Common Data Standards

Why, What, Who, How

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Common Data Standards - WHY

- Tons of data
  - Wal-Mart handles > 1M transaction / hour
  - Google processes 1 petabyte / hour
  - “The Data Deluge”  *The Economist*  February 27
- Information is a collection of data and knowledge is strands of information
- Information management = helping organizations make sense of all these data
- Knowledge allows you to evaluate, understand, change
- Requires “quality” data and actually using these data
A Statement of Common Purpose

WHY

- “...unintended consequence of diversity...define and collect core data elements in slightly different ways...”
- “These discrepancies in data collection can cause students to lose momentum when they move from school to school...”
- “...differences make it harder to communicate student needs and previous achievements when they transfer or begin college...”
“...make it impossible to come up with valid information on relatively simple questions such as student achievement, drop-out rates, teacher mobility and shortages, or graduation rates for a school, district, or state.”

“Education...could be improved if most...use common standards for the core data they identify, collect, retain, and use.”
Standard measures and procedures are crucial in just about every part of life.

Deciding what needs to be standardized, what does not need to be standardized, and why standardization will serve important purposes.

Decisions need to consider different purposes at different levels...benefits of standardizing different kinds of information...costs of changing existing systems...and how data standards and practices can be improved in a reasonable time frame and at a reasonable cost.
A Statement of Common Purpose

WHAT

- “...development of model data standards for K-12 and postsecondary education.”
- “...collaborative effort to leverage and create model data standards...”
- “…widespread, voluntary adoption and ultimately enhance policy-making and student achievement...”
- “Initially ...focus on data related to transition...”
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WHO

- Council of Chief State School Officers and State Higher Education Executive Officers (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Department of Education
- Data Quality Campaign (Michael and Susan Dell Foundation)
- Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council
- SIF Association
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WHO

- “...CCSSO and SHEEO will work with their respective members...”
- “...policy and information systems experts from the states...”
- “...standards groups...”
- “...associations...”
- “...individual schools and colleges...”
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HOW

• “...address the what, why, and how questions for model data standards.”

• “...partner on communications with the Data Quality Campaign...”

• “...provide feedback on standards design to the U.S. Department of Education...”

• “...engage policy and information experts...”
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HOW

• “The U.S. Department of Education will facilitate the leveraging, and where needed, the development of model common data standards for a core set of student-level variables…”

• “…variables and model standards will be shared...for feedback and discussion, in order to achieve broad consensus and voluntary adoption.”

• “Existing definitions, standards and guidelines ...will provide a foundation for the work…”

• “…proposals for improving definitions and guidelines will be invited and considered.”
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HOW

- “CCSSO and SHEO will promote the voluntary adoption of these model data standards by states, districts, K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and market place providers.”

- “Decision makers in individual states, schools, and colleges will make the ultimate decisions...”

- “...project seeks to develop highly useful and valuable standards that will attract widespread adoption.”
NOT the giant database in the sky or a *de facto* national database

NOT designed to compromise student rights / privacy

Designed to help schools, districts and states know that the data they develop is of high quality and “says” the same thing other data “say”

“...ultimately enhance policy-making and student achievement.”
Common Data Standards
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