

STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT AND INDIANA'S STORY

WHAT IS IT AND WHY ARE STATES DEVELOPING IT?

A Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is a project that merges multiple data sources to create a better picture of the education-to-workforce “pipeline” in a state. The intent of a SLDS is to enable states to answer important questions about education and workforce policy.¹

The end users of SLDS may include state government, schools, employers, students, researchers, and other stakeholders.

WHAT DATA ARE CONNECTED?

SLDS is an umbrella term that is used to reference any data system that connects more than one pipeline data source. States may choose to implement SLDS in different ways. Frequently, SLDS include education data (early childhood, K-12, and post-secondary) as well as workforce data (programs, services, wage, licensure data for state-regulated occupations, or practice data for healthcare professions). Some states may choose to incorporate additional datasets within the data system, perhaps health, social services, or public safety data.

HOW ARE DATA CONNECTED?

States determine data governance for SLDS, usually through the legislative process or through executive agency rulemaking. Many states establish data governance workgroups to establish parameters for data storage, merging, and reporting.

HOW ARE SLDS SUPPORTED?

The U.S. Department of Education and National Center for Education Statistics provides grant opportunities to support state-developed SLDS. In the 2019 request for applications, state applicants could request up to \$3.5 million to support their SLDS initiatives (following specific parameters). Only State educational agencies are eligible to apply and receive funding.

DEFINING TERMS

SLDS: Statewide Longitudinal Data System

K12: Kindergarten through 12th Grade

P-20: Pre-kindergarten through “20th” grade (early childhood to post-secondary)



INDIANA'S SLDS STORY²

Indiana began receiving SLDS funding in 2007 when the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) first applied for and received financial support.³ At that time, Indiana began developing a P-20 data system with information from pre-K, K-16, and they were considering including workforce data. In 2012, Indiana received another round of funding to enhance their SLDS from a time-consuming manual process to a more automated methodology to allow for more seamless querying.⁴ Indiana applied and received SLDS funding a third time in 2019,⁵ looking to leverage the newly established state agency (Management and Performance Hub) to coordinate and link various education and workforce data sets. Next steps for a SLDS in Indiana also includes including additional datasets from partner agencies and expanding use of the SLDS to additional state agencies and for public consumption.⁶



¹ Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program. Additional information available at: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/about_SLDS.asp

² <http://slds.rhaskell.org/state-profiles/indiana#fund-identifier>

³ <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/pdf/Indiana2007.pdf>

⁴ <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/pdf/Indiana2012.pdf>

⁵ <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/state.asp?stateabbr=IN>

⁶ <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/pdf/2019INabstract.pdf>