



Promising Practices in Program Management and Data Use

LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS

May 21, 2014



WEBINAR AGENDA

- **Welcome**
- **Introduction to Webinar Series**
- **State Presentations**
- **Questions**



What is the “Promising Practices in Program Management and Data Use” webinar series?

- Part of the NRS project’s ongoing effort to help states and programs improve their use of data for program improvement
- Each webinar will center on a specific strategy using data for program improvement.
- Hear from states that have successfully implemented the strategy
 - Find out what they have done
 - What the data says



Defining Longitudinal Data Systems

- NCES defines an education longitudinal data system (LDS) as a data system that:
 - Collects and maintains detailed, high quality, student- and staff-level data;
 - Links these data across entities and over time, providing a complete academic and performance history for each student; and
 - Makes these data accessible through reporting and analysis tools.

Through the Forum on Education Statistics: <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/>



Longitudinal means that data on a (one) given student can be connected across years.

- Think collection of videos of individual students versus snapshots (pictures) of each class.





Putting the “videos” together

- Collect data on individual students over time (e.g., site, classes, ethnicity, age, all test scores, all entry and exit dates);
- Connect all those pieces; and then
- Aggregate across students according to a set of key variables in order to analyze the impact of, and relationship between, variables.





Why an LDS? Educational Pathways

- Educational pathways are increasingly complex
- Learners follow different pathways
 - Traditional path not the norm for adult education students

Better linkages can improve services and ensure that student needs are met



Why an LDS? Benefits

LDS can provide information on:

■ **Students**

- To provide better educational services, tailored to student needs

■ **Programs**

- To help understand what works, what needs improvement
- To improve planning, resource allocation through data on student flow, access and retention

■ **Policies**

- To evaluate effects of policies and programmatic changes



Existing LDS Architectures or Models

■ **Linked (IN)**

Participating departments/agencies maintain their own data system, but offer customized linkages between their system and partnering organizations.

■ **Federated (VA)**

Participating agencies maintain their own data and make it available for access by others through an electronic link – on demand.

■ **Data Warehouse (ND)**

Agencies submit data on a regular basis to a centralized repository.

■ **Integrated**

Single system for entering, reporting and analyzing student records data across multiple education environments.



Marie Mackintosh and Jackie Dowd

INDIANA'S LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM



Valerie Fischer

NORTH DAKOTA'S LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM



Bethann Canada

VIRGINIA'S LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM



QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?



Thank You!

Please join us for the next webinar.