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Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) & Office of Higher Education Data Practices Overview


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Legislative Commission on Data Practices

December 17, 2014



Overview

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1. Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS)
 2. Office of Higher Education

What is the vision of SLEDS?

The SLEDS project is being created to assist in identifying the most viable pathways for individuals in achieving successful outcomes in education and work

The SLEDS data system will enable research to:

- ✓ Identify predictors of long-term individual success
- ✓ Design targeted improvement strategies in programs
- ✓ Improve data driven decision making
- ✓ Meet federal funding requirements

Getting Prepared 2014

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2102>

- Report on college participation, persistence and developmental education enrollments among Minnesota public high school graduates

Graduate Employment Outcomes <http://mn.gov/deed/geo>

- Employment outcomes of Minnesota college graduates 1-4 years after graduation by college type, program and major
- NEW!! Includes graduates from 2007-2012

SLEDS Mobile Analytics sleds.mn.gov

- Reports focused on High School to College Transitions
- 2015 additions: Getting Prepared, Demographic filters
- Website includes background info on project



Statutory Authority for SLEDS

M.S. 126A.70 Subd. 2(b)

Under the direction of the P-20 Education Partnership SLEDS Governance Committee, OHE, MDE and DEED shall improve and expand SLEDS to provide policymakers, education and workforce leaders, researchers, and members of the public with data, research, and reports to:

- (1) expand reporting on students' educational outcomes,
- (2) evaluate the effectiveness of educational and workforce programs; and
- (3) evaluate the relationship between education and workforce outcomes.

Research and reports should be accessible to the public, and disaggregated by demographics, organization, and geography.

It is the intent of the legislature that the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System inform public policy and decision-making.

Any analysis of or report on the data must contain only summary data.



SLEDS data is limited to:

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

- K-12 Enrollment
- K-12 Assessment
- ACT
- Advanced Placement Results
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Adult Basic Education
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Early Childhood Enrollment
- Career and Technical Education
- Staffing

Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE)

- Post-Secondary Enrollment
- Post-Secondary Completions
- Institutional Characteristics

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

- Unemployment Insurance Wage Detail Records
- Employer Detail (including NAICS info)
- Workforce Training Participant Data

Other

- GED Results
- Out of State Higher Education Enrollments and Completions (National Student Clearinghouse)

The 4P's of a State Research Agenda

Pathways:

The movement of individual students between K-12 / Higher Education / Workforce

- Who enrolls in college and when?
- What industries employ college graduates and at what wages?

Progress:

The benchmarks or transition points students meet—or fail to meet

- How many students choose college, how many work?
- Which students enroll in developmental education upon entry into college?

Predictors:

The characteristics, patterns, or commonalities that help explain which students achieve successful outcomes and which do not

- Student demographics
- Immediate vs delayed entry into postsecondary education

Performance:

How well are education and workforce aligned for individual success?

- Where can we focus additional strategies and resources?

MN P-20 Education Partnership designated as central authority for SLEDS (2010)

- Recognized in state law; Rotating chairs (K-12, Higher Ed)
- Membership includes state agencies, K-12 associations, higher ed systems (public & private), workforce, early childhood, legislative members, business and the public

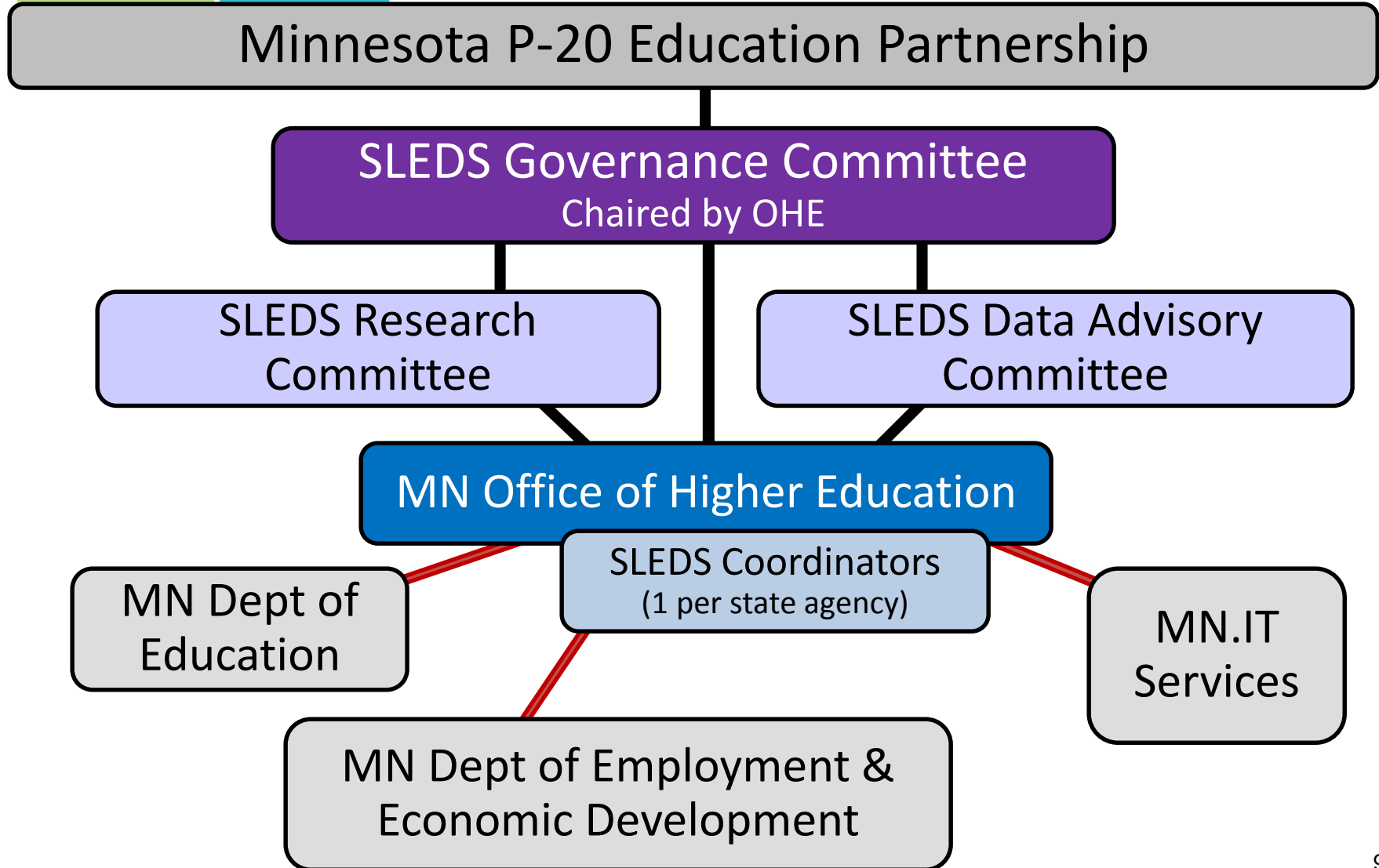
Established 3 committees to oversee SLEDS work

- Governance, Research & Data

State Agencies

- OHE is administrative lead for funding & legal purposes
- Staff serve on all committees & function as “Coordinators”

SLEDS Governance Diagram





SLEDS Data Access & Management Policy

Developed by the SLEDS Coordinators and the SLEDS Research & Data Committees

- Began work in 2012

Purpose:

1. To support and promote greater understanding and use of SLEDS data
2. To manage SLEDS data access in compliance with data security and data privacy policies and law

2 Key Sections to This Policy

1. Data Access Levels

- Outlines agreement on who can have access to which data
- Conforms with data privacy law and best practices

2. Data Access Request Process

- Outlines the process
 - by which possible access is approved
 - by whom and
 - for what purposes
- Conforms with data privacy law and best practices
- Establishes a minimum standard for data access requests

5 data access levels established

Level 1 – most restricted / high security

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Level 5 – public information

- Each level identifies a targeted user group & purpose.
- Levels 1-4 requires access review, approval, data sharing agreements
- Levels 1-4 require data security & data privacy training.



Level 1 Most Restrictive/Highest Security

Level 1A – USER: Mn.IT staff only

PURPOSE: Operation and management of the data system, including maintaining accuracy and security of the data

DATA: All data elements, including Personally Identifiable Information

APPROVAL: Commissioners and CIO; data security & privacy training

Level 1B – USER: One state agency staff person

PURPOSE: Manage data system, manage reporting, including maintaining accuracy and security of the data

DATA: All data elements, including Personally Identifiable Information

APPROVAL: Commissioners and CIO; data security & privacy training

Level 2 – USER: State Agency staff

PURPOSE: Research & analysis using SLEDS data

DATA: De-identified data elements from all data providers (all personal identifiers removed)

APPROVAL:

- Must complete Data Access Request process
 - Recommendation for approval by SLEDS Research & Data Committee
 - Review with SLEDS Governance Committee
 - Approval by the 3 Commissioners
- Data security & data privacy training
- Data sharing agreement signed by OHE

Level 3 – USER: Partner Data Provider staff & Researchers

PURPOSE: Research & analysis using SLEDS data

DATA: De-identified data elements & limited fields, includes secured reports (aggregated data without small cells suppressed); population limited (e.g. current or former students)

APPROVAL:

- Must complete Data Access Request process;
 - Organization executive approval
 - Recommendation for approval by SLEDS Research & Data Committee
 - Review with SLEDS Governance Committee
 - Approval by the 3 Commissioners
- Data security & data privacy training
- Data sharing agreement signed by OHE

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SLEDS Level 4

Level 4 – USER: Researchers

PURPOSE: Research & analysis using SLEDS data

DATA: Anonymized data & limited fields used to produce public reports

APPROVAL:

- Must complete Data Access Request process;
 - Recommendation for approval by SLEDS Research & Data Committee
 - Review with SLEDS Governance Committee
 - Approval by the 3 Commissioners
- Data security & data privacy training
- Data sharing agreement signed by OHE

Level 5 – USER: Public

PURPOSE: Information sharing

DATA: Summary level data and reports

APPROVAL:

- State agency review for compliance with data practices;
- SLEDS/stakeholder review for data quality

CURRENT PUBLIC REPORTS:

SLEDS Mobile Analytics sleds.mn.gov

Graduate Employment Outcomes <http://mn.gov/deed/geo>

Getting Prepared 2014 <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2102>

Types of Data Access Requests Anticipated

- Contributing State Agency (Level 2)
 - OHE, MDE, DEED
- Partner Data Provider (Level 3 or 4)
 - Colleges, K-12 schools & districts
- External Request – Researchers (Level 3 or 4)
- Public Request (Level 5)

Guidelines for Conducting Research using SLEDS

1. Must involve analysis of transitions between systems or between providers within a system
2. Align with State priorities
3. Have the potential to make a definite contribution to contributing state agencies and partner data providers
4. Use sound research design and have the potential for successful completion
5. Comply with ethical standards, all regulations set forth in state and federal law, particularly as they pertain to privacy of data on individuals

The SLEDS Research & Data Committee utilizes a scoring rubric to determine fit with the guidelines established and makes a recommendation for approval.

1. Submit a completed request

- Contact info
- Project title, abstract and description of study
- Statement of sponsorship
- Funding resources
- Timeframe for completion
- Data security compliance statement

2. Review by SLEDS Coordinators

- Request complete
- Estimate of IT costs and timeframe

3. Review by SLEDS Research & Data Committee

- Rate the proposal based on established guidelines
- Recommend for approval or denial

4. Final approval

- Consensus response by 3 Commissioners to requester
- Review by SLEDS Governance Committee
- Completed data security and data privacy training
- Signed data sharing agreement

5. Completion of Research

- Submission of research findings
- Data Destruction

Timeline

6-8 weeks for initial review

4-6 months for full process

- Ensuring appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards
- Limiting access based on data access levels to approved individuals
- Assignment of unique SLEDS ID to each individual
- Masking data to ensure confidentiality of persons
- Maintaining personnel access list
- Staff training and enforcement of the code of conduct in IT matters

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OHE data



Defining the Scope of Educational Data



Educational data is data maintained by a public educational agency or institution that relates to an individual student.

Both the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) classify educational data as private data.

Purposes of Collecting Educational Data



As the state educational authority, OHE collects educational data for three primary purposes:


1. Program administration
 2. Program evaluation and planning
 3. Policy research and analysis
- OHE takes care to only collect the data it needs to support its programs and requirements.
 - OHE Data Advisory Committee is charged with advising OHE on the collection of data.

Applicable Statutes for OHE Educational Data

- 136A.01 Office of Higher Education
- 136A.05 Cooperation of Institutions in data collection
- 136A.121 Subd. 18 State Grant mandated data collection
- 136A.162 Classifications of OHE data
- 136A.64 Private Postsecondary Registration
- 141.30 Private Career School Licensure

OHE must balance the institutional burden of compiling and supplying aggregate data with the necessity of collecting individual student records.

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- Financial Aid
 - Application
 - Funds eligibility / payments
 - Outcomes / education activity
 - Compliance / auditing
 - Student Enrollment
 - Registration information & demographics
 - Student Completion
 - Certificates/ degrees awarded
 - Get Ready (college prep program)
 - Participant enrollment, activity and outcomes
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- Registration & Licensure
 - Aggregated student information
 - Financial Aid
 - Funded programs participant info & outcomes
 - Policies and procedures / compliance

Most institutional/aggregate information is collected from the U.S. Department of Education data collection requirements

Data Sharing

OHE operates under a series of data sharing agreements / program participation agreements

- K-12 Schools and Districts
 - Get Ready participant and outcome information
 - FAFSA completion initiatives
- College prep programs: FAFSA completion initiatives
- Institutions
 - Data Sharing agreements for enrollment, completions, SLEDS, Get Ready
 - Program participation agreements for financial aid and funded programs
- U.S. Department of Education: FAFSA application data
- MN State Agencies: Verification of eligibility for financial aid, funds collection
- Research based agreements which are project specific
 - SLEDS (DEED, MDE, MN.IT)
 - Financial aid research (University of Michigan)
 - Evaluation and research consortia (ACT)

Data Security

- Ensuring appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards
 - Limiting access based on work responsibilities to approved individuals;
 - Limited physical access to information assets, information systems, and related equipment to authorized individuals only;
 - Implementation of the standard protocols for WAN data transfer using secure shell and SSL.
 - Maintaining personnel access list
- Masking data to ensure confidentiality of persons
- Staff training and enforcement of the code of conduct in IT related matters