

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*



December 17, 2020

Last summer, States and school districts reported, for the first time, school-by-school spending data required by the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended by the *“Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).”*

Now publicly available, these school-by-school spending data provide a unique opportunity to inform education policy and management. Education leaders, policymakers, parents, and advocates can use these financial data to make allocation decisions and improve schooling in their communities.

The National Comprehensive Center is offering around 10 LEAs the opportunity to receive support from national subject matter experts in visualizing these data and using them for local policy conversations to inform education improvements in their communities. Selected LEAs will work with the National Center, including experts from the Edunomics Lab, to review their school spending data, create data visualizations, and develop plans for engaging stakeholders in conversations about equitable school spending. The attached document provides more details about the opportunity and expectations for participating LEAs. Since not all LEAs will be able to participate in this pilot, those who do will be expected to share what they learn with others across the country. The National Center will be seeking a diverse cohort of districts for this project.

I hope you will nominate an LEA for participation in this funded project or pass along this invitation to any LEA leaders who may be interested in this opportunity to enhance their capacity in this area. Any LEA nominations, interest, or questions should be emailed to Hannah Jarmolowski at [Hannah.Jarmolowski@georgetown.edu](mailto:Hannah.Jarmolowski@georgetown.edu)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Nafziger".

Dean Nafziger, PhD  
National Comprehensive Director