



Spring 2016

## NEWSLETTER

The SLDS supports and provides information on ‘what works’ allowing teachers, school administrators, workforce development administrators, education support organizations, colleges and policy makers to make informed decisions while promoting continuous improvement.

The SLDS is now in a position to produce secure/ aggregated data for analysis and allow for statewide comparisons. This first generation interactive data tool is available to school administrators and education communities for the purpose of performing their own research and observations to make informed decisions.

The SLDS continues to support schools and teachers with refinement of student level reports, predictive analytics and feedback.

Workforce development programs are a high priority as the SLDS provides the means for these programs to measure the success of their participants

## SERVICES

**Integrated services** rely on integrated data systems. The SLDS is increasingly able to provide data across multiple agencies/organizations, such as K12, Higher Education, and Workforce Development. Prior to the SLDS, providing data across organizations was too difficult, too costly, or too insecure to accomplish. The current initiatives which use the SLDS to provide integrated services are included in this newsletter.

# SLDS Times

## NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM

### 2015 SLDS FEDERAL GRANT AWARD



North Dakota was awarded a 2015 Federal SLDS Grant. The grant is titled “**The ND Data Utilization Project (Data UP).**” This is a competitive grant awarded to 16 states out of 43 that applied.

The latest round of Federal SLDS grants stress ‘data use’ not infrastructure and the \$6.5M funding is awarded for two priorities including ‘Instructional Support’ and ‘College and Career Readiness’ over four years.

Since 2005, the NCES has funded states to build systems and now is providing grants to **use data**. This grant builds on the progress made with SLDS thus far. It moves stakeholders from data access to data utilization.

***The Data UP works to improve data literacy and use for current and pre-service teachers, improve use of student-level longitudinal data to increase college readiness and completion, and promote strategies designed to support data-driven strategies to better meet workforce demand and improve workforce supply and demand policy development.***

- **Instructional Support (3.5M)**
  - Building capacity for users to use and understand data.
  - Development of Curriculum modules for pre and post-service teachers and school administrators.
  
- **College and Career Readiness (2.9M)**
  - Performing predictive analysis on postsecondary retention and feeding NDUS retention systems with students at risk of not being retained.
  - Supporting NDUS efforts for Reverse Transfer
  - Develop supply/demand analysis and reports on high-demand occupations aligned with the degrees and credentials needed to fill these careers.

## ND SLDS DATA UP DELIVERABLES

The ND Data UP builds on prior SLDS training and dashboards to produce six data use deliverables to address gaps identified in teacher data utilization, postsecondary data utilization to support retention and completion, and data utilization to address workforce supply and demand:

1. Training site for in-service and pre-service teachers that includes case studies designed for improving data literacy and data utilization toward improving student learning and achievement.
2. Formalized teacher data utilization training plan based on the A+ Inquiry Framework and directly applicable to increasing teacher data literacy and assisting teachers in utilizing meaningful data to improve student performance and achievement.
3. Data utilization education modules designed for pre-service teacher education and integrated into the teacher education programs within the state to improve teacher preparation for data utilization in the classroom.
4. Expanded portal to make it more dynamically interactive that will allow teachers to enter interventions data as well as information about cohorts.
5. Predictive analytics based on risk factors made available to NDUS retention systems and secondary schools to promote career advisement and forward retention.
6. Supply/Demand Data marts that will be used by institutional researchers and labor agencies to align workforce development with workforce demand in the state, secondary schools to advise students toward high demand and high wage industries, and postsecondary schools to align educational programming with high demand and high wage occupations in the state.

## RESEARCH AND ANALYTICS

A major service of the SLDS is to perform research and answer policy questions. The SLD researcher works with other agencies/entities to identify research to be conducted and present the findings. The following is research that has been recently conducted:

- Prepared and rolled out High School Readiness Indicators for students in grades 3-6
- Created AdvancEd reports to allow Districts and Schools to more easily answer student diagnostic questions
- Updated study on the effect of remediation on two-year Associate Degree completion
- Developed formula for identifying institution tier for admissions on student snapshot
- Created reports for Succeed 2020 Steering Committee Meetings
- NWEA trend reports
- Reported numbers of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders taking credit bearing courses and average number of credits being taken by high school students by grade
- Top High School Student Enrollment Report to illustrate the rate at which students enrolled either in NDUS or Out of State
- North Dakota Course Offerings report for DPI – identified courses that are statistically increasing/decreasing in offerings
- Math Course Tracking Report – studies various math course tracks through high school and their potential effect on retention, and eventually, degree attainment
- Created dashboards to more easily display data relevant to Succeed 2020
- Developed model for first semester retention in NDUS
- Updated code and models for high school remediation indicators such that when new NDSA data arrives, they can be easily updated
- Developed goals for attendance for district, school, and student level dashboards



The SLDS Data Steward and EduTech provide training, consulting, and support for the SLDS to the K12 community. This includes the following training modules in addition to meeting specific data utilization needs requested by districts:

- SLDS 101 – navigating the system at an introductory level
- SLDS 201 – developing the data mindset needed for effective data utilization (A+ Inquiry Framework)
- SLDS AdvancED – utilizing the SLDS as a tool when working through the school improvement cycle
- SLDS Admin – focusing on the school leadership team using the district and school level reports to make evidence based decisions
- SLDS Counselor – learning how to gather and analyze SLDS data to present to parents and their parents in crucial conversations
- SLDS Teacher – leveraging the teacher level reports to impact student achievement in a positive manner

#### ND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



DPI utilizes the SLDS to collect required state and federal reporting data from the school districts. By utilizing the SLDS, which gets school data from PowerSchool for K12, many time-consuming data collections are automatically performed if the school chooses. Additionally, the SLDS is used to write data back to schools such as state student id assignment saving the school time. DPI provides valuable information to the SLDS on behalf of the schools such as the state assessment results, ACT results and program participation data. This information is delivered back to the school in the form of district, school and student dashboards.

ND eTranscript is a module of the ND Education Portal and continues to be adopted by more school districts. The system proves to be saving time and increasing quality for both high schools and colleges. This past year the eTranscript system will now:

- allow NDUS campuses to store the transcript directly into their imaging system (saving the time of printing, scanning and indexing)
- NDUS is interfacing with eTranscript to receive college core courses and feed the Admissions with data needed to admit students
- district will be able to batch send all of their graduates' transcript at the end of the school year

The system is undergoing enhancements which allow for ND high schools to transmit transcript data between each other (reducing time/burden and increase quality)

- Interfaces to the National Student Clearing House now allow transcripts to be sent out of state to participating colleges

A student and parent portal continues in pilot, today students and parents may view and send transcripts to colleges for free.

The ND scholarship application will be available in the education portal, allowing students, school administrators and DPI a one stop shop

- Automatic ND Scholarship determination and potentially identify more students that are eligible to receive the scholarship

The SLDS is working with NDUS to provide a ND College Application through the education portal to provide a speedy application process and admission. A goal will be determining college admissions electronically.



## FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT DATA EXCHANGE



The SLDS processes participants of ND workforce development programs through the FEDES exchange, which provides federal employment information. The ability to find participants gaining federal employment provides valuable insight on the success of ND training programs. This service is provided to any entity that requires state or federal performance measures through law or rule.

## NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARING HOUSE



The SLDS processes high school and college students against the NSCH to provide information on students enrolling in out of state colleges. This enrollment data is used in high school feedback reports as well as research into where ND graduates go when they leave North Dakota.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



ND CTE utilizes SLDS services for ND employment verification, FEDES, NSCH. CTE is provided information to meet federal performance reporting. CTE also receives state required data collections through the SLDS. They will use the postsecondary warehouse to collect required data on CTE concentrators enrolled in community colleges. Using the post-secondary warehouse will alleviate the burdensome data collection from all campuses that exist today.

## WICHE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



This spring the ND SLDS Team will determine if ND will participate in a voluntary state-to-state data exchange of employment and education programs. This effort will help state policymakers and researchers answer important policy questions about the development and mobility of human capital by linking education and employment outcomes across state lines. This initiative, sponsored through grants at this time, allows states to evaluate their workforce and education programs cooperatively with a focus on their states investments and interests as opposed to accountability measures.

## INFLUENZA SEASON



For over 20 years the ND Department of Health State Epidemiologist for Disease Control has been collecting data on school absenteeism for the purpose of surveying the beginning of influenza season as school aged children are the most commonly infected age group. With absenteeism information, the need for education on prevention can be identified. Typically, DOH receives 6 to 15 schools willing to participate due to the burden of weekly reporting, with such low participation the information does not provide the value it could. In DOH's recent survey the schools recommended Disease Control use non-identifiable attendance data collected in the SLDS which would provide statewide absenteeism data and not burden schools for data collections. The SLDS is currently preparing the data for this purpose.

## JOB SERVICE



Job Service ND is utilizing the WDQI (Workforce Data Quality Initiative) warehouse in the SLDS to meet the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunities ACT (WIOA) requirements. The new federal requirement from the Dept. of Labor requires all approved training providers measure the outcomes of their participants. The SLDS will perform these measurements and provide aggregate public reporting data to JSND.

Job Service has expanded their data sharing agreements with workforce development programs to provide the services of measuring the outcomes and effectiveness of these programs through the SLDS. This service has been welcomed by program administrators that have struggled for years to measure the outcomes of their participants and evaluate their programs effectiveness.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



ND Workforce Development Programs and Education services utilize the SLDS to measure the outcomes of their participants. Both federal and state requirements call for the measure of outcomes of participants in these programs. With data sharing agreements in place with JSND, NSCH and FEDES these data sources are utilized by these programs to meet their measurement needs.

- Dept. of Commerce Workforce Development Programs
  - AmeriCorps, Operation Intern, Workforce 2020, Workforce Enhancement Grants, Adult Education, Train ND
- Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Tax Incentives NDCC §54-35-26
- Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT Grants).
- Workforce development grants administered by ND Community Colleges and private/tribal colleges are also signing data sharing agreements to measure the outcomes of their participants
- Adult Education and CTE both use the SLDS to measure the outcomes of their participants for federal performance accountability measures



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