ANSWERS: Alaska’s P–20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System
Briefing to the Next Steps Work Group

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ANSWERS: Alaska’s P–20W SLDS

- Project background
- Mission/objectives
- Core partners
- Governance structure
- Communication/collaboration plans
- Timeline
Four partnering agencies
- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
- Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- University of Alaska

Received a three-year, $4 million grant from the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) to link Alaska’s K–12 data system with postsecondary and workforce data to provide policymakers, educators, and the public needed information about program outcomes and linkages across the education and workforce systems.
Mission/objectives

Mission: Deliver outcomes information to Alaska stakeholders to assess, evaluate and improve the state’s education and career development pipeline.

Primary overarching goals:
- Develop a governance team engaged in the practice of using data to inform decision-making and who understand the value of this process for the state;
- Create a secure statewide longitudinal data system that allows de-identified data about P-20W students and their educational programs and employment to be linked together accurately, securely, and confidentially to better understand and inform policy makers on the education to workforce cycle; and
- Create timely reports, dashboards, and information products to better inform research and policy making in improving Alaska’s education and workforce outcomes; and, increase transparency around educational outcomes.
SLDS Mission/Objectives Overview

Exhibit 5 – SLDS Environment

- K-12
- Teacher Certification
- Interventions (Counseling/at risk – coming from current OASIS data)

- Clearinghouse
- FAFSA
- IPEDS
- State financial aid programs
- Interventions
- Private Postsecondary

- UA postsecondary data
- Remediation
- Interventions
- TRIO

- Occupation and wages
- Unemployment Insurance
- GED
- Interventions

- K-12 (DEED)
- Postsecondary (ACPE)
- Postsecondary (UA)
- Labor (DOLWD)

- Master Person Index
- Identify, match and validate data

- SLDS Database
- De-identified P-20W Environment

- Reporting Tools
- Aggregate Cubes
- Reporting Tools
Core Partners/Governance

- **Executive Governance**
  - ACPE Executive Director
  - Commissioner of Education
  - Commissioner of Labor
  - President of the University of Alaska

- **Data Steward Governance**
  - Policy governance team
  - Technical/data governance team
Core Partner Responsibilities

Exhibit 11 – Governance Structure/Roles

Roles and Responsibilities
- Data collection, maintenance, sharing and use
- Data management, confidentiality and access
- Resource allocation

ACPE Executive Director

Dept of Education Commissioner

Dept of Labor Commissioner

University of Alaska President

ACPE SLDS Project Director (Ex-officio)

Roles and Responsibilities
- Consensus development
- Establish research agenda

Permanent Fund Division

External researchers

SLDS Project Director (ACPE Research Director)

Data Governing Board - PMO as chair

ACPE Assistant Director for Research
Director of Information Support Services

Dept of Education
Deputy Commissioner
Director of Assessments

Dept of Labor
Administrative Services Director
Chief of Research and Analysis

University of Alaska
AVP Student Services
AVP for Institutional Research

Roles and Responsibilities
- Extract, transfer, load
- Executive board feedback
- Data elements, metadata and metrics
- Research MOA’s
- Stakeholder feedback
- Data validity and integrity
- PII protection

Post-sec institutions
State financial aid
School districts
Workforce
Adult Ed
Public university
UA CTE

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Executive Governance Roles

- Determine membership, duties, authorities
- Determine how governance activities and changes to rules are submitted, considered and implemented
- Determine who will have access to data; approve user categories and associated levels and methods of data access
- Determine/approve public communications protocols
- Ensure only appropriate uses of SLDS data
- Ensure protection of PII and investigate complaints

Note: Project director and project manager serve as staff to executive governance body.
Data Stewards Governing Board

- **Policy level:**
  - Propose policies and implement those approved by executive body; document procedures
  - Consider information requests and implement data access rules

- **Technical level:**
  - Determine, define and document data elements and metadata
  - Determine technical processes/ETL protocols
  - As approved by executives, develop and deploy MOAs and associated interagency agreements
Communications/collaboration Plans

- Key information needs identified over past several years and implementation workgroup adopted nine high level policy questions
- Partners identified key stakeholders at policy and practitioner levels
- Series of surveys, interviews and statewide presentations scheduled
- Nancy Smith, PhD, previous NCES SLDS director traveled to Alaska to provide support and assistance in project communications and validation of policy questions
- Results to be reported to statewide stakeholder community
Timelines

Six primary project phases:

- Plan, prepare, analyze and develop methodology, governance, needs requirements and data models (7/1/12–4/30/13)
- Procure, install and test server hardware, software, networked data storage, backup and disaster recovery solution (5/1/13–9/30/14)
- Develop SLDS environments (7/1/13–6/30/14)
- Identify and develop reporting platform, portal, reports and user roles (7/1/14–04/30/15)
- Develop and deploy training protocols (1/1/15–6/30/15)
- Develop project sustainability plan (7/1/14–6/30/15)
Contact for More Information

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