Abstract

Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) Expansion Project

In July 2009, Governor Quinn signed into law the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (Public Act 96-0107). This Act established the requirements and framework for the development of the state’s longitudinal education data system, including implementation of all of the America COMPETES Act elements, and ensures that the longitudinal data system will support a broad array of state and LEA educational functions. In addition, under the Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, in April 2009, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) received approximately $9 million to support critical activities for the establishment of a statewide longitudinal data system.

While the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act and the 2009 IES Grant provide the foundation for achieving the seven system capabilities and twelve system elements set forth in the America COMPETES Act, ISBE needs to continue to take the critical steps of implementing systems to collect student-level transcript and teacher/administrator performance data and connecting this information with other data maintained by ISBE. Furthermore, ISBE and its state education partners need to enhance the data collection systems that extend beyond the K-12 spectrum. The goal of the ILDS Expansion Project is to continue development and implementation of the technical and management systems necessary for ISBE and its education partners to manage, link, and analyze P-20 education data through incorporation of the following interrelated components into the current Illinois statewide longitudinal data system:

Component #1–Establish a Statewide Transcript System for Middle and High School Students. This system will collect student-level transcript information, including information on courses enrolled, completed, and grades earned, and also include the development and implementation of a statewide course classification system.

Component #2–Integrate Student-level Data with Teacher and Administrator Data. ISBE will redesign its teacher and administrator data collection systems to permit integration of student-level data with teacher and administrator data.

Component #3–Continued Expansion and Development of Postsecondary Education Data Systems. ISBE and its state education partners will expand upon current postsecondary education data systems to include data from private postsecondary educational institutions, data from out-of-state institutions of higher education, and workforce data. This expansion will also include the development of enhanced public reporting tools to provide postsecondary educational institutions, LEAs, and the public with information on a variety of useful measures addressing postsecondary education performance.

Component #4–Expansion of Early Childhood Data Collection Systems. The state longitudinal data system currently includes data on children participating in state-funded prekindergarten programs and special education early childhood programs. Through the ILDS Expansion Project, ISBE will incorporate data from infant and toddler programs that are funded through the Early Childhood Block Grant into the state longitudinal data system to capture information on all of the state-funded programs in Illinois serving children from birth to five.

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