

Education Longitudinal Data System (ELDS) Update

Overview

NC General Statutes – [Chapter 116E](#) – creates the ELDS. This data system is to contain individual-level student data and workforce data from all levels of education and the State’s workforce system. The legislation charges the North Carolina Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) with specific responsibilities (section [116E-4](#)) related to the North Carolina ELDS, including to “develop an implementation plan to phase in the establishment and operation of the system.” Other responsibilities include but are not limited to providing general oversight and direction to the system, approving the annual budget, and establishing an advisory committee on data quality. The ELDS shall be located administratively within the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

The ELDS must have capability to do the following:

- ✓ Facilitate and enable the exchange of student data among agencies and institutions within the State;
- ✓ Generate timely and accurate information about student performance that can be used to improve the State’s education systems and guide decisions makers at all levels;
- ✓ Facilitate and enable linkage of student data and workforce data;
- ✓ Serve as a data broker for education and workforce data

Currently, three longitudinal efforts focused on different aspects of the education-workforce continuum exist today. They are collaborative efforts among many of the same agencies listed in the legislation (including GDAC) and are housed within the GDAC environment.

- ✓ [Early Childhood Integrated Data System](#)* – ECIDS is designed to provide integrated early childhood education, health and social service data from participating agencies. Its mission is to inform policies and programs that produce better outcomes for children and families. This system is administered by North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- ✓ [North Carolina School Works](#)* – NCSW is a federated system that links data from early learning to workforce. The system was designed to track student performance across years and sectors. Partners include: DPI, UNCS, NCCCS, UCICU, DES, and DHHS. This system is administered by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).
- ✓ [Common Follow-Up System](#) – CFS is a repository of workforce and education data. The CFS contains data on participants in North Carolina public employment, training, and education programs going back to the late 1990's. The system also contains employment and wage information for individuals working in UI-covered employment in North Carolina over the last 25 years. This system is administered by Department of Commerce, Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD).

Strategic Implementation Plan

Currently, UNC-CH is leading work with the North Carolina Department of Information Technology Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) in developing a strategic implementation plan to modernize the North Carolina Education Longitudinal Data System (ELDS). The plan will be based on input from ELDS key stakeholders in a collaborative effort to help define the ELDS objectives and requirements. The plan will also recommend metrics to measure the success of ELDS implementation. The plan will not be focused on the technology but the agencies/institutions expectations for an early childhood/education/workforce longitudinal data system.

The summative UNC-CH deliverable to GDAC, expected to be completed in April 2020, will include a plan with the following key sections:

- Current state assessment;
- High-level ELDS expectations and requirements;
- Obstacles/challenges identified and recommendations on a remediation plan;
- Recommendations on ELDS data governance;
- Recommendations on continuing and enhancing buy-in and commitment by agencies and stakeholders;
- A strategic phased-implementation plan with milestones and metrics to measure progress.