Project ALDER Talking Points

Audience: Oregon Education Investment Board

Grant Information

Project ALDER (Advancing Longitudinal Data for Educational Reform) is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences

- Grant Name: 2009-ARRA Grant – Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Recovery Act Grants
- Award Number: R384A100053
- Award Amount: $10,475,997
- Performance Period: July 2010 – June 2013
- Project Director: Josh Klein
- Project Sponsor: Doug Kosty
- Project Website: http://alder.orvsd.org/

Partners

- Oregon Department of Education (ODE) – (Early Childhood, K-12)
- Oregon University System (OUS) – (Higher Education)
- Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) – (Higher Education and Workforce)
- Oregon Employment Department (OED) – (Workforce)
- Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) – (Workforce)

Outcomes

- Develop a robust educator-student data link for K-12 (July 2010 – June 2013)
- Consolidate and expand early childhood data (May 2011–June 2013)
    - Place ODE *Pre-K* and *Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education* data into the *statewide longitudinal data system* (October 2011 – June 2012)
    - Create a new Pre-K reporting tool that allows end users to create custom reports (October 2011 – December 2012)
    - Adopt a statewide Kindergarten entry assessment (October 2011 – June 2013)
    - Expand electronic transcript to include Pre-Kindergarten data (October 2011 – June 2013)
- Automate exchange and integration of postsecondary, community college and workforce data (July 2010 – June 2013)
    - Develop P-20 statewide interagency *data governance* rules about what data is shared with whom, under what conditions, and with what restrictions (July 2010 – June 2013)
    - Develop metrics and methods to measure how Oregon students perform in higher education (January 2011 – June 2013)
    - Track student outcomes as they enter the workforce (October 2011 – February 2013)
    - Gather information from all stakeholders (October 2011 – September 2012)
    - Integrate workforce data from CCWD, student test data, and high education enrollment and outcomes from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) (October 2011 – February 2013)
    - Include workforce outcome data in data confidence processes that assess the quality, completeness and integrity of the data (October 2011 – December 2013)
    - Create a Catalog of Workforce Data Sources that will provide information that allows student data to be matched with appropriate workforce data (October 2011 – June 2013)
- Develop a comprehensive statewide data quality plan (CSDQP) (July 2010 – June 2013)

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Status

- Outcome: Educator-Student Data Link. Both the Instructional Unit Identifier (IUID) and Class Roster preliminary collections have opened. In the 2011-12 school-year, districts will be required to submit to these collections. The IUID Collection compiles data to recognize individual course instances with a unique identifier. The Class Roster Collection links the unique identifiers for the class (IUID), the students (SSID) and the instructors (USID).

Senate Bill 909

- Senate Bill 909 and the Race to the Top (Early Learning Challenge) competition have brought new emphasis to early childhood data. Already a component Project ALDER, the consolidation of Early Childhood data has now become a higher priority. To better meet the requirements of this legislation, Project ALDER timelines will be adjusted to address Early Childhood data immediately.

Scope Constraints

- **Fiscal** – ODE collects *school-level* financial data through the Database Initiative (DBI) Reports. ODE does not collect *student-level* financial data. Financial data is not available at the classroom level.
- **HIPAA Security –** As additional early childhood records and data elements are incorporated into our Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, there will be a natural convergence of health and educational records. Project ALDER is designed to house only educationally-relevant records. ODE and the Project ALDER Executive Committee will work to complete data integration between health and education systems, but will not pull HIPAA-related health records into our SLDS.
- **Interagency Data Warehouse for Existing Data Sources** – Partner agencies will populate a new cross-sector warehouse with data from existing sources.
- **Transactional or Real-time Data Collection** – Our SLDS systems do not function like a Student Information System, nor do they include new transactional collections.

Barriers to Success

- Current FERPA regulations restrict access to student information to those agencies defined as "educational institutions." This definition hinders the development of a longitudinal data system that includes workforce information. Under current definitions, data exchange with the Oregon Employment Department is severely limited. The Oregon Consumer Identify Theft Protection Act (2007) regulates how state agencies can store and use social security numbers. Because the social security number is the primary mechanism for matching workforce data with specific students, this Act has created limitations and barriers to the implementation of the longitudinal data system.
- Statutory support needed for data sharing between agencies
- Definitions needed in statute and/or rule (e.g., *teacher of record*)

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Definitions

- **ALDER (Project ALDER)**: A four-year grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (USED) to complete the four outcomes listed above.
- **Longitudinal Data System (LDS)**: Data system designed to track students over time, rather than within a given school year.
- **Data Collection**: A web-based application (in our transactional system) for districts to submit required student, staff, or institution information.
- **Data Warehouse**: A database, or series of databases, that focuses on aggregated data for reporting purposes.
- **Transactional System**: A database, or series of databases, used to collect data.
- **Student Information System (SIS)**: A system used by K-12 schools to track student information.
- **IUID**: A unique instructional unit identifier (IUID) to recognize each instance of a course as separate and distinct.
- **SSID**: A unique secure student identifier (SSID) assigned to an individual student. A student's SSID is used to track the student throughout his or her academic career, across districts, and through institutions of higher education.
- **USID**: A unique staff identifier (USID) assigned to educational staff. This includes educators, administrators and classified staff.
- **Pre-K**: Oregon Head Start and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)
- **EI/ECSE**: Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education. Birth – 3 Special Education.
- **Data Governance**: Refers to the processes, procedures and systems by which data is managed, handled and exchanged.
- **Data Confidence**: The process of bringing system-wide data quality up to a high enough level to support high-stakes decisions.