IES | Institute of Education Sciences

About the SLDS Grant Program

Supporting the Management and Use of
Longitudinal Data to Improve Student Outcomes

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Program of the National Center for Education Statistics at IES

Better decisions require better information. This principle lies at the heart of the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant Program. Through **grants and a wide range of services and resources**, the SLDS program has helped propel the successful design, development, implementation, use, and sustainability of K12 and P-20W+ (early learning through the workforce) longitudinal data systems. These systems increase states' and territories' capacity to efficiently and effectively manage, protect, and use education, social service, workforce, and other statewide data. SLDSs help policymakers, program administrators, educators, and other stakeholders make data-infomed decisions to take actions that **improve student outcomes** and **facilitate research to improve policies and service provision**.
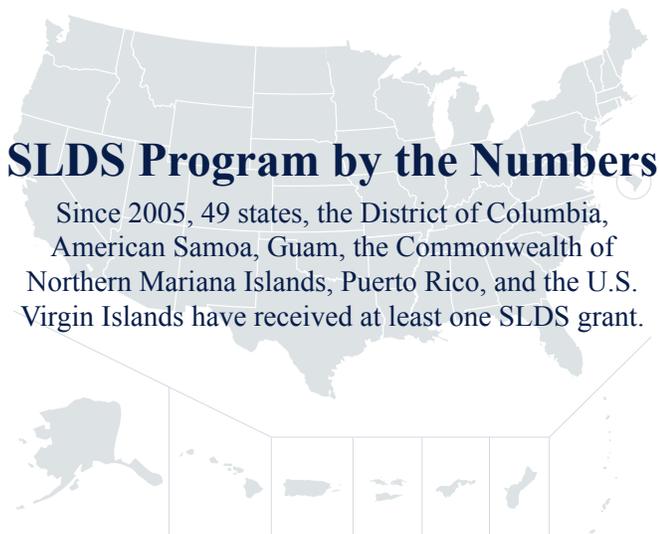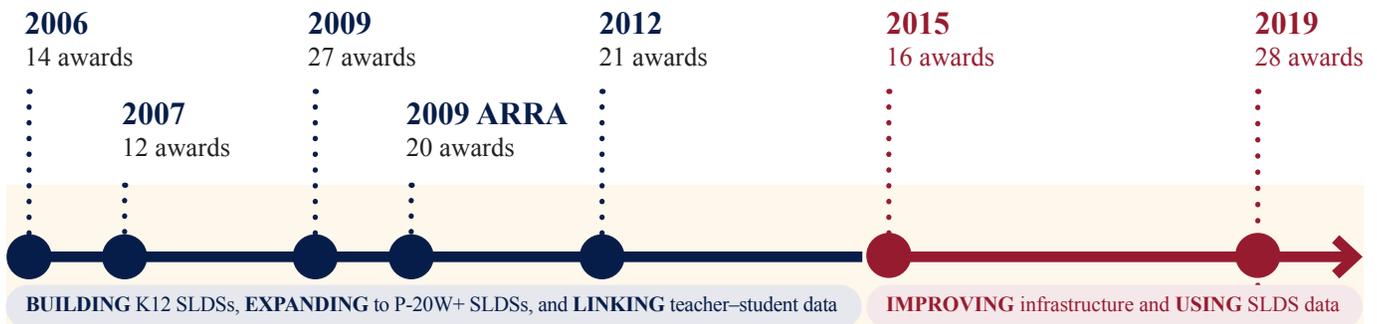
Why Do SLDSs Matter?

- SLDSs promote **workforce and economic development** by informing the alignment of education pathways and employment opportunities
- SLDSs enable research and program evaluation to **inform policymaking and resource allocation**
- SLDSs provide a holistic view of classrooms and students to **support and enrich teaching and learning**
- SLDSs improve **government efficiency** by identifying redundancies and automating processes

Background

Authorized by the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, Title II of the statute that created the Institute of Education Sciences, the SLDS Grant Program has awarded competitive, cooperative agreement grants to states since 2006. Grants extend 3 to 5 years and require grantees to submit annual reports and a final report on the development and implementation of their systems. All 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia are eligible to apply.

Learn more about the SLDS Grant Program at **http://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds.**

2006
14 awards

2007
12 awards

2009
27 awards

2009 ARRA
20 awards

2012
21 awards

2015
16 awards

2019
28 awards

BUILDING K12 SLDSs, **EXPANDING** to P-20W+ SLDSs, and **LINKING** teacher–student data

IMPROVING infrastructure and **USING** SLDS data

SLDS Program by the Numbers

Since 2005, 49 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have received at least one SLDS grant.
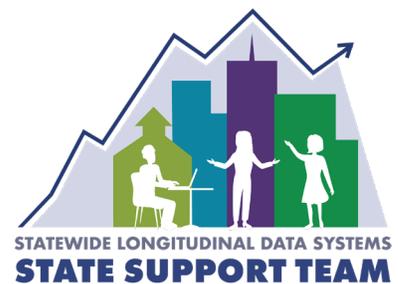
Putting the Data to Use

Building upon the prior grant rounds, the FY19 grants focus on three priority areas:

1. **Infrastructure** improvements that enable data use to inform policy and practice
2. The use of SLDS data to address **education equity** research and policy questions that inform efforts to improve student opportunities and outcomes
3. The use of SLDS data to identify the types of **education choice** programs families select

Supporting (Not Just Funding) SLDS Work

What Is the SLDS State Support Team? In addition to grants, the SLDS program provides technical assistance to help ensure that states and territories are successful in their data system and data use efforts. The SLDS State Support Team (SST), a group of experienced State data systems experts, provide a range of support in the development and use of SLDSs.

STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS
STATE SUPPORT TEAM

What Support Do They Offer? Funded by the SLDS Program, SST support is free of charge and available to all States/Territories, regardless of grant status. The SST hosts and facilitates technical assistance calls, webinars, workgroups, workshops, and on-site visits. They also produce **publicly available** best practice briefs and templates to capture and disseminate effective practices. Areas of SST assistance include, but are not limited to, data governance, stakeholder engagement, data use, project management, and sustainability. The types of support provided by the SST are based on states' needs and evolve in response to the current challenges in the field. SST efforts are coordinated with those of other related TA centers to increase efficiency and leverage complementary services and expertise.

Get in Contact. Each state and territory has an **SST Point of Contact**. Find yours!

Get SLDS Support Now! Visit the SLDS Grant Program website at **https://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS** or contact the State Support Team at **support@sst-slds.org**.