Program Background
Legislative Background

- Authorized in 2002 by the Education Sciences Reform Act and the Educational Technical Assistance Act

- The grants are cooperative agreements – more active federal government involvement than in typical grants

- Up to 3 years with grants ranging from $1M to $20M per State

- Administered by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Dept. of Education
SLDS Program in Context of EDCI

Education Data Cooperative Initiative

Data Quality
Privacy Assurance
Data Use
State/District Cooperative
Effective Practice Conferences
Online Technical Assistance
On-Site Technical Assistance
P-20W State Data Systems
Goals of the Program

Enable grantees to design, develop, and implement SLDSs to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze, disaggregate, report, and use individual student P-20W (early childhood through workforce) data.

Long term goals of the program are to:

1. Identify what works to improve instruction
2. Determine whether grads are equipped for long-term success
3. Simplify reporting and increase transparency
4. Inform decisionmaking at all levels of education
5. Permit creation and use of accurate, timely P-20W data
Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include the *state education agencies* of:

- 50 States
- District of Columbia
- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Grant Awards: History & Evolution
Grant Awards Status

To date, 41 states and DC have been awarded SLDS grants totaling $514M:

- **1st Round (FY06):** Nov. 2005 – 14 grantees awarded over $52M
- **2nd Round (FY07):** June 2007 – 13 grantees awarded over $62M
- **3rd Round (FY09):** April 2009 – 27 grantees awarded over $150M
- **4th Round (FY09 ARRA):** May 2010 – 20 states awarded $250M under American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)
- **5th Round (FY12):** plan to award in May 2012
Program Evolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006 &amp; 2007 Competitions</th>
<th>2009 Competitions</th>
<th>2009 ARRA Competitions</th>
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<tr>
<td>K12</td>
<td>K12 + <strong>ONE</strong> of the following: PreK, Postsecondary, Workforce, OR Student-Teacher link</td>
<td>K12 + <strong>ALL</strong> of the following: PreK, Postsecondary, Workforce, AND Student-Teacher link</td>
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<td># of grants: 14, 13</td>
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<td>Avg. Award: $3.7M, $4.8M</td>
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Grantee States
# Grantee States

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Award Process:
Review & Selection
Review & Selection Process Timeline

- **Dec 15**: Applications due
- **Jan-Feb**: Applications reviewed by reviewers
- **Feb 25-26**: Review panel conference
- **Mar-Apr**: Application Reconciliation process
- **May**: Congressional notification period
  - Public announcement of successful applicants

- **Dec-Jan**: Reviewers recruited
### Selection of Slate: Example Scenario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Score (1–5, with 5 the best)</th>
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<td>6</td>
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(Total funding available = $20M)

- Approved: ($13M remaining)
- Approved: ($8.5M remaining)
- Approved: ($5.5M remaining)
- Approved: ($0 remaining)
Not just A Grant Program
Grantee Resources & Activities
PDC: Open-Source Best Practices Exchange

Public Domain Clearinghouse Platform allows states to share nonproprietary SLDS-related tools and documents:

- saves resources & time
- promotes innovation
- fosters community
Technical assistance is available to all states from a team of state data systems experts.

SST areas of expertise include:

- technical design
- P-20W data linkage
- data governance/data quality
- privacy/security
- state/district relationships
- master data management
- indicator development
- project management
Online Technical Assistance

**Monthly Webinars**
Provide states a forum to discuss issues of common interest and share best practices. Topics have included:

- Early childhood education
- Alternative funding sources
- Data visualization
- Vendor management
- Regional service centers
- Single sign-on
- e-Transcripts
- Data access for researchers
Fast-Response Webinars
Fast-response webinars to quickly address emerging issues as needed. Topics have included:

- Stakeholder communication
- Regional data sharing
- Federated data models
- Statewide SISs
- Postsecondary data sharing
- Sub-grants to districts
- Research consortia
Personnel Exchange Network

Enables state staff to visit other education agencies to learn and share knowledge with colleagues across state lines
Best Practices Resources

SLDS Best Practice Briefs:
- Stakeholder Communications
- Alternative Sources of Support
- Vendor Engagement
- Legislative Outreach
- Project Management Templates

For PDFs, visit: http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS/best_practices.asp

Traveling Through Time: The Forum Guide to LDSs (series)
- Book I: What is an LDS?
- Book II: Planning and Developing an LDS
- Book III: Effectively Managing LDS Data
- Book IV: Advanced LDS Usage

For free copies, visit: http://nces.ed.gov/forum/publications.asp
Grantee Resources & Activities

- SLDS P-20W Best Practice Conference
- Presentations & Meetings
- SLDS Grantee Listserv
- Topical Workgroups
- Small Group Calls
Challenges, Lessons, & Next Steps
Challenges Identified through the Program

- **K12 data governance** (along with other P-20W source systems): defining, collecting & providing access to data

- **P-20W data governance**: identifying, integrating & reporting data (issues span SEA, IHEs, DOLs, etc.)

- **FERPA**: data access for organization

- **Sustainability**: impact of state economy
Privacy Protection & Data Security Practices

- Staff have clear responsibilities and follow strict processes.
- Agencies know their data. What? Why? How sensitive?
- Access is controlled.
- Agencies know what to do in case of breach.
- Staff are screened and regularly trained.
- Parents & students are informed: What’s collected? How’s it used? What are my rights?
- Compliance is regularly checked and audited.

For more information on data privacy, confidentiality, and security practices related to SLDSs, visit the Privacy Technical Assistance Center at http://nces.ed.gov/programs/PTAC.
Lessons Learned: Successful Strategies for SLDS Development

“It’s not just an IT project”

“Policy drives IT, not the other way around”

“State-managed, locally-operated”

Know who your customers are”
Next Steps for SLDSs

- Allow for effective e-Transcripts and reliable connections to early childhood, postsecondary, and workforce data
- Provide data access to research community and public stakeholders
- Figure out how to build data structures for seamless transfers of student records across state lines
- Increase the number of stakeholders who can access and use the data to improve decisionmaking
Contact Information

Website:  http://nces.ed.gov/programs/SLDS

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