

USING SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL SPENDING DATA: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEAS

The National Comprehensive Center (National Center) has received Department of Education funding to guide and support local education agencies (LEAs) in their efforts to improve the usefulness of school-by-school per-pupil expenditure data and enhance decision-making capacity about resource allocations, particularly among parents and other education advocates, school board members and administrators.

Participating LEAs will receive customized school-by-school spending visualizations as well as training and conversation guides to support them in using ESSA-required spending data to examine resource allocations and opportunities to improve equity and student outcomes.

Regional Centers and SEAs are welcome to nominate an LEA with leadership who would be interested in participating, and LEAs are also welcome to self-nominate.

LEA SELECTION:

Interested LEAs should email Hannah.Jarmolowski@georgetown.edu on or before January 15, 2021. In consultation with the Department of Education, the National Center will select 10-15 LEAs to participate, with preference given to LEAs that:

1. Have a willingness to share school-by-school spending data with the working group and/or are located in a state with published per-pupil spending data; and
2. Have leaders who express an eagerness to engage in financial analysis; examine resource allocations; and explore opportunities to improve spending equity, student outcomes and communications with stakeholders combined with a demonstrated commitment by superintendent or senior LEA leader to meeting all LEA expectations (described below).

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING LEAS INCLUDE:

The National Center will provide each participating LEA

- » Four data visualizations using each LEA's spending, outcomes, and demographic data
- » Training for district teams on how to communicate financial data and decision making with various stakeholders
- » Protocols and support for LEA conversations with various stakeholder groups



PROJECT DURATION:

LEAs will be notified by January 31, 2021 and the project will end in September 2021.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPATING LEAS:

LEA superintendent or senior leader will identify a project point of contact for this work who will coordinate LEA participation. Over the course of the project, LEA representatives (as identified by the LEA project lead) will participate in an introductory conversation to review customized spending data visualizations; attend one communications training; lead at least three conversations with stakeholder groups (board members, school leaders, parents, or community advocates); and provide feedback on data visualizations and conversation protocols. Total LEA time commitment is approximately 20 hours.

BENEFIT TO ALL LEAS, SEAS, AND RCS:

Products, resources and tools developed through the pilot will be available to all SEAs and LEAs on the National Comprehensive Center and Edunomics Lab websites.

The National Center team working on this project includes Dr. Marguerite Roza and researchers from Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University. Please contact Hannah Jarmolowski at hannah.jarmolowski@georgetown.edu with any questions or to learn more about this project

The contents of this project announcement were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.

