

Empowering Arkansas Parents, Students, and Educators with Education Data

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The Governor's Council on Common Core Review
May 20, 2015

Education data are a powerful tool to support students

Education data (i.e., any information that help education stakeholders make informed decisions to improve student achievement) can be a tremendously powerful tool in supporting student learning.

Everyone making decisions about education needs secure access to high quality education data that are tailored to fit their needs:

- Principals and district administrators can [use data](#) to manage schools, allocate resources, and communicate with the public.
- Teachers can [inform and improve](#) their instruction to meet students' individual needs.
- And critically, with access to the right information, [parents can be empowered](#) to ensure their children are on track to success.

Arkansas is a national leader in using education data in service of learning

Arkansas has long had one of the richest and most robust [education data systems](#) in the country and is one of the first states to have [all ten](#) of the Data Quality Campaign's [10 State Actions](#) to Ensure Effective Data Use.

Arkansas is a national leader in many aspects of its data work:

- In Arkansas, [parents have secure access](#) to their own children's data that follows their children's progress over time and helps parents and teachers create a personalized learning path and meet state college enrollment and placement requirements.
- Arkansas's [school report cards](#) include valuable information on school-level teacher performance and academic growth, school resources, school-level college-readiness assessments, and more; these reports [inform and empower](#) the public and schools.
- Arkansas supports the production of [early warning reports](#) to help identify students who are falling off track and to develop interventions that will help each student reach their potential.
- Arkansas provides publicly available [high school feedback reports](#) to let school and district leaders know where their students go after graduation and how well they are prepared for college and beyond.
- Arkansas is one of only 17 states that shares [teacher performance data](#) with educator preparation programs, providing them the data they need to improve their programs.

Arkansas is making tremendous strides in using data to meet people's needs and get them the valuable information they need to make great decisions for children. Do not turn out the light on this incredibly valuable work.

Arkansas has taken critical steps to safeguard student privacy as a component of effective data use

To be useful and used, data must be trusted.

In order for parents, educators, and the public to see the value of data to support Arkansas' learners, they must be able to trust that students' data privacy is being safeguarded. Arkansas has taken important steps to implement the governance, transparency, and accountability needed to build this trust.

Data Privacy Legislation

In 2015, Arkansas has two new data privacy laws, one of which provides important data governance and privacy protections.

- [The Student Online Personal Information Protection Act](#) governs how online service providers can collect, access, and use student data and prohibits online service providers from using student data for commercial or secondary purposes, while still allowing for personalized learning and service innovation and improvement. This law will allow educators to use online services while still safeguarding student privacy.
- Arkansas also signed into law a student [data privacy bill](#) this year that does not get at data governance nor transparency. Reflecting current practice, this law prohibits providing any student PII collected at the state level to the federal Department of Education (ED) or to any ED program, TA provider, research partner, government assistance organization, or program monitor without parental consent.
- Another bill considered in Arkansas this year, [SB 218](#), would have implemented comprehensive data governance, transparency, and accountability measures for the student data collected and used by districts and the state. These types of provisions build state capacity to protect data privacy and build trust with parents and the public that data are being used to help students and that privacy is protected.

Data Governance

Arkansas has implemented cross-agency data governance structures and processes to guide how the state makes careful, transparent decisions about collecting and using data.

- Arkansas has a cross-agency [data governance](#) committee with the authority to make decisions about how the state uses and protects student data.
- Arkansas provides [transparency](#) about who is authorized to access specific data and for what purposes.
- Multiple levels or types of [role-based access](#) are established

Arkansas must not turn out the light on using data to support students

[The Data Quality Campaign](#) has recognized Arkansas's data systems as among the nation's best. But data in a system warehouse do not help students, parents, or educators. Without access to a robust picture of student success, it is difficult for teachers to fully personalize instruction, and for parents to be real supporters of their children's education. When data become useful and accessible and when everyone can trust that student privacy is protected, the true power of data to improve education can be harnessed.

The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, national advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. Launched in 2005 by 10 founding partners, DQC now leads a partnership of nearly 100 organizations committed to realizing the vision of an education system in which all stakeholders—from parents to policymakers—are empowered with high-quality data from the early childhood, K–12, postsecondary, and workforce systems to make decisions that ensure every student graduates high school prepared for success in college and the workplace. To achieve this vision, DQC supports state policymakers and other key leaders to promote the effective use of data to improve student achievement. Find out more at <http://dataqualitycampaign.org/>.