

Maine Department of Education
R372A230011

Project Title: Maine SLDS Data Collection Modernization and Data Literacy Curriculum Design and Implementation

Project Description: The State of Maine Department of Education is applying under Infrastructure and Interoperability funding priority from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). If accepted, the grant will be used to fund their SLDS Data Collection Modernization and Data Literacy Curriculum Design and Implementation Project. Maine DOE's 2023 SLDS Grant application is focused on modernizing its data collection and operational data validation infrastructure, specifically our student and staff data collections. Maine's current data collection infrastructure is ineffectively decentralized, siloed, and in some cases technically archaic, creating burdensome data entry and validation requirements for our LEAs. We seek to move to collecting near real time operational data via the SIF data transport standard and creating domain neutral capacity for future data collection, validation and certification expansion. This phase of our infrastructure modernization will be coordinated to modernize data acquisition technology and transition the SLDS data source from our legacy operational data system to the district Student Information systems supporting more efficient interoperability with Maine LEA's and external partners. This will expand our existing efforts to increase the efficiency of our data architecture across data domains, program areas and data system exchanges. This initiative complements our 2019 SLDS grant, which began building accurate, complete, and timely data sets and coherent data architecture for Maine's systems.

Centralizing our operational business rules and data validation infrastructure into a single solution will reduce data handling resulting in more reliable data quality. By reducing the amount of time it takes to move data from the field into SLDS, we will enable more timely return of value-added data, visualizations, and contextualization's to our LEAs and partners to support student learning and growth, data informed decisions and public policy development.

Because technology alone will not improve our data acquisition and utilization an additional goal will be the design, development, and implementation of our data literacy curriculum. Our data governance program will also continue to evolve in policy and operation to support Maine's capacity to carry out program design, analysis, and evaluation in support of MDOE's strategic vision for a *Whole Student Approach*.

The Maine Department of Education is committed to the emergence and continuation of a data culture that values continuous improvement, iterative practices and the skills required for success in our complex organizational and technological systems. Through strategic planning for the Maine SLDS, MDOE and MaineIT recognize that a stable vision of governance, support, architecture, and sustainability is essential to meet student level needs, support data stewards, and deploy data deliverables to stakeholders. Through continuing our comprehensive modernization of Maine's education data management system, we will demonstrate our ability to use data and data system best practices to communicate with consistency and coherence as a trusted partner to Maine educators.