

# North Dakota

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## North Dakota Department of Public Instruction R372A120021

**Project Title:** *Postsecondary Education P-20W SLDS Project*

**Project Description:** Postsecondary Education P-20W State Longitudinal Data System (PEP-20W SLDS) project was initiated to address gaps which have been hindering North Dakota to have a comprehensive P- 20W State Longitudinal Data System. This project will address Priority 3, to develop and link postsecondary and/or workforce data with the State's K-12 data system. State agencies responsible for the direction and implementation of grant activities include; executive sponsoring agency- North Dakota University System (NDUS), State Education Agency- Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and Information Technology Department (ITD).

North Dakota SLDS has made measureable strides since its inception in 2007, and has expanded to include postsecondary education data for high school feedback information as required by State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Phase II (SFSF II). North Dakota University System (NDUS) has been an instrumental member of the SLDS and has proactively worked with DPI to prepare postsecondary student linkages to K-12 by matching students' IDs between systems. However information contributed to the SLDS is only capable of answering limited questions posed by SFSF II. Postsecondary data has been laboriously created and loaded in the SLDS to answer specific questions and the data is not capable of generating answers that vary the parameters of those questions. In order to achieve a data rich system capable of answering policy and research questions, an ambitious goal has been put in place to expand the SLDS with NDUS postsecondary data that will: **strengthen data-informed decisions for education policy and practice in North Dakota by developing and implementing an innovative feedback system linking postsecondary and K-12 education, as well as postsecondary and workforce data.** This ambitious goal will be met with the following outcomes:

1. Define and operationalize the collection of data for the postsecondary subject area aligned with Common Education Data Standards
2. Establish workforce linkages in the SLDS to postsecondary students.
3. Creation of a robust data dictionary through an enhanced metadata management system
4. Development of a comprehensive and coordinated feedback reporting system, through the SLDS framework, enabling ND postsecondary education to communicate with high schools regarding college readiness and college-level performance of their graduates.
5. Expansion of the SLDS portal to include secured access of feedback reports to postsecondary institutions and include postsecondary reports for the public, legislature, and other state officials

Since North Dakota has already implemented a functioning SLDS, it is the intent of this project to provide outcomes, deliverables and tasks in order to supplement- not supplant- the current function of the North Dakota SLDS. Deliverables include: identifying data to evaluate effectiveness of standard high school for postsecondary education; expand the current delivery of postsecondary data to secondary schools through the SLDS framework; establish postsecondary linkages to employment data in the SLDS and provide feedback on employment patterns on established policy questions; align data element definitions using Common Education Data Standards; development of a comprehensive feedback reporting system enabling North Dakota postsecondary education to communicate with high schools regarding college readiness and college- level performance of graduates; and the expansion of the SLDS portal to accommodate public and policymaker views of reports.

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