will resume in September 2024. They will be scheduled for the third Friday of each month at 12:00 p.m. (Eastern).