Common Education Data Standards and Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems

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Why do we need Common Education Data Standards?

Educators and policy makers need accurate, timely, and consistent information about students and schools in order to plan effective learning experiences, improve schools, and reduce costs.

In addition, our student population is highly mobile – across districts and states, and between K-12 and postsecondary – thus the need to share high quality data requires that we develop a common vocabulary for a core subset of data elements that exist in multiple data systems (P-20W).
Section 183 of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 states that the Commissioner, NCES, has the duty of:

“(5) determining voluntary standards and guidelines to assist State educational agencies in developing statewide longitudinal data systems that link individual student data consistent with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), promote linkages across States, and protect student privacy consistent with section 183, to improve student academic achievement and close achievement gaps;”
What About Postsecondary?

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

The completion of all IPEDS surveys is mandatory for institutions that participate in or are applicants for participation in any federal student financial aid program (such as Pell grants and Federal student loans) authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1094, Section 487(a)(17) and 34 CFR 668.14(b)(19)).
What are the standards?

A national collaborative effort to develop voluntary, common data standards for a key set of variables. CEDS elements focus on standard definitions, code sets, and technical specifications of a subset of key data elements. This will increase data interoperability, portability, and comparability across states, districts, and higher education organizations.

Voluntary Common Vocabulary
How are the standards developed?

NCES is developing the standards with the help of a CEDS Stakeholder Group that includes representatives from state education agencies, districts, state higher education organizations, institutions of higher education, interoperability standards organizations, and key associations and non-profit organizations.

CEDS uses existing standards in the development process as much as practicable.
What we hope to avoid

THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE FILE NAMING CONVENTION WILL START WITH THE DATE, IN THE ORDER OF MONTH, YEAR, DAY...

... THEN A SPACE, THEN THE TEMPERATURE AT THE AIRPORT, AND THE HAT SIZE OF THE NEAREST SQUIRREL.

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, IT WAS A LONG MEETING AND WE PROBABLY DIDN'T DO OUR BEST WORK TOWARD THE END.
Version 1

- Released in September, 2010
- 161 elements – focused on K-12
  - Student record exchange across districts/States
  - Student transcripts
  - High school feedback reports from postsecondary to K-12
Version 2

• Three Content Area Focus:
  – Postsecondary
  – K-12 (including assessment standards)
  – Early Childhood

• CEDS Stakeholder Group

• Two Public Review Cycles

• Review Groups Open to All

• Projected release in Early 2012
Content Area Focus

• Postsecondary: IPEDS
  – Elements needed to report IPEDS
  – Can be used as IPEDS Data Quality and Training
  – PESC Standards

• K-12
  – EDEN elements
  – SFSF metrics, Teacher-student link
  – Core Curriculum test item exchange

• Early Childhood
  – Working with HHS to define scope
CEDS is NOT:

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

- **A data collection**: CEDS does not collect data.

- **A Federal unit record system**: CEDS is a model for data standardization to enable sharing between state systems.

- **Solely a USED undertaking**: CEDS is a collaborative effort including SEAs, LEAs, state higher education organizations, institutions of higher education, and national organizations.
Where to find CEDS:
http://nces.ed.gov/programs/ceds/
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.

The long term goals of this program are to:

1) identify successful instructional programs and facilitate use of research to improve instruction
2) determine whether graduates have knowledge and skills to succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce
3) to simplify the processes used by state education agencies to make educational data transparent through local, state, and federal reporting
4) support informed decisionmaking at all levels of the education system
5) permit the generation and use of accurate and timely data
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

• Administered by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education

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

Eligible applicants include the state education agencies 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
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