

What are They and Why are They Important?

Today, a consensus has emerged amongst educators at all levels that there is a need to create Longitudinal Data Systems (LDS) that provide a comprehensive view of education from Pre K through Post-Secondary and beyond (P-20). This capability is essential to maximizing the effectiveness of our efforts to encourage every student to achieve his or her greatest potential.

To achieve these vital goals, educators need to be able to answer questions such as:

- How many potential 1st generation college students are taking AP courses? How many are succeeding in those courses?
- Which districts/regions/schools produce the highest percentage of successful 1st generation college students?
- Which districts produce the highest number of career and technical education students that achieve a state license in their trade? How many maintain that license for 5 years?
- Which districts have the highest number of 1st generation students to attend a higher education institution? What percentage is achieving two year degrees? Four year degrees?
- Which higher education teacher training programs are producing teachers that teach for more than four years in the state?
- What percentage of out-of-state students remains in the state and take jobs after they achieve their degree? What percentage were part time students versus full time students?
- What percentage of K-12 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the state? Public institution versus private?
- How many students complete their four year degree in four years?
- Which 1st and 2nd year college students who completed rigorous high school coursework are enrolled full time and maintain a 3.0 GPA?
- How many community college students transfer out of state for their degree completion? How many remain in-state?
- Are current standardized tests reliable predictors of student success in higher education?
- How does the higher education progress compare between students who completed an AP diploma versus those that did not.
- What percentage of high school students applies to one, two or three higher education institutions? What percentage is accepted?
- What percentage of postsecondary education is covered by financial aid? By student, institution, type and source?
- What are They and Why are They Important?

The Data Quality Campaign’s “Actions for States”

The Data Quality Campaign has taken a key leadership position in discussing the actions that states (and districts) should take with respect to LDS and in particular P-20 LDS. They have identified three overarching imperatives for changing the culture around data use and maximizing states' investments in longitudinal data systems. Within these imperatives, the DQC also has identified 10 actions states need to take to ensure key stakeholders use the data effectively.

EXPAND the ability of state longitudinal data systems to link across the P-20 education pipeline and across state agencies.

1. Link state K-12 data systems with early learning, postsecondary education, workforce, social services and other critical state agency data systems.
2. Create stable, sustained support for robust state longitudinal data systems.
3. Develop governance structures to guide data collection, sharing and use.
4. Build state data repositories (e.g., data warehouses) that integrate student, staff, financial and facility data.

ENSURE that data can be accessed, analyzed and used, and communicate data to all stakeholders to promote continuous improvement.

5. Implement systems to provide all stakeholders timely access to the information they need while protecting student privacy.
6. Create progress reports with individual student data that provide information educators, parents and students can use to improve student performance.
7. Create reports that include longitudinal statistics on school systems and groups of students to guide school-, district- and state-level improvement efforts.

BUILD the capacity of all stakeholders to use longitudinal data for effective decision making.

8. Develop a purposeful research agenda and collaborate with universities, researchers and intermediary groups to explore the data for useful information.
9. Implement policies and promote practices, including professional development and credentialing, to ensure that educators know how to access, analyze and use data appropriately.
10. Promote strategies to raise awareness of available data and ensure that all key stakeholders, including state policymakers, know how to access, analyze and use the information.

Meeting the DQC's 10 Essential Elements

In meeting these 10 key actions, the DQC had outlined 10 Essential Elements for an LDS. As outlined below, the eScholar products can enable an agency to meet the challenges of establishing an effective P-20 LDS. Since there are both technical and organizational challenges in implementing such a comprehensive educational data management system, eScholar's experience and proven technology can be essential to helping you achieve your goals.

DQC Essential Element	How eScholar Meets the Requirement?
<p>1. Unique persistent non-SSN identification number throughout education career</p>	<p>eScholar Uniq-ID® for Students and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDs remain with students through early childhood, P-12, higher education, career and technical education and adult education. • Avoiding use of SSN for identification is both essential to the implementation of an effective P-20 system and to compiling with the updated FERPA regulations. • Tracking an individual's data throughout their career is essential to knowing how staff continues their education throughout their careers. • Since students frequently become staff members and staff members are often simultaneously students of higher education, the solution must utilize a single education identifier that can be used to integrate data over time and throughout each person's educational experience.
<p>2. Consistent mapping of academic subjects across courses, certifications and assessments throughout K-12 and higher education.</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective analysis and communication requires that all parties have a common understanding of the subject, content and skills taught, measured and demonstrated. • eScholar supports the ability to understand how K-12 is preparing children for postsecondary at the level where actions can be taken for the individual student.
<p>3. Student Level Enrollment and Completion Data</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollments are tracked across time with their appropriate withdrawal and completion information. • Individuals can be simultaneously enrolled in multiple programs (for example: both high school and community college).

<p>4. Ability to track funding of school, university and state-wide programs at both a program level and for individuals that receive the funds.</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility can be tracked along with actually funding. • Funding of aid to institutions and aid to individuals can both be tracked in detail.
<p>5. Ability to integrate data from a wide variety of public and commercial sources</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from commercial sources such as the National Student Clearinghouse® and state licensure systems can be integrated. • Open documented interfaces support integration of data from any electronic source.
<p>6. Ability to integrate and analyze spanning different timeframes.</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data organized by school year can be appropriately analyzed with point-in-time data. • Semester data can be analyzed with annual observations. • Time span data can be analyzed with census day data.
<p>7. Control/audit of data security</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products eScholar Uniq-ID® for Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets FERPA requirements of today as well as those that are proposed for 2008 implementation. • Maintains underlying details required to accurately calculate graduation and dropout rates (i.e., which students have graduated, when they graduated, and with what type of diploma). • Permits further analysis of graduation and dropout rates by grade level, race/ethnicity, gender, and other student characteristics. • Supports analysis of student mobility within and across districts.
<p>8. Ability to track the achievements of students throughout their work and academic life</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the fact that over time, individuals are both students and workers, often both at the same time. • Appropriate information is collected and maintained to provide a longitudinal history of work and education for any timeframe desired.

<p>9. The ability to logically integrate both the geographic orientation of P-12 schools with the structure of higher education.</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the analysis of all geographically oriented data. • Ability to Geo Code any address data. • Support for Internet and virtual delivery of courses in both K-12 and postsecondary.
<p>10. Ability to audit and manage data quality</p>	<p>eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Products eScholar Uniq-ID® for Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data quality is managed at the most “upstream” point. • Provides powerful data quality rule management system. • Delivers web based feedback on data quality issues.

Why eScholar?

- The leader in education data management, providing successful statewide solutions for 11 SEAs, supporting over 3,500 school districts and over 12 million students across the country.
- Focused exclusively on the education data management industry since 1997.
- Comprehensive services, training and support programs to ensure customer success.
- An established, active user community allowing access to best practices, experience, and support from peers nationwide

Today, our products have become the recognized standards in the student and staff identification and educational data warehousing markets. The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution has become an indispensable solution to local and state education agencies for integrating and managing the vast quantity of information they collect on students, programs, teachers and much more. For more information, contact Sales at sales@escholar.com or (877) 328-2969

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