



Data Quality Institute 2017 Conference

Cross-state Collaboration to Improve CTE Performance Accountability

November 16-17, 2017

Collecting Data on Industry-recognized Skill Awards

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Iowa Department of Education*

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Certification Data Exchange Project (CDEP)

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Credentials, Defined

	CERTIFICATE	CERTIFICATION	DEGREE	LICENSE
AWARDED BY...	Education Institution	Business, trade associations, industry	Education Institution	Government Agency
RESULTS FROM...	Course of Study	Assessment	Course of Study	Meeting Requirements
INDICATES...	Education	Skill Mastery	Education	Legal Permission
COMPLETED IN...	<2 Years	Variable	2+ Years	Variable
MAINTAINED BY...	N/A	Skill practice, re-assessment	N/A	Re-application, continuing education
EXAMPLE...	ServSafe Food Handler, Green Manufacturing Specialist, Certificate in Business Administration	Certified Welder (CW), Certified Logistics Technician (CLT), Certified International Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)	Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Engineering	Registered Nurse (RN), Cosmetologist, Master Plumber

Education and Workforce Need

- *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) accountability*
 - 2S1 and 1P1: ... passed technical skill assessments that are **aligned with industry-recognized standards**, if available and appropriate ...
 - 3S1: ... earned a **proficiency credential** ...
 - 2P1 ... earned an **industry-recognized credential** ...
- Increase data comparability across states
- Encourage better integration of industry standards
- Demonstrate value of CTE programs

Certifier Need

- Learn more about their consumers
 - How they benefit from industry certifications
 - Academic credentials also earned and timing of attainment
- Learn more about education providers incorporating industry certifications
- Demonstrate value of industry certifications

Certification Data Exchange Project

- Grew out of a 2012 Illinois-CompTIA pilot
- Additional pilots with:
 - CA, IL, IA, NC, KY; FL and OK (past)
 - CompTIA, MSSC, ACT
- Recipient of technical assistance from the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education for past three years

Data Matching

Data from
Certifying
Organization to
State

Match to State
Education Data
System

State Education
Data Matched to
State Employment
Data

- Match certification records with student data using first name, last name, location, month/year of birth (with some variation)
- Use Social Security Number (SSN) to match with unemployment insurance wage records
- Report back aggregate results

Roadmap

1

- Raise awareness and gain consensus on need

2

- Develop use cases and conduct pilot projects

3

- Develop standards and guidelines on data sharing

4

- Establish national data exchange clearinghouse

Roadmap

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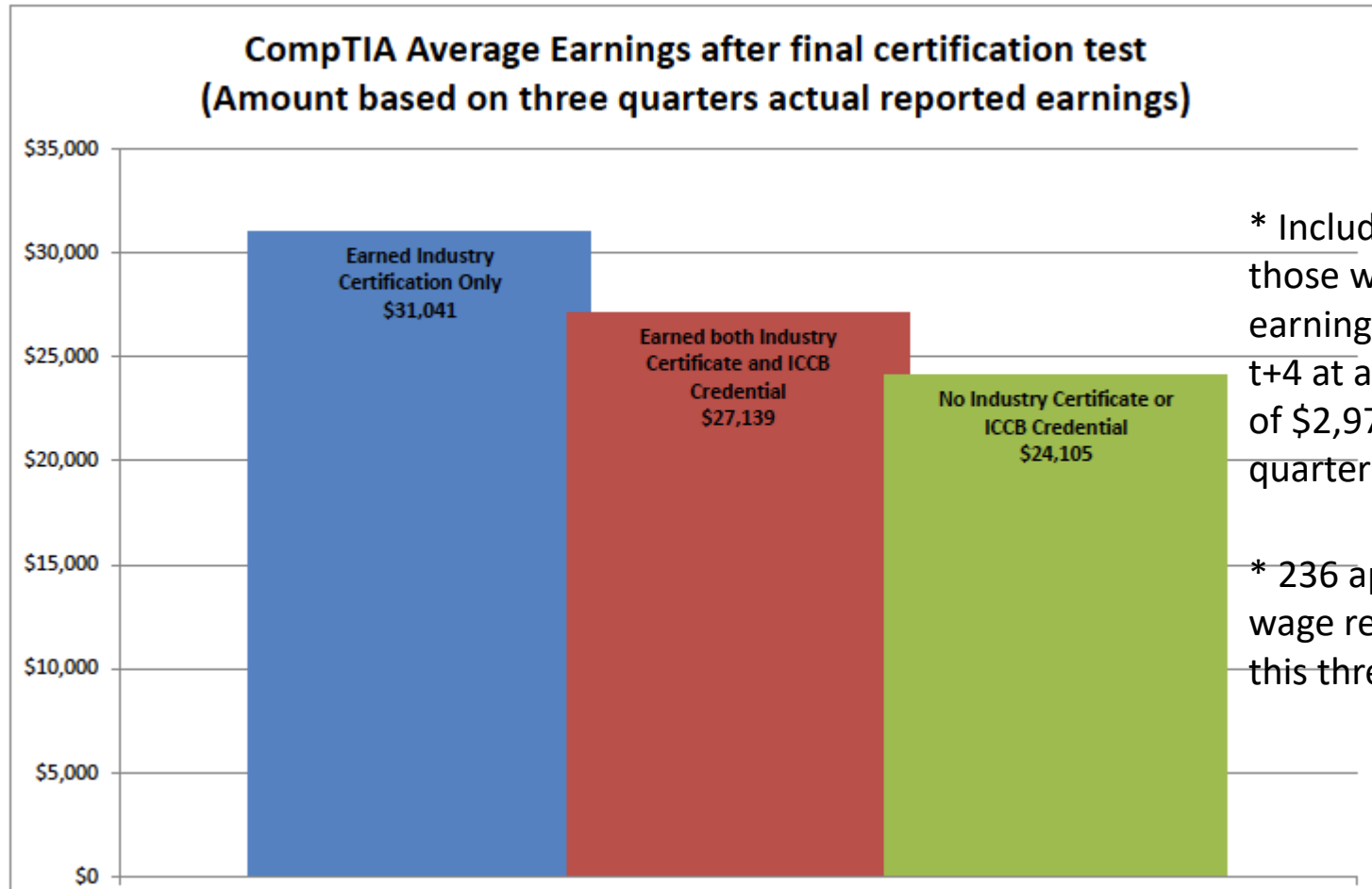
Records Exchanged

- More than 89,000 duplicated CompTIA exam records for California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, North Carolina and Kentucky
 - Most states matched with postsecondary systems
 - Oklahoma matched with its CareerTech system
- Illinois matched more than 4,000 records with the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council
- California and ACT shared more than 1 million records

Characteristics of Certified Individuals

- Vast majority of CompTIA-certified individuals across participating states were male
- In most states, majority of certified individuals were White
 - California was an exception, with about an equal percentage of White and Latino/Hispanic certified
- Wide range of ages was represented, with many earning CompTIA certifications in their 20s

Post-award Earnings (CompTIA, IL)



Roadmap

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Standards and Guidelines

- Established one-page data-sharing agreement
 - Developed by CompTIA with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Privacy
 - Served as a template for others
- Established preferred match variables
 - First name, last name, zip code, month/year of birth and gender
- Developed uniform reporting templates

Roadmap

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- **Establish national data exchange clearinghouse**

Manufacturing Institute Pilot

- Stage 1: Demonstrate how to expand National Student Clearinghouse data set with certification and non-credit information
 - MSSC, NIMS and AWS reporting 5-year records to NSC
 - Selected states to report non-credit data
 - Matching all credential data with every record in NSC
 - Creating process guides
- Stage 2: Labor market test case with Census and expansion
 - Expanding to certification providers beyond manufacturing
 - Expanding to other states/institutions with non-credit programs

Recommendations

- Introduce the data-sharing process and its benefits early, taking into consideration agency governance and state laws and regulations
- Use CDEP's data-sharing agreement template
- Identify a team and allocate time—about 30-40 hours—and resources to data matching and analysis
- Put in place data-sharing agreements between state education and workforce data agencies
- Turn to CDEP materials and to experienced CDEP states for guidance

Recommendations, cont.

- Use existing file transfer protocols
- Obtain a data dictionary from certifying organizations
- Use as many identifiers as possible and consistent with certification organizations' liability under U.S. and international law
- Include for-credit and non-credit data
- Use CDEP's standardized templates as a basis for developing your own reporting templates
- Provide instructions with the templates in order to gain uniformity in reporting



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Industry-based Certifications and Accountability in Mississippi

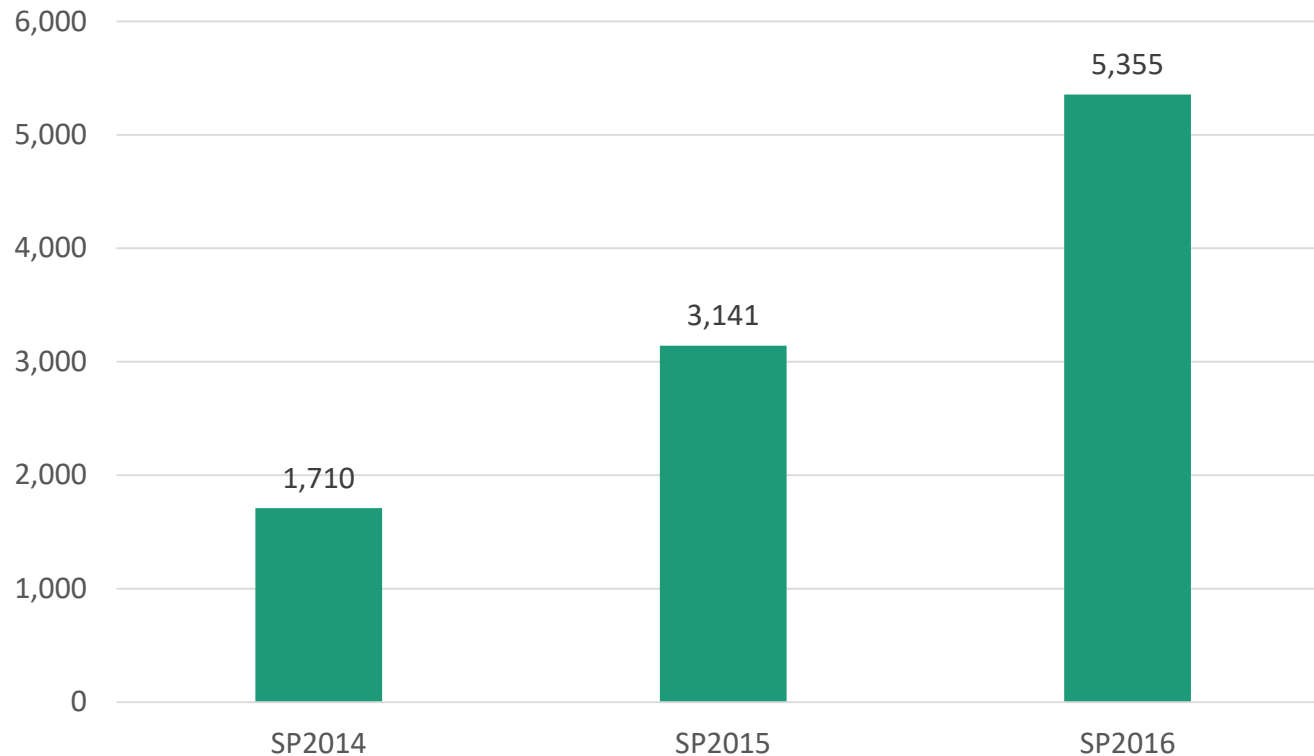
*Alexis Nordin, Research Associate III, Mississippi State
University Research and Curriculum Unit*

Background

- 2001:
 - Mississippi State University's Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) receives a grant from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to conduct statewide assessment of secondary and postsecondary CTE students.
- 2017:
 - The RCU receives a 10-year, \$13.6 million contract (MS-CPAS3) from the MDE to develop the next iteration of secondary CTE assessments in Mississippi.

Increasing Participation

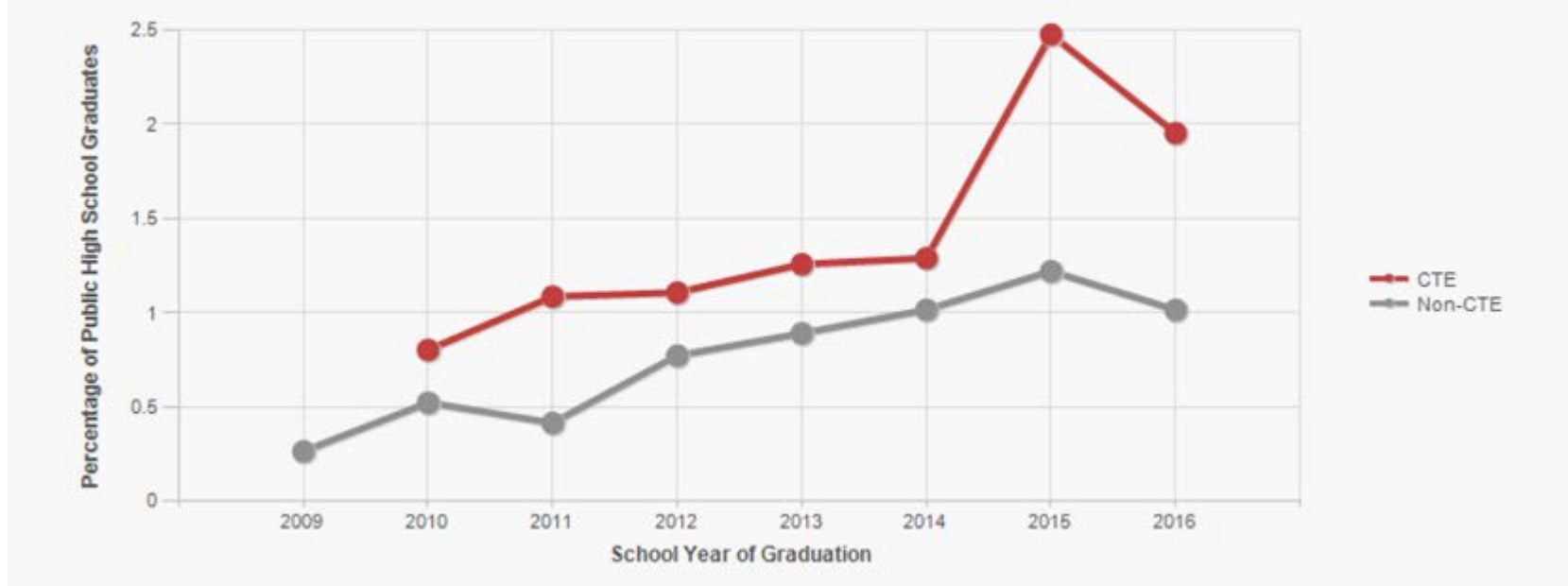
Secondary CTE Students in Mississippi Taking National Certification Exams



Increasing Participation

GRADUATES EARNING A CAREER READINESS CREDENTIAL

Number of CTE participant public high school graduates earning a career readiness credential.



* Some data values may be suppressed to protect the privacy of individuals and small groups of students.

Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES), 2004-2016
Mississippi Community Colleges Student Information Systems, 2006-2016
Mississippi Department of Education, 2004-2016

[National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center \(NSPARC\) LifeTracks Report - 2017](#)

Is Participation Enough?

- Ultimate goals of the MS-CPAS3 contract are to:
 - “...offer more than an arbitrary score”
 - “...facilitate instructional modification”
 - “...improve teacher quality through assessment”
- Dr. Sean Owen, MS-CPAS3 principal investigator
- [The Clarion Ledger, September 2017](#)

Needs of Secondary Candidates

- Are national certification regulatory entities prepared to meet the needs of a growing pool of secondary-level candidates?
- Three critical considerations:
 - State/school/class-level data (broken down by domain)
 - Restrictions lifted that make national certifications unnecessarily challenging for secondary candidates
 - Access to testing accommodations

Domain Reports

- Reporting personally identifiable information (PII) of minors presents understandable challenges
 - Others are more baffling, such as the six approval levels required by one national certification regulatory entity to compile a report using PII to which the state educational agency (SEA) already has access

Domain Reports

- In some cases, national certification regulatory entities provide domain reports only at the individual candidate level, not at the class/instructor or state level, making it difficult to target professional learning needs

Domain Reports

- In other cases, a domain report may be run with obvious errors (e.g., every row is duplicated, blank values, and so forth) which requires more wait time while reports are run again

Barriers to Adopting National Certifications in Secondary Schools

- Certifications may expire within 2-3 years
 - How do you measure impact/value/ROI if certifications expire before students have a chance to use them?
- Certifications may require hundreds of work hours within a tight time frame
 - Employers may be reluctant to have minors working in their businesses due to age/safety/insurance restrictions
 - High school students may not have a reliable vehicle—or even a driver's license
- National certification regulatory entities may make decisions without ever considering a secondary audience:
 - Major changes/updates released any time of year, even during heavy secondary testing times
 - Length of a test may make it prohibitive for a secondary audience (e.g., one hour versus two hour exams)
 - Requiring multiple forms of government-issued ID for a student who may be age 16

Accommodations

- National certification exams are set up for equality (sameness) instead of equity (fairness)
- “We [in assessment] have a lot to learn from our Special Education colleagues about differentiating assessment to get equity for children with special needs.”

Source: Dr. John Fischetti, keynote speech, 2017 Consortium for Research on Educational Assessment and Teaching Effectiveness (CREATE) conference

Accommodations

- Some national certification regulatory entities outsource accommodation requests.
- These national certification regulatory entities work with the accommodations team to set exam-specific accommodation policies.
- Common accommodations (e.g., reader) are not available for all national certification exams, which should be considered in advance when preparing a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- The student receives the accommodation correspondence/decision and then must inform the proctor.
- Some national certification regulatory entities may have policies requiring students needing accommodations to go to separate test sites.

Accommodations

- The guidelines for different disabilities/exams may require that medical documentation be updated within a certain time frame of the test depending on the diagnosis (anywhere from 1-5 years).
- In Mississippi, IEP reevaluations happen every few years, but medical reevaluations may not be required as frequently (depending on IEP versus 504 plans).
- To get appointments with doctors to update disability information may take weeks or months, particularly in rural areas.
- The overall timeline of getting an accommodation written into an IEP can already take over 6 months.

Accommodations

- Exam-specific accommodation decisions may take a month or more.
- One school district's story:

March 9, 2017:	Accommodation request/paperwork submitted for extended time
March 20, 2017:	Student receives first correspondence from the national certification regulatory entity; school responds same day
March 21-April 3:	Test coordinator sends three emails checking status of request; RCU follows up with telephone call
April 3, 2017:	Student takes certification exam having never received the accommodation
April 5, 2017:	Requested accommodation is approved

Accommodations

- What if that child were yours?



Accommodations

- What is Plan B if a student does not receive an accommodation?

Discussion

- Pearson VUE:
 - Districts may opt not to use Pearson's parental consent form, but the release of information "should include the parent/guardian signature and state that the parent is permitting the release of information to Pearson VUE."

Source: Email from Pearson VUE Accommodations Team, March 2017

Discussion

- What does/should informed parental consent look like?

Parent/Guardian Consent Form



If you are under 18 (and/or have a legal guardian), a consent form is needed to complete your request.

Please print this page and complete the form with your parent/guardian. After this form is complete, you may either upload this document on Step #6 ("Documents") of the Reasonable Adjustment Request System, or use this form as a cover letter and fax this form to 1-610-617-9397.

**If you are receiving this form in error and do not require a guardian signature, please print "Not Required" on the form and indicate the reason why this form is not needed before uploading/faxing this document.*

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Age: _____

For which test are you requesting accommodations?

Parent/Guardian's Name (if Candidate is under 18):

Parent/Guardian's Signature (if Candidate is under 18):

Date: _____

Discussion

- What legal/administrative elements does your state have in place to share data with third parties?

Appendix A: Certification Data Exchange Project Data-sharing Agreement Template



DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

This Data Sharing Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and effective as of the date of last signature below, by and between ("Certifying Organization") and the state organization set forth in the signature block below (the "Organization"). "Certifying Organization" administers certification examinations and the Organization desires to have results of certain certification examinations and related data or information (collectively, the "Data") shared with the Organization. Prior to and as a condition of "Certifying Organization" disclosing the Data, "Certifying Organization" requires that the Organization agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

- 1. Representations and Warranties.** The Organization represents and warrants that: (1) "Certifying Organization's" disclosure of the Data to the Organization does not violate any applicable law, regulation or other stipulation of any authorized agency or governmental authority and the Organization is authorized to receive such Data; and (2) this Agreement and the Organization's performance hereunder is duly authorized by the Organization and this Agreement is valid, binding and enforceable against the Organization.
- 2. Use of Data.** The Organization agrees to use the Data solely for performance tracking and research purposes, and the Organization represents and warrants that it shall not use the Data for any purposes that are inconsistent with foregoing, including but not limited to, using the Data for sales or marketing purposes. "Certifying Organization" will only share the Data of those individuals who permit "Certifying Organization" to share their Data with the Organization for the purposes of performance tracking and research. Further, the Organization agrees that within ten (10) days of "Certifying Organization's" request, the Organization will provide to "Certifying Organization" a report detailing all research and analysis that the Organization developed from the Data.
- 3. Data Provided "As Is".** The Organization understands and agrees that the Data is being provided to it on an "as is" basis, and that "Certifying Organization" makes no warranties or representations of any kind, whether express, implied, or statutory regarding the Data, including but not limited to, the accuracy, correctness, and completeness of the Data.
- 4. Confidentiality.** The Organization agrees and acknowledges that it will keep and protect the Data as confidential information and shall protect it with the same degree of care that the Organization protects its own confidential information, but no less than a reasonable standard of care. Upon request by "Certifying Organization", the Organization agrees that it will destroy immediately all Data, including all notes, data, documents, records, copies and other embodiments of any Data. The Organization agrees that it will not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the Data to any third party unless such disclosure is agreed to in writing by "Certifying Organization".
- 5. Ownership of Data.** The parties recognize that "Certifying Organization" shall retain all ownership rights to the Data, and nothing in this Agreement should be interpreted as transferring any ownership rights in the Data to the Organization.
- 6. No Requirement to Disclose.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to require "Certifying Organization" to disclose any Data to the Organization. Without limiting the foregoing, the parties further agree that if any claims are made or threatened against "Certifying Organization" with respect to the disclosure of the Data to the Organization or if "Certifying Organization" believes that the enforceability of this Agreement is in question or if laws or regulations are enacted which affect the subject matter of this Agreement, "Certifying Organization" may immediately suspend or cease the provision of Data to the Organization.

Discussion

- What is your current process for matching student record information and wage data where there is no student ID or SSN available?
- Does your state have particular data match challenges, such as movement across state borders?
- Would your state be open to participating in a clearinghouse for industry certification data?

Contact Us

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Up Next...

- Virtual Office Break from 3:15-3:30
- Collaboration Roundtables start at 3:30