

Kentucky Department of Education
R372A150039

Project Title: Expanding Access to and Alignment of Education and Workforce Data to Inform Policy and Practice

Project Description: On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is requesting \$6.6 million dollars over four years from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, for the project **“Expanding Access to and Alignment of Education and Workforce Data to Inform Policy and Practice.”** This project builds upon our effective use and delivery of education and workforce data to assist policy makers and practitioners in carrying out research to inform state education and policy and practice and ultimately, improve education and workforce outcomes. This proposal addresses **Priority 4**, “College and Career,” and **Priority 5**, “Evaluation and Research,” from the Request for Applications. KDE will serve as the key partner and fiscal agent for the grant, but the majority of funding will support the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS), formerly called the P-20 Data Collaborative. KCEWS is a distinct entity housed within the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet tasked with the development, maintenance, and utilization of the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System (KLDS).

This project has two primary goals: 1) use the KLDS to assess students’ college and career readiness and track educational and workforce outcomes over time and across states, and 2) improve the ability of the KDE, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), Department of Workforce Investment (DWI), and other state and local partners to conduct high-quality research and program evaluations. The first goal will be addressed by increasing alignment and data use between education and workforce programs and information sources, while the second will be addressed by increasing the usability of and access to robust, accurate and timely data, which will necessitate new professional development opportunities for users.

To facilitate these goals, KCEWS will expand its popular Feedback Report Series, which provides comprehensive, comparative information about Kentucky and its students. KCEWS will build a dynamic reporting solution, allowing various stakeholders to manipulate data and generate customized reports. KCEWS will also develop new feedback reports focused on Career Pathways, Sector Supply/Demand, and Adult Education, which will provide high-quality feedback to education and workforce providers and help them meet the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA). KCEWS will also expand access to the de-identified reporting warehouse for agency partners through: 1) the expansion of federal report capabilities, and 2) the development of a more robust process to access de-identified data and aggregate reports.

To accomplish this work, KCEWS will partner with several research centers, whose members possess considerable knowledge of P-12, postsecondary, and workforce data, and will foster community-level partnerships through both local and regional organizations. These

partnerships will be used to develop professional development and training opportunities, ensuring that data is accessible and usable by key stakeholders and policy makers at all levels.