

# Embracing a New Vision for Education Statistics

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Commissioner

National Center for Education Statistics

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# 1st Step: Develop a Strategic Plan for NCES

- Creates a foundation for how we implement all the other recommendations
- “**Thinking big**” about the future of NCES, its priorities, and renewing its status as a leading statistical agency
- **Worthy investment** with big returns
- Publication expected by the end of 2022
- Here is a sneak preview of what you can expect

# Mission

NCES is the **primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education**. Located within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences, NCES exists to fulfill a Congressional mandate:

- to collect and analyze education information and statistics in a manner that meets the **highest methodological standards**;
- to report education information and statistics in **a timely manner**; and
- to collect, analyze, and report education information and statistics in a manner that—
  - is **objective, secular, neutral, and nonideological** and is **free of partisan political influence and racial, cultural, gender, or regional bias**; and
  - is **relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public**.

# Vision for NCES going forward

Build new capabilities to meet the demands, challenges, and disruptions of the ever-changing educational landscape, societal needs and expectations, and technologies and data collection possibilities; while maintaining NCES' commitment to produce high-quality, rigorous, reliable, valid, timely, relevant, useful, and secure data.

# NCES Goals

*draft*



Ensuring that NCES activities focus on **highest priority data** to fulfill its mission to monitor and report on the condition of education



Embedding **diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility** in all aspects of the Center's work to improve its collective capacity to understand and report on the condition of education



Developing and leveraging **mutually beneficial partnerships** with practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and government agencies at all levels to ensure the relevance and value of the Center's work



Continuously **improving existing operations, management, and support for legislative and regulatory requirements** to develop and disseminate data products that are relevant and useful

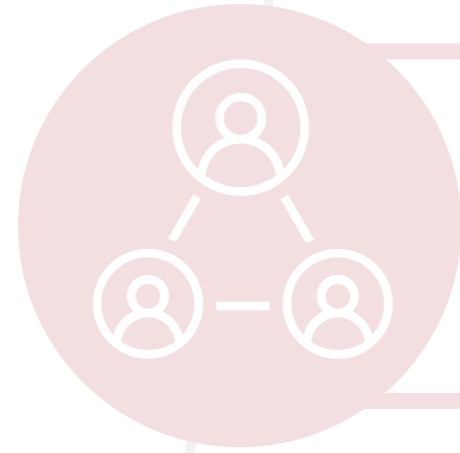
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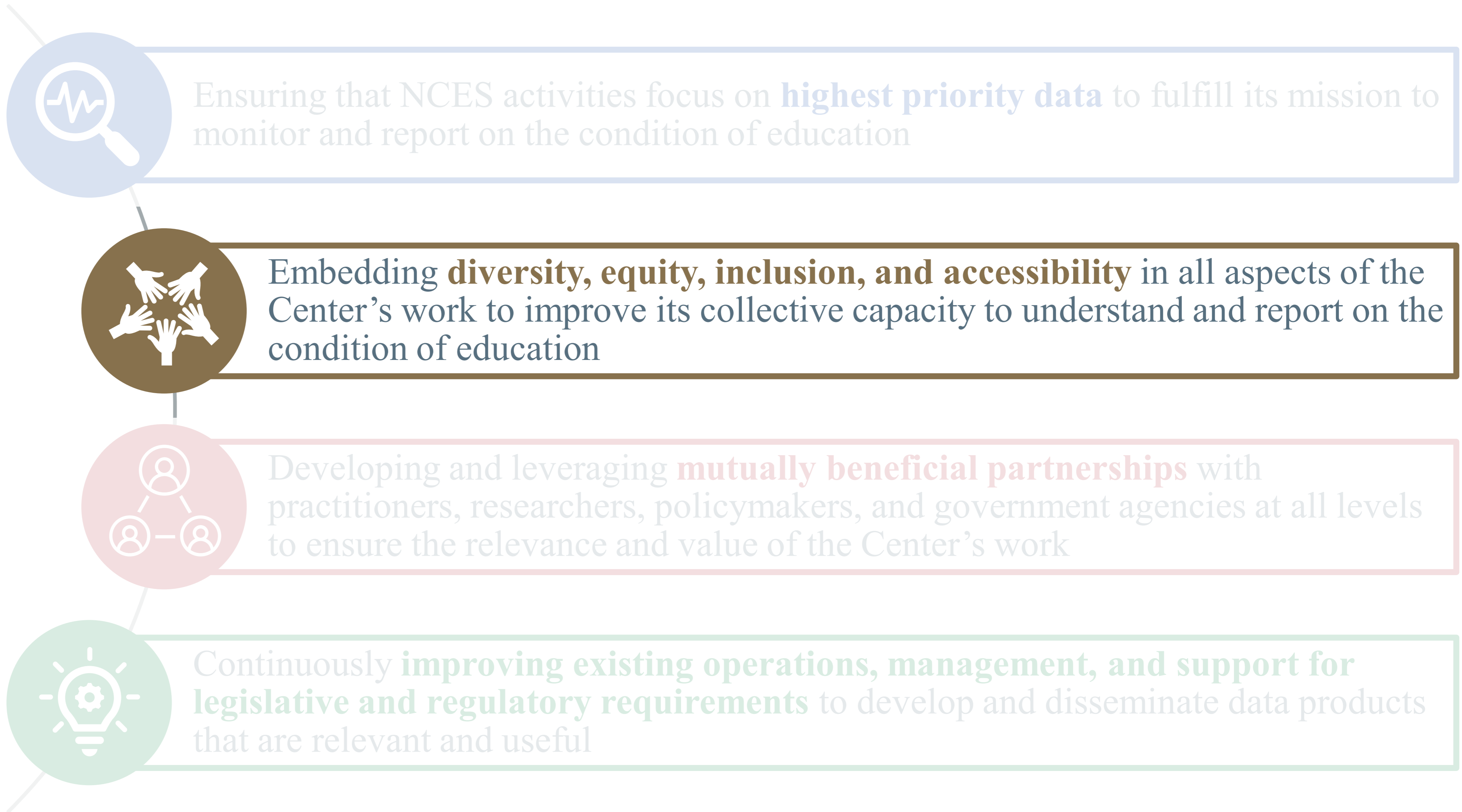
Continuously **improving existing operations, management, and support for legislative and regulatory requirements** to develop and disseminate data products that are relevant and useful



## Goal 1 / Recommendations

- 2-1:** Incentivize innovation and creative partnerships that will produce relevant, timely, and reliable products to assist decisionmakers.
- 2-2:** Collaborate to ensure independence in developing, producing, and disseminating statistics.
- 2-3:** Fulfill the responsibilities of the statistical official.
- 3-1:** Conduct a top-to-bottom review of data-acquisition activities to prioritize topics.
- 4-6:** Release data and data products that are useful, actionable, and timely for state and local education agencies and other stakeholders.

# NCES Goals *draft*



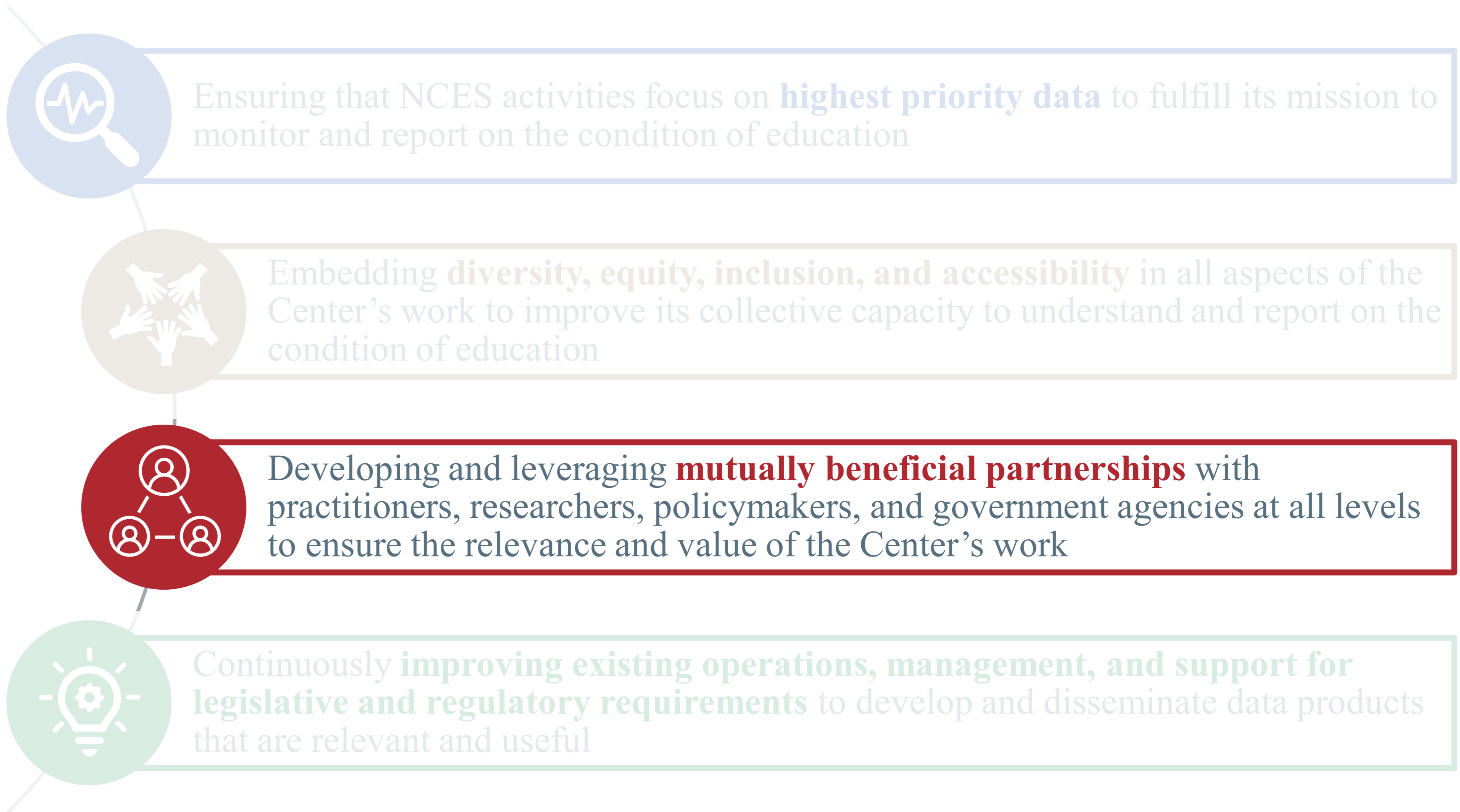




## Goal 2 / Recommendations

- 2-4:** Proactively embed diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in all areas of work.
- 3-1:** Conduct a top-to-bottom review of data-acquisition activities to prioritize topics.
- 4-6:** Release data and data products that are useful, actionable, and timely for state and local education agencies and other stakeholders.

# NCES Goals *draft*





## Goal 3 / Recommendations

**2-5:** Explore alternative sources of data from multiple sources and linkage tools.

**4-1:** Deepen and broaden engagement with current and potential data users to gather continuing feedback..

**4-2:** Collaborate with other data-holding federal agencies and organizations to develop useful products and processes.

**4-3:** Explore and establish creative models for a nimble, ongoing consulting body.



## Goal 3 / Recommendations

**4-4:** Strengthen state capacity to link data across systems, adopt shared data standards, and provide actionable information to state and LEAs to help improve student outcomes.

**4-5:** In collaboration with IES, establish a joint statistical research program that includes matching internal staff with highly qualified external researchers, statisticians, and data scientists.

**5-1:** Utilize contractors and creative staffing arrangements to work collaboratively with staff to build internal capacity. Explore greater use of flexible contract types, stronger incentives for contractors to adopt cost-effective innovations, and performance-based requirements.

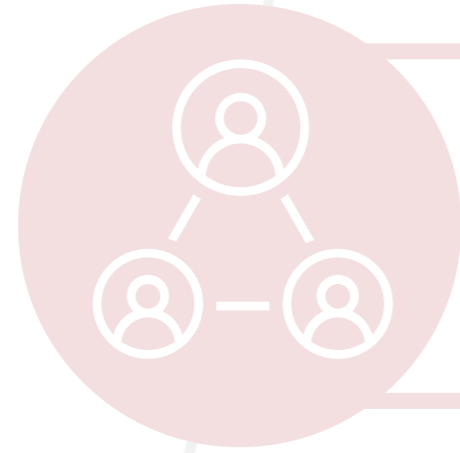
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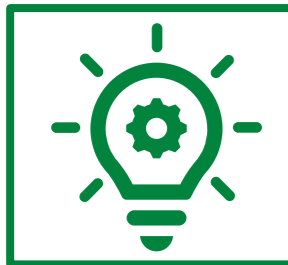
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Continuously **improving existing operations, management, and support for legislative and regulatory requirements** to develop and disseminate data products that are relevant and useful



## Goal 4 / Recommendations

**2-3:** Fulfill the responsibilities of the statistical official.

**2-6:** Modernize standard language on consent and planned usage to permit secure secondary uses that enable high-quality follow-up studies, such as through privacy-protected linkages with other data sources.

**3-2:** Revisit priorities mandated by Congress and, where appropriate, make recommendations for changes.

**4-3:** Explore and establish creative models for a nimble, ongoing consulting body.



## Goal 4 Recommendations (cont'd)

- 4-4:** Strengthen state capacity to link data across systems, adopt shared data standards, and provide actionable information to state and LEA to help improve student learning outcomes.
- 4-6:** Release data and data products that are useful, actionable, and timely for local and state education agencies and other stakeholders.
- 5-1:** Utilize contractors and creative staffing arrangements to work collaboratively with staff to build internal capacity. Explore greater use of flexible contract types, stronger incentives for contractors to adopt cost-effective innovations, and performance-based requirements.

# Highlights of Planned Activities to Date



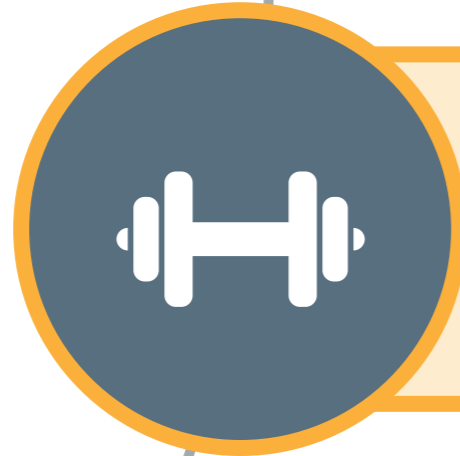
# Major Activities



Evaluate the NCES portfolio



Nimble consulting body



Strengthen independence



Low hanging fruit

# Regularly Evaluating NCES Portfolio

Strategic Plan will enable an annual, comprehensive assessment of our programs and collections

Annual portfolio review will include:

- Assessing relevance of products
- Determining priorities of existing programs
- Identifying needs for new initiatives and improvements
- Building plans to support key efforts with external stakeholders
- Eliminating lower value programs and activities

# An NCEES Nimble Consulting Body

Currently uses multiple groups and established meetings to connect with critical stakeholders

Does not have a singular, external group to serve as advisors and technical consultants

## Benefits:

- Provides input on buy-in for new proposals and R&D before investing resources
- Becomes a key voice within the regular strategic planning process
- Provides feedback and guidance regarding new methods and statistical products
- Improves messaging capabilities, outreach, and connection with statistical community

# Strengthening NCES Independence

Administratively - Layered within Department

Legislatively - Independent for statistical activities and contracting authority

Program funding - Direct from Congress

Staff and support services funding - Through IES and the Department

Limited control over resources needed to fulfill mission consistent with legislation

NCES, IES, and the Secretary to work together to strengthen NCES independence

# Low Hanging Fruit

Build capacity in states and districts

Embed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility

Better coordination of survey designs

Strategic partnerships

Thank You