

Mississippi Department of Education
R372A150043

Project Title: Mississippi PK-16 Data Initiative

Project Description: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recognizes that in order to create a world-class statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS), it must enhance its capacity to provide data for research and evaluation, and nourish a culture of data literacy and sharing across the spectrum of education in Mississippi and worldwide. In order to achieve these goals and to improve education in the state, MDE is applying for the 2015 SLDS grant to fund the following:

- Start-up costs for a new Office of Research and Statistics within MDE to perform analysis of longitudinal data related to college and career readiness, standards and assessment, early childhood education as well as other domains;
- Professional development on data literacy for stakeholders who would benefit from research findings from the Office of Research and Statistics to ensure results are utilized to improve educational environments, policies, and curricular and instructional methods;
- Augmentation of data dashboards to include advanced data analytics, coupled with a needs assessment of internal/external stakeholders and training to develop end user proficiency in accessing, operating, and interpreting dashboard data; and
- Linkages of early childhood data to the Mississippi P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System in three major sectors: early learning and development; health, mental health, and nutrition; and family support, for answering research questions related to early childhood program effectiveness.

Mississippi has steadily increased its capacity to provide a secure, accessible data system for studying the short and long-term effects of educational programming since the late 1990s. By building on gains made from three previously awarded SLDS grants, MDE will make highly significant progress in improving student educational outcomes in the state from the classroom – including curriculum, pedagogical and administrative practice – to community outreach and the workforce. An increase in our capacity to conduct research through hiring professionals for developing advanced dashboard analytics, coupled with professional development to nurture a culture of data literacy and sharing from the pre-kindergarten classroom to college, university, and workforce provider, will enable a level of collaboration never before achieved in Mississippi for remedying the current state of inadequacy in the educational system across this state and country.