

Kansas

Kansas Department of Education R384A100024

Project Title: *Unifying Data Systems to Support Systemic Change in Education*

Front page headlines in a recent Sunday paper read: “Changing demographics challenge educators”; and, “Regents propose higher targets: Following the governor’s lead, Board wants to increase retention and graduation rates at state universities.” The stories behind the headlines indicate not only the importance of education to the people of Kansas, but also the importance of data systems that can show trends and evaluate progress toward goals. Kansans want every child to have the opportunity to receive a research-based curriculum, effective instruction, and interventions at the earliest identification of need, but they have many questions about how to make these things happen. The 2010 LDS data grant will allow Kansas to answer questions by fulfilling its vision: create a unified P-20 system with linkages to workforce data and to other data systems that can be accessed by multiple audiences and can help inform policy and practice.

Through this LDS data grant, Kansas will expand the ability of state longitudinal data systems to link across the P-20 education pipeline and across state agencies. Connections between the state’s two education data systems and with the Department of Labor data systems and those of other state agencies will be enhanced; the scope of postsecondary education data collections will be expanded; a statewide educator evaluation system will be implemented and the educator data collection system will be expanded to include additional indicators; a formative assessment system will be implemented and the PK-12 student data collections will be expanded to include those results, behavior data, and early childhood program and assessment data; the eTranscript initiative will be expanded to include college to college transfers; and a partnership of Midwestern states will implement a multi-state student locator framework for finding students that “drop out” of the state system. The grant will help Kansas improve access to education data, since resources will be used to develop a Collaborative Workspace linked to a Unified Standards Management & Reporting System, providing educators with targeted instructional resources for the students in their classes. In addition the Educator Career Pathway Performance & Planning system will provide appropriate portals to educator data for a number of stakeholder groups. The grant will help Kansas promote district focus on school improvement because funds will be used to develop the Unified Accountability and Planning System that leads to a unified school improvement plan. Finally, the grant will enable Kansas to build the capacity of educators to effectively use the integrated data presented by the systems because funds will be used for professional development, formative grant activity evaluations, and sponsored research.

The grant will enable Kansas to enhance elements already implemented and address capabilities not yet completed. This includes enhancing the link between the PK-12 and higher education data systems; providing more complete information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including enrollment in remedial coursework; providing additional information to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education; enabling education stakeholders to examine student progress and outcomes over time; facilitating the exchange of data among agencies and institutions within the State, and between States; enriching the availability and use of integrated information about teacher certification and teacher preparation programs; enabling access to reports for parents, teachers, and administrator on the achievement of their students; and enhancing the ability of the state to meet reporting requirements, including those related to progress on the metrics established for the SFSF. All grant activities will integrate and unify information, enabling stakeholders to make better decisions about Kansas education.