



October 2013

# ANSWERS

## Alaska's P-20W SLDS Presentation to NASSGAP

Mission: Deliver outcomes information to Alaska stakeholders to assess, evaluate, and improve the state's education and career development spectrum.



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*ANSWERS is a collaboration of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.*

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# ANSWERS PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Project funded through a Federal grant to Department of Education and Early Development
  - \$4 million over 3 years (July 2012 to June 2015)
  - To link Alaska's K-12 data with postsecondary and workforce data to provide policymakers, educators, and the public needed information about program outcomes across the education and workforce continuum
- Multi-agency collaboration linking existing K-12, postsecondary, and workforce outcomes data
- Purpose is to provide critical information to Alaska's policymakers, educators, and general public about Alaska's education and workforce continuum, including:
  - student transitions
  - performance in postsecondary education and workforce systems
  - return on investment



# ANSWERS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- **Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE)**
  - Project management
- **Department of Education and Early Development (EED)**
  - Fiscal agent
- **Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOL&WD)**
- **University of Alaska (UA)**
- *Executive Governance Team:* ACPE Executive Director, DEED and DOLWD Commissioners, UA President
- *Implementation Team:* Agency project managers, research and IT lead staff, and program directors from 4 partner organizations



# MISSION/OBJECTIVES

## ★ Primary overarching goals:

- ★ Develop a governance team engaged in the practice of using data to inform decision making and understand of its value to the state;
- ★ Create a statewide longitudinal data system that allows de-identified data about P-20 students and their educational programs and employment to be linked accurately and securely to better understand and inform policy makers on education-to-workforce transitions;
- ★ Create timely reports, dashboards, and information products to support research and policy making to improve Alaska's education and workforce outcomes and, increase transparency around educational outcomes; and
- ★ Provide training and development for stakeholders and improve capacity to use education and workforce outcomes data



# ANSWERS GOVERNANCE

- Informed by Governor Parnell's AO 261
- Multiple layers of governance focusing on different areas of priority
- Executive Governance
  - ★ Membership, duties, authorities
  - ★ How governance activities and changes to rules are submitted, considered and implemented
  - ★ Data access, appropriate data uses, user categories, and security
  - ★ Protection of PII (personally identifiable information)
  - ★ Public communications protocols
  - ★ Ensure only appropriate uses of SLDS data, protection of PII, and investigate complaints
  - ★ Responsible for sustainability/funding



# GOVERNANCE

- Data Stewards:
  - ★ Propose policies and implement those approved by executive body
  - ★ Consider access requests and implement data access rules
  - ★ Determine, define and document data elements and metadata
  - ★ Determine technical processes/ETL protocols
  - ★ As approved by executives, develop and deploy MOAs and associated interagency agreements

# PROJECT TIMELINE

- ★ Six primary project outcomes:
  - ★ **PLANNING** - Plan, prepare, analyze and develop methodology, governance, needs requirements and data models (7/1/12–6/30/13)
  - ★ **INFRASTRUCTURE** - Procure, install and test server hardware, software, networked data storage, backup and disaster recovery solution (7/1/13–9/30/14)
  - ★ **DEVELOPMENT** - Develop ANSWERS environments (7/1/13–6/30/14)
  - ★ **REPORTING** - Identify and develop reporting platform, portal, reports and user roles (7/1/14–4/30/15)
  - ★ **TRAINING** - Develop and deploy training protocols (1/1/15–6/30/15)
  - ★ **SUSTAINABILITY** - Develop ANSWERS sustainability plan (7/1/14–6/30/15)



# PROJECT PROGRESS

- Completion of Outcome 1 – Planning and Preparation
  - Established and implemented governance structure
    - Approved: project plan and scope, mission statement, and operating principles
  - Created stakeholder engagement and communication plan
    - Stakeholder validation of policy questions
    - Distributed ANSWERS proofs of concept
      - District feedback reports and survey
      - Alaska Performance Scholarship Quick Stats





# PROJECT PROGRESS

- Analysis of existing data systems
  - Using policy questions as a guide, identified ANSWERS data elements from source systems
  - Understanding of data cycles, quality, and limitations
- Develop business and technical requirements
- Partner agency agreement on system design, platform, and processes



# CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Infrastructure and Development
  - Further definition of system design and technical requirements
  - State visits to examine similar operational P-20W SLDS
  - Preparing technical RFP for fall 2013 issuance
- Other
  - Expert legal review of relevant laws and regulations
  - Creation of research advisory body



# NEXT STEPS

- Next Steps
  - Continue sustainability plan development
  - Engage Alaska's research community on information priorities and needs
  - Work with contractor to build infrastructure and develop initial ANSWERS reports
  - Continue developing subject-matter expertise related to P-20W SLDS, data security and privacy, and education and workforce research



# COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS?

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