



The EDFacts Overview

“I am a deep believer in the power of data to drive our decisions. Data gives us the roadmap to reform. It tells us where we are, where we need to go, and who is most at risk.”

**Arne Duncan,
Secretary of Education**

What Is EDFacts?

EDFacts is a U.S. Department of Education (ED) initiative to collect, analyze, report on and promote the use of high-quality, prekindergarten through grade 12 performance data for use in education planning, policymaking, and management and budget decisionmaking to improve outcomes for students. EDFacts centralizes data provided by state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies and schools, and it provides users with the ability to easily analyze and report on submitted data. This initiative has reduced the reporting burden for state and local data producers, and it has streamlined data collection, analysis and reporting functions at the federal, state and local levels.

What Is the Purpose of EDFacts?

- Place the use of robust, timely performance data at the core of decisionmaking and policymaking in education.
- Reduce state and district data burden and streamline data practices.
- Improve state data capabilities by providing resources and technical assistance.
- Provide data for planning, policy and management at the federal, state and local levels.

What Are Key Things to Know About EDFacts Data?

- **EDFacts does not collect individual student- or staff-level information.** All information provided to EDFacts is aggregated—often by categories such as grade level. Although some of the data may contain small numbers, none of the information is linked to specific students or staff members.
- **Data are collected from multiple sources.** Most data are collected through the EDFacts Submission System (ESS). The ESS collects files submitted electronically by SEAs. Most metadata (e.g., information to explain the data in EDFacts, such as state proficiency levels) are collected through the web-based system, EDFacts Metadata and Process System (EMAPS).

EDFacts is a U.S. Department of Education initiative to put performance data at the center of policy, management and budget decisions for all K-12 educational programs. For more information, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/initiatives/edfacts/index.html>

- **Data are reported for a specific period of time.** The “Reporting Period” may be based on a specific count date, such as October 1, or for a reporting period, such as the program year or school year.
- **Data are associated with the school year of performance.** Whether the reporting period is based on a count date or reporting period, all data are associated with a specific school year.

What Are the *EDFacts* Data Analysis and Reporting Tools?

To encourage increased data usage, *EDFacts* data analysis and reporting tools permit licensed users to access, analyze and report on education data in the *EDFacts* family of data sources. ED staff have access to preformatted reports and user-defined, or ad hoc, reports to provide information supporting the needs of the Secretary of Education, senior leadership, and administrative and program offices. SEAs currently have access to preformatted reports for data they provide to ED.

What Data Are Available through *EDFacts*?

SEAs submit education performance data for grades preK–12 on over 180 data groups (each group includes several data elements that are logically connected) at the state, district and school levels to the U.S. Department of Education. Each state has an *EDFacts* Coordinator whose job is to gather the data from their state and submit to *EDFacts*. The family of *EDFacts* data includes data from multiple program that cover the following topics:

- General information about schools, agencies, staff and students, including directory information
- Accountability, including ESEA Flexibility
- Assessment participation and Achievement
- Charter Schools
- Special Education/Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Graduates and Dropouts
- Title I
- Title III and Limited English Proficiency
- Migrant Education Program
- Homeless
- Neglected and Delinquent
- Teacher Quality
- Career and Technical Education
- School Improvement Grant
- Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Race to the Top
- Financial data about federal programs and REAP alternative funding