

Iowa

Iowa Department of Education R372A120018

Project Title: *Iowa's Education Outcome Collaborative: Building on P-20W Efforts*

Project Description: K-12 outcomes have become a centerpiece of recent education reform efforts. The first priority in the March 2010 “*Blueprint for Reform: The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act*” from Secretary Duncan and the Obama administration includes college and career ready students as a critical to keeping the United States competitive. In October 2011, Governor Branstad’s administration and the Iowa Department of Education released “*One Unshakable Vision: World-Class Schools for Iowa*” which call for a rigorous goal of ninety percent of Iowa students demonstrating college and career readiness to keep Iowa nationally and internationally competitive.

The Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Board of Regents and Iowa Workforce Development propose to build upon recent efforts to systematically connect and use information from Iowa’s Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) to evaluate P-20W educational programs. The goals of this joint effort include: 1) Build P-20W SLDS including data from PK-12, Community Colleges, Post-Secondary and Workforce; 2) Provide systematic feedback loops to multiple stakeholder groups; 3) Establish a reporting system to identify successful districts based on PK-12, Post- Secondary and Employment Measures; 4) Build a metrics-driven culture where outcome data and analysis are widely used: Provide high-value training, data literacy and reports to education stakeholders.

Some of this work has already begun. Iowa is a recipient of a 2009 SLDS grant from IES and a 2010 WDQI grant. These projects provide a foundation and framework for linkages from PK-12, to Post-Secondary into the Workforce. While these efforts have been successful, they fall short in systematically evaluating the impact of Iowa’s PK-12 education system.

Iowa proposes to use this grant opportunity to examine student pathways for success. Students from Iowa’s PK-12 system often follow disparate paths into the workforce. Iowa will examine each pathway in order to determine what works and identify where supports are needed. By expanding Iowa’s SLDS across the P-20W pipeline, longitudinal analyses and outcome studies are possible that heretofore have not been possible.

Iowa’s plan is to *collaborate, create and integrate*: **Drive collaboration** across the education/workforce spectrum by establishing an Iowa Outcomes Collaborative in generating broad direction and ownership; **Create** the next-generation state longitudinal data system which provides stakeholders with clear, timely, actionable data needed for education reform; **Integrate** data and reporting systems across stakeholder groups by investing in talent and tools for training, and feedback management. Integration is the key to make sure this project endures and provides the highest possible utility for those charged with attaining Iowa’s education and workforce development goals.
