Appendix D
Handout: Anatomy of an LDS

Key Nontechnical Steps to a Successful LDS

- Establish data governance early on to ensure data quality and utility.
- Engage a broad range of stakeholders to build interest and ensure the LDS will meet users’ needs.
- Identify data "champions" who will build support, locate funding, and develop a culture of data use.
- Conduct self- and needs-assessments to clarify where you are and where you want the LDS to take your agency.
- Provide training on data tools and professional development on data interpretation and application.
- Use the data to improve education with a clearer view of educational operations and student needs.

Technical Components of an LDS

**Basic**
- Student unique identifier system
- Student data (enrollment, attendance, demographics, and program participation)
  - Student-level college readiness test scores
  - Information on untested students
  - Student-level transcript and detailed course-taking information
  - Student-level graduation and dropout data
- Annual summative assessment data links from year to year
- Teacher unique identifier system and ability to link teacher and student data
- Teacher and staff data
- Data warehouse
- Reporting and analysis tools
- Interoperability
- Portability
- Privacy protection
- Data sharing beyond K–12 (“P–20”)
  - Early childhood education
  - Postsecondary education
  - Workforce
- Data audit system to assess data quality, validity, and reliability

**Expanded**
- Interim and formative assessment data
- Linkage to finance data
- Linkage to facilities data
- Data sharing with Social Services
- Role-based stakeholder access via web-based portals
- Other data
- Geographic information system
Rough sketch of a longitudinal data system