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-informed 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.
History of SLDS Grants

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<thead>
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**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.

**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.