Future Forward Data Collection Summary

Future Forward collects certain data associated with students involved in the study of the program. This is both required by the grant that helps fund the program and essential in helping us evaluate program effectiveness.

The following information outlines what data are required and provides answers to common questions about the process. **Any updates in this guidance from the summary you received in December have been highlighted in yellow for your convenience.**

Please note that the data listed are required for all Future Forward students regardless of when they receive program services. For example, the data of spring students is required at the midyear collection point despite not yet having received program services.

What data are required for Future Forward students?

Middle of School Year	End of School Year
Student ID	School attendance rates for the spring semester (for individual students, not the school at large)*
Race/Ethnicity	Tier II intervention participation for spring semester (if applicable)
Gender	Spring 2023-24 local reading assessment name (PALS, DIBELS, MAP, etc.), date of assessment, and scale scores**
School attendance rates for the fall semester (for individual students, not the school at large)*	IF CHANGES HAVE OCCURED SINCE JANUARY, provide updated: • Free and reduced price lunch eligibility • IEP status • EL status
Tier II and other intervention participation during the fall semester (if applicable); Future Forward should not be considered an intervention.	
Free and reduced price lunch eligibility	
IEP status (and type if applicable)	
English Language (EL) status	
Fall and winter 2023-24 local reading assessment name (PALS, DIBELS, MAP, etc.), date of assessment, and scale scores**	

*Attendance data can include total number of school days and the number of each student's individual absences. You can also provide an attendance rate for each student if that is easier to obtain.
**Reading assessment scale scores are needed within these categories.

Please review the next pages for frequently asked questions about the data collection process.

Frequently Asked Questions
- *Who all is involved in data collection?*
  - Future Forward national team members who share information about what types of data are required.
  - School staff who obtain necessary data.
  - Everyone should be available to ask and answer questions.
  - Future Forward Liaisons are an important part of this process because they work within both the Future Forward and school worlds; this places them in a unique situation to facilitate the collection of data.

- *How do we securely send the data to Future Forward?*
  - Data **must** be sent via a secure website called ShareFile- due to federal student data privacy laws, **it cannot be sent via email**. This is **required** to ensure the security of sensitive student information. Future Forward staff and relevant school staff should already have access to the secure folder created for each school. The Future Forward team will be happy to provide support in accessing this folder as needed.

- *How should data be formatted?*
  - It is most helpful if data are shared in a common format across sites. Please use the provided data sharing template to organize the needed data.

- *Why does Future Forward need this data?*
  - Future Forward collects data associated with students in the program both because it is required by the grant that helps fund this work and because it helps evaluate the program's effectiveness.

- *How can we be sure student improvement is the result of FF and not the classroom teacher?*
  - The impact of Future Forward occurs alongside the work of skilled teachers and administrators we have the privilege of working beside. The reason we collect so much data about each student in the program is so our external evaluation team can use statistical modeling to determine exactly what the impact of the Future Forward intervention is for a group of students. In statistical analysis, the way to identify an intervention's effect is to compare the average difference between students served by the program and those receiving "business as usual" learning and support. By collecting data on students in Future Forward in the fall and those who don't receive access to the program until the spring, our evaluation team is able to isolate the impact of the impact of the Future Forward program from the impacts of teachers and schools.
  - What is unique about Future Forward is its ability to provide students with intensive one-on-one tutoring and their families with consistent engagement; with the extreme demands placed on the time of school staff, this is not otherwise possible. As independent research demonstrates, the combined expertise of schools and Future Forward consistently benefits students.

- *Why are we unable to replace participating students during the school year with other students?*
    - Schools are provided the opportunity at the start of the school year to choose which students they would like to participate in the program (with certain limitations, such as grade level). Once those students' families sign consent forms and they begin participation in the evaluation (by being assigned to either the fall or spring "treatment" groups), we are unable to move them in or out of the program or exchange their participation for other students due to data validity requirements stemming from student selection research restrictions. That said, if a student seat becomes available due to a different participating student's departure (they transfer to a new school, for example), a student can be enrolled in the program as an "unofficial" student and their data will not be used for program evaluation.