

Minnesota Department of Education
R372A150004

Project Title: Engaging Communities Thru Data: Minnesota's P20W Linkages Literacy & Use

Project Description: Minnesota has developed outstanding capacity to use SLDS to inform and improve education programming and policies. The requested funding will directly support our efforts to increase use of the system, improve key stakeholders' data literacy, and add new linkages to important data. Our overriding goal is to expand use of the system in ways that will inform decision making by educators, policy makers and other stakeholders. Several of our proposed projects have broad, national implications and will serve as models for other states. Major activities will include:

- Creating a technical assistance network that supports local SLDS users.
- Developing a range of training and support materials to improve data literacy and support increased use of SLDS.
- Improving collection of dual credit data and outcomes.
- Building innovative user tools for community needs assessment, workforce/ education alignment, customized career planning, mining of census data, and identifying and analyzing at-risk population pathways.
- Establishing links with important, additional data sources, including health care professional licensure data, personal learning plan information, and data from the Help Me Grow program.
- Conducting a feasibility study on linking parent data with SLDS, and possibly piloting a linkage with Head Start program data.
- Creating a web-based portal that is specifically designed to improve teachers' understanding and use of data.
- Examining return on investment for Minnesota's SLDS development related to early learning.

Our expected outcomes include:

- 1) Facilitated use of SLDS resulting from locally available technical support, improved data collection (e.g. dual credit) and a variety of innovative user tools.
- 2) Mechanisms are established to improve stakeholder's data literacy, including professional development materials, video tutorials, a web-based teacher portal and technical support.
- 3) Linkages to important new data sources are investigated and/or established. These linkages have the potential to expand information available to educators, policymakers and other stakeholders in Minnesota and other states, helping to inform and improve education programming and policies.