Arkansas Department of Education
R372A230037

Project Title: The Arkansas SLDS Infrastructure and Interoperability Modernization Project

Project Description: This project will help the State of Arkansas (AR) to modernize and expand its Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) to be more representative of all education to workforce pathways, to include more comprehensive integrated data on potential barriers to educational attainment, and to align with current state needs, priorities, and best practices. The primary focus of the project is Infrastructure & Interoperability; however, the activities and outcomes are directly aligned with current state needs and address Priorities 2, 3, & 4, college and career, school finance, and state policy questions. With the focus on interoperability and ease of access they also address the bonus priority of data asset development using Common Education Data Standards (CEDS). The agency responsible for the SLDS is the Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services, Division of Information Systems, who will be responsible for implementation of the grant under the direction of ADE, the state education agency (SEA).

Goals and Major Activities:
1. Increase SLDS coverage to be more representative of all education and training pathways and include education and non-education data from agencies not currently in the SLDS, including but not limited to, Adult Education, non-credit programs, licensure, justiceinvolved education, human services, and others.
2. Support the development, implementation, and evaluation of a data-driven strategic plan to ensure a skills and talent-driven education and workforce system for Arkansas.
3. Modernize the P20W architecture for enhanced quality, interoperability, sharing, and use.
4. Increase secure, compliant, tiered access to information for schools, agencies, leadership, researchers, policymakers, students, parents, and the public to understand transitions, outcomes, and what works in a timelier prospective rather than retrospective view.
5. Increase collaboration and knowledge sharing through trained communities of practice.
6. Ensure alignment with SLDS best practices (Data Quality Campaign) and data and evidence support for Arkansas strategic plans (ESSA, Perkins, WIOA, postsecondary).

Expected Outcomes:
1. Implementation of a Nontraditional Student Management and Information System for the collection and management of non-credit postsecondary programs, Career Pathways Initiative, and other novel sources of education and training program data.
2. Modernization and expansion of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) with Data Hub and CEDS Integrated Data Store (IDS) capabilities for the sharing, integration, and use of early childhood education, K-12, CTE, postsecondary (including non-credit), Career Pathways Initiative, juvenile justice, and foster care data.
3. Inclusion of P20W data in the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF) and delivery of applied data analytics training programs to for research and analytic capacity building.
4. Implementation of tools and open data products to provide all stakeholders with labor market conditions, job/skill demand, and employment outcomes from education and training programs and pathways.