



# Priorities for the National Center for Education Statistics

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# NCES Facts at a Glance

- Established in 1867 – second oldest federal statistical agency
- Mission: “collect, report, analyze, and disseminate statistical data related to education in the United States and in other nations”
- Leading agency in access to public use and restricted data driving evidence-based policy





# NCES Facts at a Glance

- Activities include:
  - Administering National Assessment of Educational Progress
  - Reporting annually to Congress on Condition of Education
  - Designing and implementing substantial program of surveys – from early education through postsecondary
  - Providing grants and technical assistance to states to build statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS)
  - Facilitating U.S. participation in international assessments (PISA, TIMSS)



# COVID-19

- Opportunities

- Added questions to surveys in field to gauge COVID-19 education impact (e.g., National Postsecondary Student Aid Study—NPSAS, Beginning Postsecondary Student Survey--BPS)
- Informed questions for Census Household Pulse Survey
- Conducting NAEP 2021 School Survey (school data)

- Challenges

- School closures and impact on data collection
- Delays in surveys / assessments



# Budget and Staff

## Budget

NCES has experienced limited increases in funding since FY 2010

- FY 2010: \$108.52 M
- FY 2016: \$112.00 M
- FY 2021: \$111.50 M

In Real Dollars 15% Decade Decline

Long-term casualties—e.g., NSOPF

## Staff

NCES has been constrained by FTE caps and staff attrition to carry out mission.

NCES currently has 95 staff (at FTE cap), decrease from 130 staff 25 years ago.



# Bolstering NCES Data

- Staffing
  - Lift FTE caps
  - Provide direct line for IES / NCES similar to OIG and OCR within ED salaries and expenses
- Budget
  - Along with overall need for additional funding
    - \$5 million for School Pulse Survey
    - Increase for NAEP to keep up with inflation-adjusted costs



# Ensuring NCES Autonomy and Independence

- Preserve presidential appointment and reinstate Senate confirmation for commissioner
- Provide NCES authority over its budget allocation, information technology, hiring, and publications



# Ensuring NCES Autonomy and Independence

- Ensure that NCES controls the confidentiality of data and privacy protections
- Facilitate more direct access of the NCES Commissioner to the Secretary of Education





# The NCES Path from Here

- James (“Lynn”) Woodworth, Commissioner, term ends June 2021
- Moving forward—Ideas, recommendations and concerns welcomed from YOU across research, policy, and federal and state agencies
- Special thanks to Steve Pierson and Paul Schroeder
  
- Thank you!
- Contact: [flevine@aera.net](mailto:flevine@aera.net) and 202-238-3201