

Appendix 5

Group 5 Minnesota College and Career Policy Institute

October 29, 2009

Policy Recommendations

Goal: Minnesota will develop a longitudinal student data system to provide educators and policymakers with more comprehensive data and analysis from which to make informed decisions leading to educational improvement at all levels. As required by the federal government as a condition of receiving federal fiscal stabilization funds, this statewide longitudinal data system will match student data from pre-kindergarten through completion of postsecondary, enabling educators and policymakers to answer a range of program and policy questions to gauge the effectiveness of programs and design targeted improvement strategies.

The purpose of the longitudinal data system is to identify the predictors of long-term prekindergarten through higher education student success. The plan is to link data on students who graduate from a Minnesota public high school and attend a Minnesota postsecondary institution at the undergraduate level (approximately 40,000 high school graduates annually).

Policy Recommendation #1 Governance: We recommend the P-20 Partnership consider and adopt the P-20 Longitudinal Data System charter document and accept its role as the collaborative governing body for the system.

- a. The P-20 Partnership will name of subset of its members as the governing board for the Longitudinal Data System including representatives of business, citizens, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, higher education systems, school districts, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the Minnesota Department of Education.
- b. The governing board of the Longitudinal Data System will name members to a research committee and a data advisory committee and will clarify roles, responsibility and staffing.
- c. The governing board of the Longitudinal Data system will approve a process for gathering statewide input from educators and policymakers on the key questions to be posed to Minnesota's LDS system.

Policy Recommendation #2 Sustainability: We recommend that the P-20 Partnership amend its bylaws to accept the governance responsibilities for the Longitudinal Data System outlined in the charter and seek sufficient resources for a collaborative staffing and maintenance arrangement at the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Office of Enterprise Technology.

Policy Recommendation #3 Accountability: The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education and the director of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education are jointly and ultimately responsible for the work product, effectiveness, privacy and security of Minnesota's Longitudinal Data System. We support consideration of policy recommendations outlined in Children's Educational Records and Privacy: A study of elementary and secondary school state reporting systems, released by Fordham Law School Center on Law and Information Policy on October 28, 2009.

Appendix 12

College and Career-Ready Policy Institute

Workgroup 5

GOAL 5: (Data) Create a systemic and sustainable policy set for the effective use of data and fulfill the completion of the data set by ensuring collection of the last 3 of 10 longitudinal elements.

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