

Connecticut State Department of Education  
R372A230016

Project Title: Expand P20 WIN Research Partnerships

Project Description: The proposed project seeks to build on successful research partnerships, developed through CSDE, to sustain and scale methods to identify and address key state policy questions, and to ensure the SLDS has the infrastructure to improve access to data for researchers and analysts.

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) launched the Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaborative (CCERC) as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CCERC is a ground-breaking research partnership, which has supported rigorous evaluation of COVID-19 projects funded through CSDE. With the end of the pandemic, we plan to expand the CCERC model by connecting a research collaborative to the SLDS and the SLDS learning agenda, by ensuring the infrastructure for P20 WIN can meet researcher demand, and by conducting a set of specific projects through the SLDS over the term of the grant.

We will use this grant to leverage data from P20 WIN participating agencies, and allow researchers to access a wider range of data, including on homelessness, child welfare and juvenile justice, all data sources that are connected to the SLDS. The project both expands access to data for researchers, and access to research capacity for agencies.

With successful development of a new research collaborative, connected to the SLDS, we will create a firmer foundation for evidence-based policymaking in Connecticut and can demonstrate the potential for rigorous evaluation and policy research beyond education.

Expected outcomes: The following three outcomes are supported through this grant:

- 1) Establishment of a research collaborative connected to P20 WIN: At the conclusion of year 1 of the grant, we plan to establish a governance structure for research partnerships based on state policy priorities, expanding beyond education.
- 2) Execution of research projects through new collaborative: Once the new collaborative is established, we plan to execute 3 – 4 research projects, using SLDS data. The projects will be developed and completed in years 2 – 4 of the grant and will be designed to directly use SLDS data and to demonstrate the potential of the SLDS.
- 3) Upgrades to data sharing and matching process to facilitate research partnerships: In parallel to development of the new research collaborative, we will make changes to the P20 WIN data sharing process to enable effective research partnerships, and the production of high-quality data, securely, in a timely fashion. The upgrades will include a focus on professional development supports for the people that make P20 WIN work.