

Creating Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) That Provide Useful Information

A Four-Part Webinar Series

OCTOBER 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026

Webinar 3: Maximizing the Power of Research & Analytics

Leveraging Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Agenda

- **Introduction of our framework**
- **Key considerations for Research & Analytics**
- **Lessons from Maryland, New Jersey, & Washington**
- **Panel discussion**
- **Q&A**

Who we are

Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy
(AISP)

Data Quality Campaign (DQC)

Education Commission for the States
(ECS)

WestEd's Data Integration Support
Center (DISC)

What is an SLDS?

1

Systems connect
data

2

Data are linked at
the individual level

3

Data are
longitudinal

4

Data security and
privacy are core
requirements

Three functions of a modern data system



Public Reports & Dashboards

Provides transparent, consistent information that displays and clarifies outcomes



Supporting Individuals

Provides personalized services to individuals so they can access education and public services.



Research & Analytics

Makes data available to authorized parties to develop nuanced analyses of the factors impacting outcomes

Read more about the Three functions at: <https://bit.ly/3-functions>

Why the Functions Framework Matters & How It Helps States

- Shows how the SLDS serves people and informs decisions, rather than being a technology project
- Encourages states to let purpose drive design, not structure
- Supports states in aligning technical, legal, and governance frameworks with the services people need
- Clarifies how data systems can be designed to provide actionable information for learners, policymakers, and communities

Webinar Series



Webinar 1

**So, You Want
a State
Dashboard?**



Webinar 2

**Empowering
Individuals
with Data**



Webinar 3

**Maximizing
the Power of
Research &
Analytics**



Webinar 4

**Bridging
Education to
Workforce**

Research & Analytics Function: Features

PROS

Enables cross-agency analysis of long-term outcomes and impact

Ensures high data quality and security through vetted access and pre-approved purposes

Supports rigorous program evaluation with comparison group methodologies

CONS

High upfront costs before demonstrable analytical outputs

Resource-intensive review processes may delay actionable insights

Limited initial access makes it harder to demonstrate value for sustained funding

Research & Analytics Function: Key Considerations

Audiences

- Roles: Researchers, evaluators, and analysts
- Organizations: State agencies, institutions of higher education, and policy organizations

Goals

- Enable evaluation of program effectiveness and measure long-term outcomes utilizing complex cross-agency data

Opportunity

- Identify opportunity gaps and equity disparities to inform policy decisions

Interface

- Secure research environment with controlled data access; approved findings released through vetted reports

Usability

- Provide standardized methodologies and researcher support to ensure consistent, high-quality analyses

Value

- Research findings translated into agency and state insights, policy briefs, and public reports accessible to policymakers, the public, and individuals

Sustainability

- A defined and transparent researcher access process is needed to maintain and implement a research agenda that addresses state priorities
- Demonstrated value by strengthening the state's ability to conduct robust research

Research & Analytics Function: Common Challenges



Governance

Requires formal processes for who can access data, what type of data is accessible, and who needs to approve access

Lengthy IRB and review processes delay research insights needed for policy decisions

Agency staff overwhelmed by data preparation and request review responsibilities



User Engagement

Difficulty translating technical research into accessible and relevant public value stories

Struggle to demonstrate ROI to justify continued and increased resource investments from the state



Infrastructure

Centering privacy requirements while maintaining analytical usefulness and ease of access data

Lack of investment in human and technical infrastructure required to answer complex questions

How can states leverage SLDS infrastructure to support research and analytics?

Expert
Panelists

Ross Goldstein

Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center

Stephanie Walsh

New Jersey Statewide Data System

Katie Weaver Randall

Washington State Education Research & Data Center

Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center

Who We Are:

The Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) generates timely and accurate information about student performance that can be used to improve Maryland's state education system and guide decision makers at all levels. MLDS collects and organizes individual-level student and workforce data from all levels of education and the state's workforce.

MLDS + Research:

MLDS's [research agreement process](#) ensures that:

- All research projects provide value to the state;
- The MLDS receives proper attribution and maintains a [repository of research products](#) showcasing the value of the data system; and
- Project findings and outcomes are made available to MLDS's audience.

New Jersey Statewide Data System

Who We Are:

The New Jersey Statewide Data System (NJSDS) is the state's centralized longitudinal data system for public administrative data and aims to help the public and stakeholders make data-informed decisions to improve public policies and practices for New Jersey residents, including by facilitating longitudinal and linked-data research, providing statistical data, and publishing reports on the [NJSDS website](#).

NJSDS + Research:

New Jersey enables researcher access through clear request processes, alignment to their research agenda, robust data dictionaries, strong privacy provisions, and more. NJSDS also has strong internal research capacity, focusing on projects like understanding the [teacher workforce](#) in the state.

Washington State Education Research & Data Center

Who We Are:

The Education Research & Data Center (ERDC) works with data contributing agencies and the education research community to better understand the education systems in Washington. ERDC creates data products, analyzes and reports for state agencies, conducts cross-sector research, and supports state data collections.

ERDC + Research:

ERDC's [data request process](#) includes a guide on how to request data, expectations for how the data request process will work, a data dictionary and handbook, and what supports are available. ERDC also has a [Public Data Request Log](#), which allows researchers to see recent requests, who submitted them, what data was requested, and the current status of each request.

Our Questions for Panelists

AN INFORMED CONVERSATION

Q&A

PLEASE SUBMIT QUESTIONS

USING THE QUESTIONS TAB AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR ZOOM

Next Steps



WestEd will send you an email with links to other webinars in the series



You can view and share this webinar



Next Webinar Wednesday January 28th from 10-11am PST / 1-2pm ET.

Thank you!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH BY EMAILING US AT DISC@WESTED.ORG
OR BY VISITING US AT DISC.WESTED.ORG

Appendix SLIDES:

DQC Resources



[Funding What Matters:
What Building and Sustaining a
Statewide Longitudinal Data
System Costs](#)



[What Now?
A Vision to Transform
Statewide Data Systems](#)

MLDS Center Resources

The MLDS Center's Project Approval and Management Procedures are available on [our website](#). The online information includes the procedures, the application, the review schedule, and the internal review form that we use to assess the projects.

MLDS' [Approved Project Tracker](#) provides a searchable and sortable listing of all approved research projects, including the name of the researcher, name of the project, status and links to any completed products.



Approved MLDS Projects and Products

ERA # | PI Last Name | PI First Name | PI Institution | Title of Project | External Funding | Center Product | Project Status | Products

All | All | All | All | All | All | All | All | Clear all filters

ERA #	PI First Name	PI Last Name	PI Institution	Title of Project	External Funding	Center Product	Project Status	Products
1	Rachel	Durham	NDMU	Pathways into Adulthood for Baltimore City Students	x	RS	Further Development	
3	Angela	Henzeberger	UMB	The Relationship between School Concentration of Disadvantage and Individual Student Disadvantage and Long-Term Outcomes		RR	Further Development	
5	David	Blazar	UMD	Policies and Practices that Support Black and Non-Black Students of Color to Become Teachers	x	RS	Further Development	
6	David	Blazar	UMD	The Effect of School-Based Diversity on Long-Term Economic Opportunity	x	RS	Complete	
7	Jane	Lincove	UMBC	High School Determinants of STEM College and Career Pathways			Approved	
13	David	Blazar	UMD	Long-Run Relationships between Teachers, their Characteristics, and Student Outcomes	x	RS	Further Development	
14	Tracy	Sweet	UMD	Using Data Science Methods to Predict Student Outcomes in Maryland		MG	Further Development	
17	Rachel	Durham	NDMU	Postsecondary and Labor Market Effects of CTE in Baltimore City	x	RS	Further Development	https://mldscenter.maryland.gov/News/Publications/ResearchReports/2023/December/Stein_et_al_CTEinBaltimoreCity_Dec2023.pdf
18	Eric	Hedberg	ABT Associates	Best Practices for Modeling the Multilevel STEM Learning Environment	x	MG	Further Development	
34	Angela	Henzeberger	UMB	Long-Term Effects of PBISPlus: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Maryland Elementary Schools	x		In-Progress	
35	Mathew	Uretsky	UMB	Pathways and Patterns of Education and Workforce Participation in Maryland	x	RS	Further Development	
45	Wade	Jacobsen	UMD	School Discipline and the Transition to Adulthood in Maryland			In-Progress	

[Definitions](#) [College Names](#)

Refresh Date: 11/25/2025 mldscenter.maryland.gov [Click here](#) to download the comprehensive data table for this dashboard.