# Mississippi

## Mississippi Department of Education
### R384A100018

Project Title: *Mississippi Integrated Education and Workforce Longitudinal Data System: A Management Tool to Improve Student Achievement and Economic Competitiveness*

Since 2004, Mississippi has made considerable progress toward the development and establishment of a statewide integrated education and workforce longitudinal data system. Today, the system relies on strong political leadership, common vision and mission, sustainable partnerships, and inclusive governance and management plan for data sharing. It also relies on a data clearing house containing education and workforce data back to 2001 that is managed by a group with the expertise in data management and analysis, technology, and software development necessary to produce useful, accurate, reliable, and timely information. The data come from systems managed by the Mississippi Department of Education, State Board of Community and Junior Colleges (and its fifteen member institutions), Institutions of Higher Learning (and its eight member institutions), Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Mississippi Department of Corrections. Many education and workforce leaders have recognized the importance and the value of such a system as it has been used to generate information to inform policymakers and stakeholders on student achievement and workforce outcomes.

While the current model has served the state well over the last five years, it is not without limitations in regard to the latest national standards. The system has limited interoperability; that is, data can be made available on request from the data warehouse upon receiving written permission from the owner of the data. Reports can be generated on outcomes with the current system, but they are quite time-consuming. There is no statewide mechanism that facilitates easy, timely, efficient and reliable interoperability between state and local data systems. While each entity has its own internal quality control for data integrity, there is no statewide policy for data quality assurance. Several system partners need infrastructure upgrades for data collection, exchange, and reporting. Some data elements specific to the America COMPETES Act are not readily available in distinct fields despite the availability of the data within the system. Finally, the system lacks the necessary data to link PK with P-20.

With the help of additional funds, the state is committed to completing and institutionalizing a statewide, integrated education and workforce longitudinal data system, as set forth by the RFA. It is the intent of Mississippi to achieve the following outcomes: (1) Include all missing data elements as prescribed by the America COMPETES Act; (2) Create a relational database linking all education (K-20) and workforce data through a unique common identifier that does not permit an individual to be identified by users of the system; (3) Develop an online one-stop portal that will provide access to the relational database and make the system universally interoperable; (4) Develop the hardware and software capacity for building and hosting the relational database and the one-stop portal; (5) Upgrade each partner with the appropriate infrastructure and technology for data collection, storage, and use; (6) Develop and adopt a statewide, comprehensive policy on data quality assurance; (7) Train state and local personnel on data entry and use to facilitate full adoption and effective use of the system; and (8) Include all the necessary data to link PK with K-20.

The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) will have oversight of data ownership and stewardship over the course of the project. It will also coordinate activities with a project director, two project managers (IT project manager and project system development manager), and a data council. The council will provide subject matter expertise at all levels and appropriate research knowledge.