

Alaska

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development R372A120007

Project Title: *Alaska Statewide Longitudinal Data System*

Project Description: The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is applying for \$4,000,000 over three years from the Institute for Education Sciences Grants for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems under CFDA Number 84.372, and will contribute \$1,678,746 in kind for the Alaska SLDS project. DEED is proposing the linking of Alaska's current K-12 data system with postsecondary and workforce data, a Priority 3 application. This effort will provide critical information to Alaska's policymakers, educators, and general public about Alaska's education pipeline, including student transitions and performance in postsecondary education and workforce systems.

The Alaska State Longitudinal Data System (Alaska SLDS) will initially link data from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). The data will include K-12 student demographics, program participation, assessments, performance, financial aid, and interventions; postsecondary enrollment, remediation, and success; teacher preparation, demographics, certification, and employment data; and information about individuals' employment, their related industry, employer information, and earnings, among other data-related elements. In addition, Alaska's DOLWD collects information on workers' occupations, unique to only a handful of states, and will incorporate this data in order to better link educational efforts to labor force demands. DEED will serve as fiscal agent; however, the system will be built and maintained by ACPE and function under the direction of a multi-agency governance structure.

The primary function of the Alaska SLDS is to build upon the efforts of Alaska's agencies to create a cohesive state data system and a data governance model that fosters a climate that supports data sharing to meet the state's information needs for understanding and improving state policy. In order to do this, the project is divided into six phases: (1) plans for development of the system; (2) create the SLDS hardware and software environment; (3) develop the longitudinal data system; (4) create reports and a portal to make information available; (5) provide extended training to help users access and utilize the data to better inform policy and practice to improve educational and workforce outcomes; and (6) create and implement a sustainability plan. The primary overarching goals of this project are to:

- develop a governance model with a team of leaders engaged in the practice of using data to inform decision making and who understand the value of this process for the state;
 - create a secure, state longitudinal data system that allows data about K-12 students, teachers, college students, and industry to be linked together accurately and securely so they can be used to better understand and inform policy makers on the education to workforce cycle; and
 - create reports, dashboards, and other information products that provide the right information to the right people in the right formats to better inform research and policy making; provide support to help the data users better utilize the system to improve education and workforce outcomes in Alaska; and, increase transparency around educational outcomes, generally.
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