



THE NEW JERSEY STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM (NJ SLDS)

A Statewide Partnership to Improve Education and Workforce Outcomes for New Jersey

FACT SHEET

Brief Overview and Background

The New Jersey State Longitudinal Data System (NJ SLDS) was created in 2012, through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, to expand the New Jersey Department of Education's current data system (NJ SMART) from a P-12 system into a more comprehensive statewide system that tracks student information from pre-K through entry into higher education and the workforce (also known as a P-20W data system). NJ SLDS, when fully deployed, will provide valuable information and data to state and local policymakers and practitioners in K-12 schools, higher education institutions, and career and technical training schools to help track the outcomes of New Jersey students as they progress from pre-K through postsecondary education and training and as they enter the workforce.

NJ SLDS will initially link data from three partnering agencies: Education, Higher Education, and Labor and Workforce Development. NJ SLDS is expected to include de-identified, individual-level K-12 student demographics, program participation, assessments, performance, financial aid, and interventions; postsecondary enrollment, remediation, degrees, certificates, and completion; and information about students' future wages, industry, employment location, among other data elements. As currently planned, the NJ SLDS data system will be maintained by the New Jersey Department of Education and function under a multi-agency governance structure.

Vision of the NJ SLDS

To gain a comprehensive perspective on the performance of education and training on student outcomes in New Jersey through comprehensive, integrated longitudinal data and objective analysis.

Mission of the NJ SLDS

To create a single place where state longitudinal data are securely stored and information made available to education and training stakeholders and the public for analysis in order to improve governance efforts, policymaking, and the performance of education and workforce initiatives.

Project Goals

- Integrate independently developed and collected P-12, postsecondary education, workforce education and training, and labor market data at the individual level into a comprehensive and strategic SLDS data warehouse system;
- Improve the quality of data maintained and provided by the state data sources, and improve the capacity of the state to sustain, support, and expand a robust and integrated P-20W state longitudinal data system;
- Better measure the success and effectiveness of the education-workforce pipeline and improve educational and labor market outcomes for New Jersey's students, businesses, industries, and taxpayers by identifying critical research and policy questions and developing a purposeful research agenda that creates reports, dashboards, and other information products that provide relevant and accurate information of value to decision makers; and
- Develop a sustainable NJ SLDS governance structure with knowledgeable state agency leaders supported and guided by the involvement of key data stakeholders and end users from the education, higher education, and the workforce fields, as well as researchers, public officials, and the public at large.

Project Management and Governance

The NJ SLDS project is collaboration between the state Department of Education, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and is currently managed by the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education and the Department of Education. NJ SLDS functions under a multi-agency governance structure through two standing governing bodies: the NJ SLDS Data Advisory Council and the Data Stewards Work Group.

The **NJ SLDS Data Advisory Council** is co-chaired by representatives from the three state agencies, with public members representing the P-12 community, higher education, and workforce development. The Data Advisory Council meets bi-monthly and was established to provide overall guidance and strategic direction to the design, development, deployment, and maintenance of the NJ SLDS system. The Data Advisory Council is also charged with developing and conducting the research agenda for the system and establishing and overseeing the systems data access and use policies and practice.

Activities of the project are being governed by an executive level steering committee known as the **Data Stewards Work Group**, co-chaired by representatives from the three state agencies. Each state agency has four (4) data stewards to represent different agency programs and/or technical areas of expertise. This work group is responsible for ensuring the quality, timeliness, and availability of the administrative data in the NJ SLDS data warehouse.

NJ SLDS Data Sources

When deployed, the NJ SLDS system will include de-identified individual-level data from the P-12 education system, New Jersey colleges and universities, and programs overseen by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It will include data about individuals' early childhood, education, and workforce experiences and performance. The data are collected and linked from these existing state agency data systems and include, for example, data about the kinds of services they receive, programs in which they participate, and their academic performance and program and degree completion. It also includes a myriad of demographic data such as gender, race, and age. Personally identifiable information, such as names, social security numbers, addresses, and other data that can identify a person will not be part of the shared data system.

Specifically, state data sources in the New Jersey P-20W data warehouse will, at a minimum, include:

P-12 Education

- K-12 (NJSMART) Enrollment Data
- K-12 (NJSMART) Completion Data
- Career and Technical Education (Carl Perkins Act) enrollment and completion data

Higher Education

- Student Unit Record (SURE) Enrollment Data
- Student Unit Record (SURE) Completion Data

Labor and Workforce Development

- Unemployment Insurance wage data
- Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Case Data
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program Case Data
- Consumer Report Card Private Training Provider Data

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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