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**.
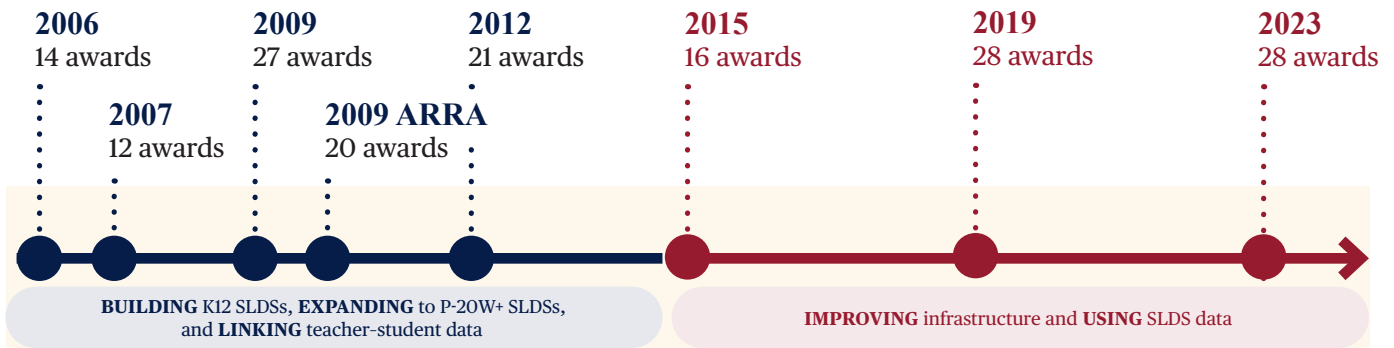
Why Do SLDSs Matter?

- 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 2005. 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.
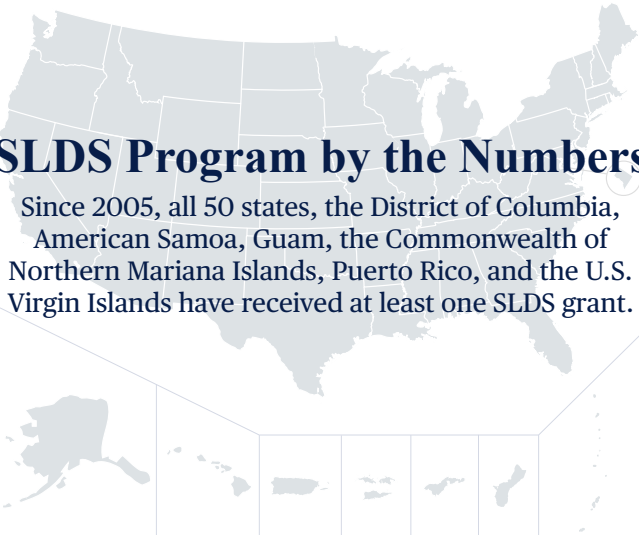
Learn more about the SLDS Grant Program at **http://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds.**

History of SLDS Grants

2006
14 awards

2007
12 awards

2009
27 awards

2009 ARRA
20 awards

2012
21 awards

2015
16 awards

2019
28 awards

2023
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, all 50 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 FY23 grants focus on four priority areas:
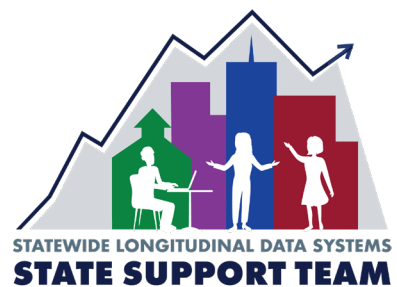
1. **Infrastructure and interoperability**
2. **College and career**
3. **School finance**
4. **State policy questions**

Additionally, 23 grantees chose to participate in developing scalable data use projects with the **Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) Open Source Community** (*https://ceds. communities.ed.gov/#program*).

Supporting (Not Just Funding) SLDS Work

What Is the SLDS State Support Team? In addition to grants, the SLDS Grant Program provides technical assistance to help ensure that states and territories succeed 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 Does the SST Offer? Funded by the SLDS Grant Program, SST support is free of charge and available to all states and territories, regardless of grant status. The SST hosts and facilitates technical assistance calls, webinars, workgroups, workshops, and on-site visits. It also produces best practice briefs and templates to capture and disseminate effective practices through the **SLDS Public Domain Clearinghouse** (*https://slds.ed.gov/#p=19*). Areas of SST assistance include, but are not limited to, SLDS purpose and vision, project planning and management, stakeholder engagement, data governance, system design, data use, and sustainability. The types of support provided by the SST are based on states' needs and evolve in response to current challenges in the field. SST efforts are coordinated with those of other related technical assistance centers to increase efficiency and leverage complementary services and expertise.

STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS
STATE SUPPORT TEAM

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**.