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June 5, 2023

Submitted Electronically via Regulations.gov

RE: National Center for Education Statistics School Pulse Panel 2023-24 Data Collection

Dear Ms. Valentine,

The Data Foundation is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve government and society by using data to inform public policymaking. Our Data Coalition project is America's premier voice on data policy, advocating for responsible policies to make government data high-quality, accessible, and usable.

In line with our organizational goals, we applaud the continuation of the School Pulse Panel and efforts to create a post-pandemic panel for the 2023-2024 school year. As the country moves beyond the pandemic, generating data and evidence to describe our post-covid education landscape is key to accounting for learning loss, teacher retention, and understanding the pathway from education to workforce, among other things. Monitoring the impact of the pandemic on schools, students, and educators is critical to develop, implement, and analyze effective policies that ensure a high-quality education system and future workforce.

We also express our support for the addition of a district-level survey to the panel. As a post-pandemic education system emerges, it will be important to gather data that provide a holistic picture of how our schools have been, and will be, impacted by the disruption of the pandemic. District-level data provides different perspectives and insights that cannot be accounted for through surveying individual schools. This expanded data collection will contribute to a more complete understanding of a post-pandemic education system and effective implementation of education policies in a way it benefits all students, educators, and administrators. As noted in the request, insight into education governance more broadly, such as district finances, supply chain issues, and facilities, can illuminate potential needs and larger administrative-level trends that district leadership, or the state or federal Department of Education, may learn from and address.

The Data Foundation supports the proposed updates, and applauds the continued use of pulse surveys as an innovative way to generate data for evidence-building in a timely manner. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this data collection and will continue to support NCES' efforts in the successful collection and use of data to ensure high-quality education outcomes. Please reach out to me at corinna.turbes@datafoundation.org with any questions.

Sincerely, Corinna Turbes Policy Director