



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Minnesota Awarded Grant for \$12.4 Million for Data Services**

*Program Expanded To Address Early Ed, Postsecondary and Workforce Data Needs*

Roseville – U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced that Minnesota was awarded \$12.4 million for the design and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system. Statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS) grants, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, support the development and implementation of data systems to enable States to examine student progress from early childhood into career, including matching teachers to students, while protecting student privacy and confidentiality consistent with applicable privacy protection laws. Last year, Congress expanded the program to include not only K-12 data systems, but also provide links with pre-K, postsecondary, and workforce data.

"This grant will allow us to put in place the final pieces of our longitudinal data systems so we can follow students from kindergarten into college and careers," said Commissioner Alice Seagren. "It will provide us with critical information to measure whether students are being successfully prepared by our P-12 educational system and will also allow the department to create more user friendly access to data for parents, educators and researchers."

Minnesota Education Data Systems for 21st Century Learning grant proposal project builds upon the success of the state's initial P-12 Longitudinal Data System (LDS), which currently tracks student enrollment, demographics and statewide assessment data. When fully implemented, the proposed system improvements will transition Minnesota's education data capacity to a fully interoperable, enterprise-level data collection, reporting and analysis system. These improvements will include solid data sharing connections across multiple state agencies with links among P-12 education, post secondary education, and the workforce to support the continuous improvement of statewide education services and inform policy and practice.

In total, \$250 million was awarded this year through the SLDS grant competition. States received varying award sizes based on differing needs and requests. The full list of award winners is: Arkansas- \$9.8 million; Colorado- \$17.4 million; Florida - \$10.0 million; Illinois - \$11.9 million; Kansas - \$9.1 million; Maine - \$7.3 million; Massachusetts - \$13.0 million; Michigan - \$10.6 million; Minnesota - \$12.4 million; Mississippi - \$7.6 million; New York - \$19.7 million; Ohio - \$5.1 million; Oregon - \$10.5 million; Pennsylvania - \$14.3 million; South Carolina - \$14.9 million; Texas - \$18.2 million; Utah - \$9.6 million; Virginia - \$17.5 million; Washington - \$17.3 million; Wisconsin - \$13.8 million. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands applied.

The Minnesota Department of Education's work partners on this project include the Office of Higher Education, Office of Enterprise Technology, Department of Employment and Economic Development, as well as the P-20 Education Partnership and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.