

Data System Support & Resources for States

The Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant Program and its partners offer a wide and growing range of support to help state education agencies in the design, development, and use of longitudinal data systems. For more information about these technical assistance (TA) services and resources, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS/resources.asp>.

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SLDS P-20W Best Practice Conference

An annual SLDS P-20W (Pre-K to workforce) Best Practice Conference brings together representatives from states and territories to engage directly with their peers through sessions, small group discussions, and presentations. The agenda, panelists, and moderators are all determined by the states and State Support Team (SST) experts to ensure discussions are relevant to the dynamic field of SLDS development and use. For more information, visit http://nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/conferences/edci/upcoming_events.asp.



Public Domain Clearinghouse

The Public Domain Clearinghouse (PDC), hosted by NCES on the GRADS^{360°} website, provides a platform for states to share non-proprietary products developed for their SLDSs. This clearinghouse enables states to build on the work of others, conserving scarce staff resources, money, and time. States that share tools and documents on the PDC can also benefit from feedback and modifications contributed by other users. To gain access to GRADS^{360°} including the PDC, visit <https://nces.grads360.org>.



Best Practices Briefs

As part of the above ongoing interactions with states, SLDS program staff and SST members identify common issues and areas of need across multiple states. Technical experts then compile lessons learned and targeted strategies into best practices briefs that can be widely disseminated to states.



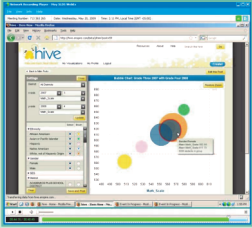
NCES National Forum on Education Statistics Publications

The NCES Forum—a diverse group of representatives from state and local education agencies, the federal government, and non-governmental organizations—offers a host of free resources on issues that affect schools, districts, and state education agencies. The Forum is an excellent source of information on topics ranging from education data standards to practical implementation strategies (<http://nces.ed.gov/forum/publications.asp>).



Topical Working Groups

States collaborate in topical working groups to address common, ongoing topics of interest, such as interoperability between local education agencies, electronic transcript solutions, and P-20W data sharing. Three to six states meet regularly in these smaller communities to identify challenges, brainstorm solutions, and share best practices. Products from topical working groups can be shared to assist other states' SLDS work.



Monthly Webinars

Monthly webinar discussions provide venues for states to demonstrate products they have developed, share best practices, and discuss issues of interest. Recent webinars have averaged over 50 attendees each and have covered topics ranging from data visualization to project and vendor management. Monthly webinars are open to staff from all state and local education agencies. Monthly webinars are also archived and can be accessed at <http://nces.ed.gov/Programs/SLDS/webinars.asp>.



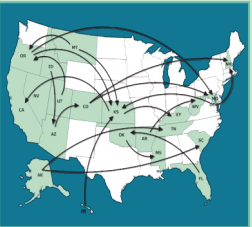
Listserv & E-mail Correspondence

An SLDS listserv is available as a resource for states and SLDS program staff. Via the listserv, states can quickly and easily elicit feedback on specific SLDS topics or challenges, share best practices, and discuss the possibility of further collaboration and assistance. The listserv is also used by IES/NCES staff to share important announcements and news.



Fast-Response Webinars & Calls

During monthly discussions between SLDS program staff and grantees, questions are raised and potential issues identified. If a state wants feedback from other states on a specific question, the SLDS program team can host a fast-response Webinar or conference call within a few weeks. These webinars provide states an opportunity to share valuable knowledge in a timely fashion.



Personnel Exchange Network

The NCES Personnel Exchange Network (PEN) provides travel funds for state and district staff to visit other education agencies to gain and share knowledge and best practices about education data issues. Twenty states, from Hawaii to New Hampshire, have already participated in twenty exchanges, including three in 2011. Applications are available through the SLDS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/pen.asp>.



On-Site Grant Support

SLDS program staff and SST experts provide on-site support designed to ensure that SLDS projects are on track and result in high quality data systems. On-site support provides an opportunity to convene stakeholders to discuss project achievements and challenges. Program staff and SST experts can also help grantees address barriers to success during the visit and through follow-up engagements.



Assistance from the State Support Team (SST)

States can request technical assistance (TA) on a specific SLDS issue as they strive to meet project objectives. A member of the SST is assigned to provide states with one-on-one mentorship through calls or visits. States have already requested and received TA on many topics, including data governance, project management, and interagency data sharing. Support may be limited to a single engagement, but may be ongoing if needed to help states overcome multiple or continued SLDS project issues. To request technical assistance from the SST, go to the GRADS³⁶⁰ website (<https://nces.grads360.org>) and select the "State Support Requests" tab.