



NEWS RELEASE

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ARKANSAS' EDUCATION SYSTEM RECEIVES TOP RANKING FOR DATA QUALITY

Arkansas is one of four states to have all 10 essential elements for a quality longitudinal data system for public education, according to the Data Quality Campaign, a national partnership that has worked the last two years to improve the quality, accessibility and use of data in education. The Campaign announced the results in Columbus, Ohio, during a meeting of the nation's state school chiefs. The full report can be found at www.DataQualityCampaign.com.

"This is a key recognition for the state, as it again highlights an area of public education in which Arkansas is leading the way," said Dr. Ken James, Arkansas Commissioner of Education. "We have had Triand, our longitudinal data system, operational since 2006, and our staff has spent more than a year training school and education service cooperative personnel throughout the state how to use it. With Triand, teachers can see at the click of a mouse how students have performed in courses and on assessments in previous grades and, in turn, use that information to guide instruction."

The data system also allows for the transmission of student transcripts from school to school within the state as well as from Arkansas' public high schools to postsecondary institutions. It also enabled Arkansas to be one of seven states approved by the U.S. Department of Education to use a "growth model" for determining schools' adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind.

Delaware, Florida and Utah are the other three states recognized for having all 10 elements, which are:

1. A unique statewide student identifier that connects student data across key databases and across years.

2. Student-level enrollment, demographic and program participation information.
3. The ability to match individual students' test records from year to year.
4. Information on untested students and the reasons they were not tested.
5. A teacher identification system with the ability to match teachers to students.
6. Student-level transcript information.
7. Student-level college readiness test scores.
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data.
9. The ability to match student records between the P-12 and postsecondary systems.
10. A state audit system to assess data quality.

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The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.