



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Project Start Date: 3/1/2009

Project End Date: 2/28/2012

Amount Awarded: \$4,967,991

Since 2005, Arkansas has successfully implemented a robust Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), established an effective governance and support environment, and extended the initiative beyond what was originally envisioned. Today, Arkansas is among four states whose SLDS addresses all 10 SLDS elements as defined by the Data Quality Campaign, and there is evidence that Arkansas' SLDS is beginning to have significant impact on data use by educators in the state, which in turn is leading to increased student performance. Today, Arkansas is committed more than ever to the concept of using data to improve student outcomes, close achievement gaps, and address a wide range of policy issues at every level of the educational establishment. However, Arkansas recognizes that it has much more to do to truly fulfill this commitment. With the help of additional IES funding, it is intent of Arkansas to implement a comprehensive, three-year project agenda that addresses a broad range of SLDS expansion and improvement initiatives. These will focus on deploying improved, more visually oriented and easy to use tools to end users; augmenting SLDS data sources; and building the institutional policy and administrative decision making at every level in the state. In the course of the next three years Arkansas will:

- Implement a modern visualization interface to the Cognos data warehouse using dashboards, visual analysis, and scorecard techniques supplemented by open source initiatives;
- Augment/expand Triand application components that are currently implemented, and extend Target Testing and Curriculum Development features statewide;
- Integrate key data collections related to higher education, teacher licensure, teacher professional development, special education and child nutrition into the SLDS, and integrate locally collected assessment data;
- Build a culture of DDDM by engaging Arkansas professional development institutions and others to adopt a DDDM focus to advance best practices;
- Engage the research community to undertake target research on issues of critical concern to state educators, using SLDS data, including results from cross-agency data matches;
- Complete the population of and enhance its web-based data dictionary;
- Formalize the program of data quality measurements and conduct data quality audits;
- Establish an expanded body of documentation, standards, policies, and procedures;
- Complete automation of ED Facts and re-implement Arkansas' public "AS-IS" website;
- Build an online district data certification and reporting process;
- Develop a web-based collaboration portal for ADE data stewards and district staff; and

- Conduct annual evaluations of progress in achieving project goals and objectives

The project will be guided by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Office of Data Quality and ADE's cross-organizational Data Warehouse Steering Committee, as well as a broader stakeholder steering group that is periodically called into session. The project remains deeply embedded in the ongoing activities of ADE and the Department of Information Services, which will ensure its sustainability following the federal funding period.