

Utah Department of Education  
R372A20230003

Project Title: Enhancing Utah's State Longitudinal Data System to Manage Transactional Data Moments: BRIDGE and USBE Infrastructure

Project Description: The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) express an interest in participating in the Institute of Education Sciences' Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant (ALN Number 84.372A). The priority upon which USOE and UDRC intend to focus is infrastructure and interoperability.

USOE will be the agency responsible for the direction and implementation of the grant. UDRC is the multi-agency collaborative partnership operated as a separate entity under the governance of the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). UDRC data link P-12, postsecondary, and workforce records.

While UDRC's P20W database is nonpareil for education and employment researchers, local education agencies, postsecondary institutions, and state and federal agencies – thanks, in part, to a previous SLDS grant – it lacks the infrastructure to meet individual student and institutional transactional needs. Funds from this grant would be used to develop that infrastructure so that, for example, when students change colleges, they would be able to easily and securely transfer their K-12 records to the new college. UDRC's new transactional infrastructure would be called BRIDGE since it bridges the gap that exists in individual student records between secondary and postsecondary settings. Utah envisions creating a common application for all state public postsecondary institutions. BRIDGE transactional infrastructure at UDRC would allow every public high school student's individual record to be safely and securely transferred to each state college or university for admissions review and scholarship eligibility. This would be a boon especially for at-risk students who might not otherwise consider postsecondary education opportunities.

Concurrently with the BRIDGE project, USBE is looking to improve data visualization infrastructure capabilities linked to its new Utah Student Information Management System (USIMS). USIMS is one of the data streams feeding into UDRC and one heavily relied upon by P20W researchers, parents, and education governing partners. USBE will use funds for this project to update and create interactive, dynamic data reports. It will provide educators and counselors with accurate, timely information to improve student performance, and will inform decision making for education administrators and policy makers.