

State Career Pathways Systems The Status of Metric Development

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Alliance for Quality Career Pathways

Ten states formed the Alliance and agreed on

- a conceptual framework and definition for career pathways;
- six quality criteria and indicators for career pathway programs;
- a menu of participant metrics, including
 - 9 interim metrics;
 - 4 education and training outcomes;
 - 6 labor market outcomes; and
- definitions of a career pathway participant, career pathway leaver, and career pathway credential completer.

Explore the Alliance framework and tools at

<http://clasp.org/careerpathways>

Career Pathway Measurement Ideas

- Creating pathways vs. discovering pathways
- Measuring pathways vs. measuring programs, fund sources or institutions
- Cross-silo, cross-setting, longitudinal measurement
- Who is a career pathway participant?
- Is the career pathway defined in terms that can be observed in data collection systems?

Several of the Alliance states are now exploring these issues as part of their pathway metrics work.

Assessing the Potential Predictive Value of Career Pathway Interim Metrics

- **Team:** Research Triangle Institute (RTI), Workforce Enterprise Services (WES), and Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP).
- **Goals:**
 - Build on Alliance work in defining and field-testing career pathways metrics.
 - Assess the potential value of interim metrics in predicting selected Alliance education and training and labor market outcomes.
 - Gain insights into the interim outcomes that relate to pathway outcomes and labor market outcomes.
- **Project Status:** In phase 2, work with Arkansas and Minnesota to assess availability of data.

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Study Populations

- High school students who entered 9th grade in Fall 2008 (Fall term Year 1)
- Career pathway students who entered pathway in Fall 2008 (Fall term Year 1)
- Career pathway students who entered pathway in Fall 2008 and enrolled in at least one adult education course in Fall 2008 (Fall term Year 1), Note: Core population 3 is a subset of core population 2
- Career pathway students who left pathway in April–June 2010

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Outcomes to be examined

- Postsecondary enrollment
- Postsecondary persistence
- Pathway certificate attainment
- Pathway associate degree attainment
- Transfer to a two- or four-year institution
- Initial employment
- Initial earnings