

Data and Education Policy

This session will explore how and which data is used to shape education policy, how policy is shaping the role that data plays in education, and what this means for students, families, teachers, and schools. How is “big data” defined and what are the (mis)uses of NAEP, the Civil Right Data Collection, Ed Facts and other data sets? We are now collecting data on teaching and learning on a much more granular level than ever before – what are the intended and unintended consequences of data usage?

Speakers: Kristin Harper, Child Trends; Afet Dundar, National Student Clearinghouse; Emily Cheng, IEL

Emily Cheng
Data Analyst
IEL



Emily (Li) Cheng joined IEL in 2019 as a senior program associate - data analyst, focusing on organizational metrics, large public data sets related to equity, and evaluation. She earned her Ph.D. in public policy and administration from Western Michigan University and her master's degree in public administration from Binghamton University. She is also a member of Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. Her research interests include educational performance evaluation, social equity, and comparative public policy and administration. While in school, she led a project to analyze the gap between academic training and job requirements for FAA Center of Excellence for Technical Training and Human Performance; managed a state-funded college mentoring program that was launched for academically and economically disadvantaged students; and prepared an annual accreditation data report for NASPAA, a global accreditor of master's degree programs in public policy, public affairs, public administration, and public and nonprofit management. Her skills in statistical analysis, database management, and program evaluation contribute to her success in these endeavors. Her doctoral dissertation focused on transformative learning and curriculum internationalization of public service programs. She is enthusiastic about promoting excellence, diversity, and inclusion in postsecondary education.

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Afet Dundar
Director, Research Center
National Student Clearinghouse



Afet Dunder is associate director of the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Dunder plays a leading role in producing the Research Center's Signature Report series, which are national reports on student outcomes, and helps to develop the center's research agenda. She has contributed to numerous publications on student access and success outcomes. Prior to joining the Clearinghouse, Dunder was assistant director for Research at the Project on Academic Success (PAS) at Indiana University where she was closely involved in the design of a national survey to identify and document policies and practices associated with student persistence at institutions across the United States, as part of the College Board Study on Student Retention and in the Mobile Working Student Collaborative project funded by the Lumina Foundation. She has a Ph.D. in education policy studies from Indiana University Bloomington.

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Resource:

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/>

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/completing-college/>

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport15/>

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport11/>

Kristen Harper
Director for Policy Development
Child Trends



Kristen Harper brings to Child Trends a wealth of expertise in utilizing research to drive policy decision making and promote better outcomes for youth. She serves as a strategic advisor working to continuously improve the policy relevance of Child Trends' portfolio and connect researchers with local, state, and federal officials. Kristen is also a nationally recognized expert on education policy, racial and ethnic disparities in education, school discipline policy, and school health and climate. Currently, Kristen is the principal investigator of a study to examine how shifts in Medicaid policy have influenced reimbursements for school-based health services and school capacity to promote health equity. She serves as a senior advisor for multiple projects dedicated to improving school health, school safety, and adolescent health.

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Resource 1 : Mapping the Link between Life Expectancy and Educational Opportunity.
<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/mapping-the-link-between-life-expectancy-and-educational-opportunity>