



Fact Sheet

Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)

CEDS creates definitions of and formats for a subset of key K-12 data elements and key K-12-to-postsecondary transition data elements. Developed with the guidance, input and participation of a broad range of education stakeholders, the goal for the CEDS Initiative is voluntary adoption and wide acceptance within and across states in both K-12 and postsecondary sectors. Version 1.0 was released in September 2010 and includes 161 data elements and their definitions. Future versions of CEDS will build on work done in Version 1.0 to include more postsecondary, early childhood and workforce development elements. To view version 1.0 of the standards visit: <http://www.commondatastandards.org/elements.html>.

Why We Need Common Education Data Standards

Educators and policymakers need clear, consistent information about students and schools in order to improve learning. CEDS also sets a standard that reduces the cost of producing information, helping to lessen the financial burden that is oftentimes associated with building data systems. Additionally, the U.S. student population is highly mobile. Students routinely transition between schools in K-12, between K-12 and postsecondary institutions and between multiple postsecondary institutions. While this mobility is very predictable, consistent and comparable data to support these transitions is not. Sometimes, mobility also catches us by surprise as in the case of natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. Regardless of why, when students move from one academic institution to another, data that aligns with CEDS allows educators to quickly understand a student's prior academic experience and performance, making it easier to meet the student's educational needs moving forward. But to be able to share high-quality data between state and federal education agencies and systems, institutions of higher education, districts, and schools that is consistently and broadly understood, we must have a common vocabulary for a subset of key data elements. CEDS allows us to draw valid comparisons between key indicators of educational progress and success and identify areas where we can improve instruction and support – from early childhood through K-12 education to postsecondary education and the workforce – as well as improve education policy across all levels.

The Goal of the Common Education Data Standards Initiative

The Common Education Data Standards Initiative, a coalition of education stakeholders that includes state K-12 and higher education organizations and non-profit and vendor organizations, are working together in a collaborative effort to ensure that common definitions, code sets, business rules and technical specifications of a subset of key data elements become commonly and voluntarily adopted and widely used within and across K-12 and postsecondary sectors. Adoption and use of CEDS will increase the ability to share and compare data consistently and broadly across and within states and educational entities at all levels.

What Common Education Data Standards ARE

Voluntary: CEDS develops definitions, code sets and formatting for a subset of key K-12 data elements and key K-12-to-postsecondary transition data elements that may be adopted voluntarily by education stakeholders.

Utilizing existing initiatives and data sources: CEDS are almost entirely drawn or adapted from

existing standards sources, such as SIF and PESC, and standardized data collections including EdFacts, IPEDS and FSA. However, CEDS needed to be identified and prioritized to ensure the most vital data elements and definitions that address the key persons, places and transitions in K-12 and postsecondary sectors are consistent across districts, states and academic institutions.

A collaboration: The CEDS Initiative is made up of stakeholders from all levels and sectors of education in a collaborative effort to develop common definitions, code sets, business rules and technical specifications for a subset of key data elements that state and federal education agencies and systems, institutions of higher education, districts, schools and vendors can voluntarily adopt.

Improving how data are shared: Use of CEDS improves the interoperability, portability and comparability of education data.

What Common Education Data Standards **ARE NOT**

NOT required: Adoption of any or all of the Common Education Data Standards is entirely voluntary.

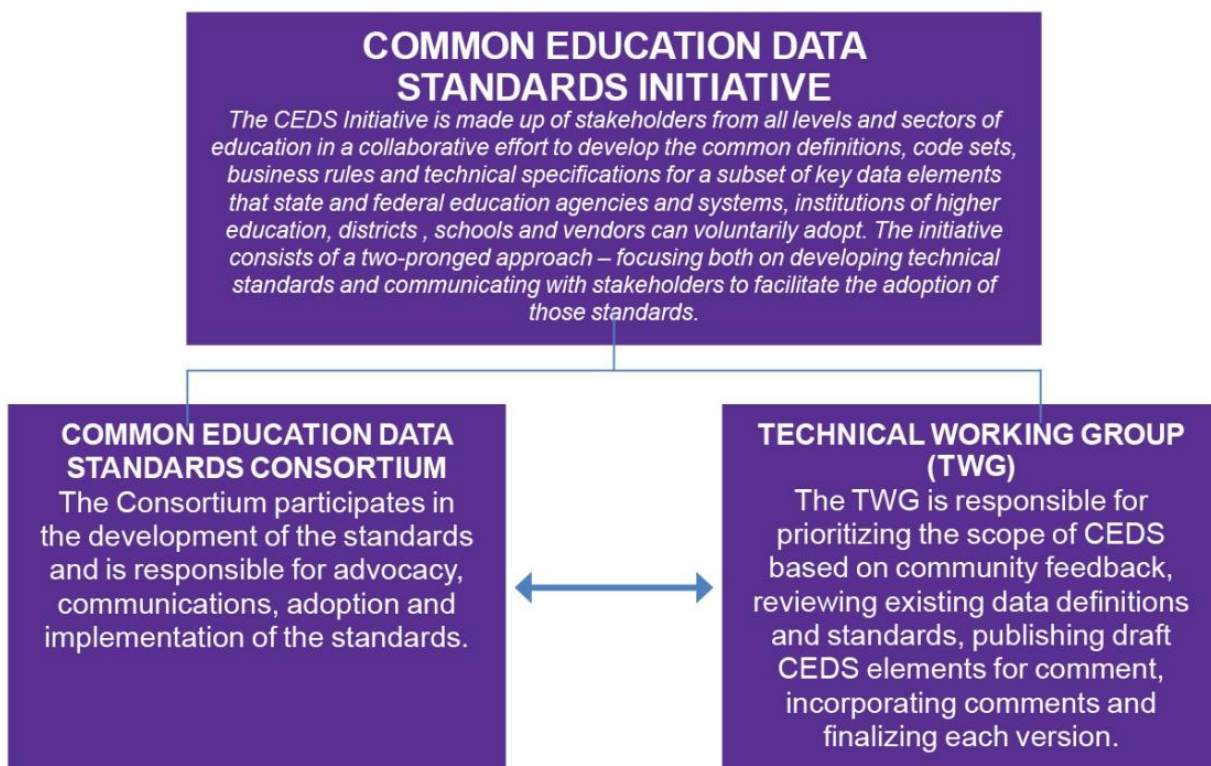
NOT a data collection: CEDS does not collect data.

NOT a federal record system or database: CEDS are a best practice for data standardization to enable sharing between systems.

NOT solely a federal undertaking: The CEDS initiative is a collaborative effort including state and federal education agencies and systems, institutions of higher education, districts and schools.

NOT academic standards: CEDS are not the Common Core State Standards but will make it possible for states to collect the data they need to fully understand their progress on successfully adopting the Common Core State Standards or any other high standards.

CEDS Efforts



Common Education Data Standards Consortium

The Consortium is made up of representatives from:

- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
- State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)
- Data Quality Campaign (DQC)
- Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIF)
- Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC)
- The United States Department of Education (ex officio)
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

To find out more about what adoption of the standards means and how it will benefit your educational institution and/or state, visit the Common Education Data Standards website at <http://www.commoneddatastandards.org> or contact Alex Jackl at CCSSO (alexj@ccsso.org) or John Blegen at SHEEO (jblegen@sheeo.org).

Technical Working Group (TWG)

The TWG is facilitated by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and its contractors, and includes representatives from:

- State Education Agencies (SEAs)
- Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
- State higher education organizations
- Institutions of higher education
- USED Program Offices
- CCSSO
- SHEEO
- SIF
- PESC
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation