

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
R372A150030

Project Title: 2015 Massachusetts SLDS Grant Application

Project Description: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has a simple, yet ambitious goal: to prepare all of our state's schoolchildren for success in the world that awaits them after high school. Reaching this goal requires us to use data and technology effectively, so that we can provide relevant information to help educators improve student outcomes. To this end, Massachusetts has built one of the nation's oldest and strongest state longitudinal data systems, with extensive information about our students, educators, and expenditures, and we have put these data in the hands of educators and the public. Yet we know we have only begun to explore what we can do with the data we collect. The State Longitudinal Data Systems grant program provides us an opportunity to expand our work in two key areas: fiscal equity and return on investment, and college and career readiness.

Our goal in the fiscal equity priority is to develop district-, school-, and classroom-level reports, called Resource Allocation and District Action Reports (RADAR). The RADAR reports will allow districts to determine how their people, time, and money are being used and identify opportunities to increase student achievement. The outcomes of this work will be increased ESE internal capacity to support this work; a series of actionable reports for districts; and increased district capacity to use the information and resources developed under the grant.

Our goal in the college and career readiness priority is to better use our existing data systems to promote readiness for all students, via three projects. First, we will expand our Early Warning Indicator System to predict readiness for postsecondary education. This will result in a predictive statistical model, new reports in Edwin Analytics, our state data reporting tool; trainings and materials for key stakeholders; and tools for stakeholders on what matters for postsecondary success. Second, we will link education data to workforce data to examine career outcomes for Massachusetts high school students. This will result in a data-sharing agreement between the relevant agencies, a linked database, reports in Edwin Analytics and associated training resources, and research projects investigating career outcomes. Finally, we will develop a comprehensive training program for Edwin Analytics for use with educator preparation programs and other partners not currently using Edwin Analytics. This will result in an Edwin Analytics training environment and a detailed training curriculum and associated materials.

As a result of this grant, Massachusetts school districts will know which of their students are on track for success in postsecondary education, in time to intervene if needed. They will have a first look at the career trajectories of their graduates, with information about their graduates' wages and industries of employment. They will have greater insight into how they are deploying their staffing and fiscal resources, how that compares to similar districts, and where they might make adjustments. And they will have access to a training curriculum and instructional materials to support more effective use of the tools available in Edwin Analytics. In

short, they will be able to use SLDS data to improve college and career readiness and educational return on investment.