

Report on Act 38 of 2009

An Act Relating to PreK-12 and Higher Education Partnerships

Section 3: Electronic Longitudinal Data System

REPORT

**January 15,
2015**

**Submitted to House and Senate Education
Committees**

**Submitted by Secretary of Education
Rebecca Holcombe**



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Legislation

Act No. 38 of 2009. An act relating to pre K-12 and higher education partnerships.

Section 3. ELECTRONIC STUDENT LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM

...(5) Report to the senate and house committees on education on or before January 15, 2011 regarding implementation of this section and in January of each subsequent year until implementation is complete.

Link to complete text of legislation on Vermont Legislature website:

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2010/Docs/ACTS/ACT038/ACT038%20As%20Enacted.pdf>.

Background

In 2012, the Vermont Agency of Education (Agency) was awarded a Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant from the United States Department of Education. The amount of the award was \$4,947,261. This is Vermont's first such award. Vermont's proposal tied with Montana as the highest-rated proposal received. The award announcement can be found on the federal SLDS program page here:

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/fy12_announcement.asp.

This grant opportunity called for proposals that were focused on one of three priority areas:

1. To design, develop, and implement statewide, longitudinal kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) data systems; (maximum award amount for priority 1: \$5,000,000);
2. To develop and link early childhood data to the State's K-12 data system; (maximum award amount for priority 2: \$4,000,000); or
3. To develop and link postsecondary and/or workforce data to the State's K-12 data system. (maximum award amount for priority 3: \$4,000,000)

The Agency submitted a proposal that will address Priority 1: to develop and implement a statewide longitudinal data system for grades K-12. While Act 38 calls for the selection and implementation of one statewide Pre-K-16 data system, the requirements and maximum award amount associated with this grant opportunity limited the scope the Agency could request be covered by this funding.

The cost to implement a single, statewide student information system that would meet all requirements dictated by the grant Request for Applications (RFA) would exceed the maximum award amount. The Agency instead submitted a proposal that would establish a streamlined data reporting and analysis system to be utilized by all publicly funded K-12 schools.

The nearly \$4.95 Million SLDS grant award will be used to fund the Vermont Automated Data Reporting (VADR) project. Deliverables expected to be developed through the VADR project are:

1. All K-12 Schools Participating in Automated Vertical Data Collection Process
2. Develop State-level Operational Data Store
3. All VTAOE Data Analysis Tool Date Loads Automated
4. Establish Enhanced Training Delivery System
5. All EdFacts Submission Files Capable of Being Automatically Generated
6. Develop Growth Model Reporting Tool

The VADR project will establish a K-12 data system that will serve as the foundation for future expansion to a comprehensive Pre-K-16 system.

Current Work

Grant awards were announced in June 2012. The initial timeline for implementation of this grant award runs from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015. The Agency has had preliminary discussions about a no-cost extension with the U.S. Department of Education that would allow more time to complete the statewide implementation of the SLDS. All indications suggest that a no-cost extension will be granted; however, extension requests may not be made until the final sixty days of the initial implementation timeline.

The Agency has procured Agilis Technology as the Technical Lead/Project Management vendor. Agilis Technology facilitated the process by which the SLDS implementation vendor was selected. The Agency selected Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) and their edFusion product to be implemented as Vermont's K-12 SLDS.

The Agency has been working with HMH to define the system and data requirements. The initial system implementation will start by streamlining six existing collections encompassing core data about students, educators, and course offerings. The streamlining of these data collections will ease the reporting burden on schools and make the data collected via these applications available to education stakeholders on a near real-time basis.

The system delivered by HMH will also incorporate mechanisms to import data from external sources including, but not limited to, the Agency's online educator licensing system, postsecondary readiness exams (e.g. SAT/AP/ACT exams), school finance, and standardized assessments.

Funds were also included in Vermont's successful *Race To The Top – Early Learning Challenge* federal grant that will pay for the work to expand the SLDS system to integrate five early childhood data sets including public prekindergarten, kindergarten readiness, and data from Vermont's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. That expansion is scheduled to take place in 2016 and 2017, after the initial K-12 implementation is complete.

The Agency will include all related updates to this project on its SLDS website located here: <http://education.vermont.gov/slids>.

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