Common Data Standards
and
State Longitudinal Data Systems

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Common Data Standards Initiative
Intended to improve the share-ability of data: Use of common data standards increases the interoperability, portability, and comparability of education data both between education entities (states, districts, systems, and institutions) and across education sectors (K-12 and postsecondary).

Developing voluntary standards for key data elements: CDS is targeting a core subset of K-12 and postsecondary education data elements that may be voluntarily adopted by education stakeholders.

Building off of existing standards sources: CDS elements and standards are almost entirely drawn or adapted from existing national standards sources.

A national, collaborative effort: CDS includes participants from SEAs and LEAs; higher education agencies, systems and institutions; non-profit organizations; and USED.
CDS is NOT...

- **A data collection**: CDS does not collect any data.

- **Required**: Adoption of any or all of the CDS standards is *entirely voluntary*.

- **A Federal unit record data system**: CDS is not a data system at all, Federal or otherwise. It is a set of data elements and definitions that education entities (states, districts, systems, and institutions) can opt to use in their data systems to make data exchanges and data reporting easier.

- **A Federal undertaking**: While NCES is *assisting* in the technical work of CDS, the efforts is a collaboration among several SEAs and LEAs; higher education agencies, systems, and institutions; and national organizations.
CDS Objective:

- Identify a minimal set of key data elements
- Come to agreement on definitions, business rules, and technical specifications
- Work with State and local education agencies and higher education organizations to document agreed upon common data standards

Focus on:

- *Data definitions and code sets* – Concerned with the meanings and contents (e.g., values) of data elements.
- *Technical specifications* – Used by software and systems developers to facilitate interoperability between applications or to guide data reporting.
In other words, CDS is building a Voluntary Common Vocabulary.
What was the Focus in Year 1?

**Version 1** released on September 10, 2010

- Student record exchange in K-12 across districts and from districts to state
- Student transcripts generated by high schools and/or postsecondary institutions
- High School feedback reports from postsecondary to K-12
What is the Focus in Year 2?

- Student-level data elements needed for postsecondary state/institutional level aggregate reporting (e.g., IPEDS, Perkins)
- Postsecondary transcript exchanges between postsecondary institutions
- K-12 teacher and staff elements and teacher-student links
Contact Information

www.commondatastandards.org

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Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant Program

Designing, Developing, Implementing & Using Longitudinal Data Systems to Improve Student Learning
SLDS Legislative Background

• Authorized in 2002 by the Education Sciences Reform Act and the Educational Technical Assistance Act

• The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided $250 million in SLDS funding to expand data systems to include postsecondary education and workforce information

• The grants are cooperative agreements – more active federal government involvement than in typical grants

• 3 to 5 year awards of $1.5 to $19.7 million per State

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS
Goals of the SLDS Grant Program

Enable grantees to design, develop, and implement SLDSs to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze, disaggregate, report, and use individual student data to:

1. Identify successful instructional programs and facilitate research to improve instruction
2. Support informed decisionmaking at all levels of the education
3. Determine whether students are gaining the knowledge and skills to succeed at successive levels of education and the workforce, and feed that information back to where it can be acted upon
4. Simplify the process used by state education agencies to make educational information transparent and timely to stakeholders

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS
Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include the state education agencies (SEAs) of:

- 50 States
- District of Columbia
- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- United States Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS
Grant Awards Status

To date, 41 states and the District of Columbia have been awarded

- **FY06**: November 2005 – 14 grantees awarded over $52M
- **FY07**: June 2007 – 13 grantees awarded over $62M
- **FY09**: April 2009 – 27 grantees awarded over $150M
- **FY09 ARRA**: May 2010 – Fourth competition announced under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) awarded $250M to 20 states

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS
Program Evolution

FY06, FY07

K12

FY09

K12 + **ONE** of following:
PreK, Postsecondary, Workforce, OR student-teacher link

FY09 ARRA

K12 + **ALL** of following:
PreK, Postsecondary, Workforce, AND student-teacher link

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS
Program Evolution

FY09 ARRA Funding
FY09 Funding
FY06, FY07 Funding

K12
SEA & LEAs

Postsecondary
Early Childhood Education
Teacher & Staff Data

PK-20

Special Education
Neighboring States
Adult Education
Health
Finance
English Language Learners
Workforce

SLDS
http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS
Planned Activities: FY2009 ARRA Grants

**PreK**
- System development (IL)
- Enhance data (OR)
- Integrate/link (AR, KS, ME, TX)

**K12**
- Study feasibility/develop plan (WI, OH)
- Student-teacher link (AR, CO, IL, KS, MA, ME, MI, MN, NY, OR, SC, VA, WI)
- Link (ME, MI, WI)
- E-transcripts (OH, PA, UT, VA)

**Postsec**
- Labor
- Data (KS)
- Tracking (MA)
- P-20 (CO, KS, MA, MN, MS, OR, PA, TX, WA)
- Early warning system (NY)
- System development (IL, NY, PA)
- Data quality (PA)
Contact Information

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