

# Informing Improvement and Powering Progress

Recommendations to the Illinois P-20 Council by the Education & Workforce Data Task Force on

## Building a P-20W Data System



APRIL 2019

Our state's economy, health, and well-being depend on a well-educated population. We want better, equitable outcomes for Illinois learners and communities, especially those that have long been underserved. **We will not get there without fundamentally reshaping how we use information.**

For this reason, the P-20 Council created the Education & Workforce Data Task Force and charged it to:

- Study Illinois' current data landscape;
- Identify challenges and gaps in infrastructure and capacity;
- Highlight best practices from other states and industries; and
- Present a set of recommendations to improve Illinois' use of data.

Over the past 10 months, the Task Force (see the [report](#) for a full list of Task Force members) worked together to develop a strategic vision and plan for the effective use of education and workforce data to serve the people of Illinois.

This work builds on the groundbreaking efforts of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) over the past decade. Illinois was the first state to codify its P-20W governance structure and has continued to receive national recognition

*For more detail on the work of the Task Force, including a review of current data efforts in Illinois, data models from other states and sectors, and context around the recommendations, please see the [Appendix](#).*

around transparency, providing actionable information, and its use of innovative metrics in public reporting.

As information demands continue to grow, we need to not only double down on these efforts but also ensure that our data infrastructure and capacity evolve.

Specific capacity needs identified by the Task Force include:

**ACCESS:** More coordinated and intuitive approaches to find information are needed; researchers and analysts also need appropriate and legal access to data to transform it into useful, actionable information.

**ANALYTIC CAPACITY:** Stakeholders agree that inside agencies and throughout schools, programs, and organizations we need more people who have the training, skills, and time to be able to transform data into actionable information and who know how to use that information to improve decisionmaking and outcomes.

**COLLABORATION:** Agencies have worked collaboratively with the resources they currently have on cross-functional projects that inform decisions about pathways from birth through workforce. The interrelationships among the programs and across agencies necessitate breaking down the technical, legal, and bureaucratic walls that make answering our central questions difficult.

**VISION STATEMENT:** Illinois educational and workforce practice and policy decisions are driven by a culture of data use that supports strong, equitable outcomes and engages stakeholders.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Good decisions start with good information. In Illinois, we will ensure that high-quality, appropriate, and secure data about learners and best practices from birth to career will be readily available and easy to use. This will enable a wide range of stakeholders to create, advocate, and benefit from research, policies, and practices that lead to improved learning and academic and career success. Empowering people with actionable information will support strong, equitable outcomes and engaged communities.

*For a list of the guiding principles, please see the [full report](#).*

# Recommendations for Action



## Establish Leadership, Vision, and Goals to Drive Statewide P-20W Data Use

This work begins with strong gubernatorial, legislative, and stakeholder leadership and a shared vision of how data should be used to align and improve learning paths from birth through workforce and life success (either the Task Force's vision, articulated on the previous page, or a vision based on similar goals).



## Create Data Governance and Oversight Bodies to Implement the Vision

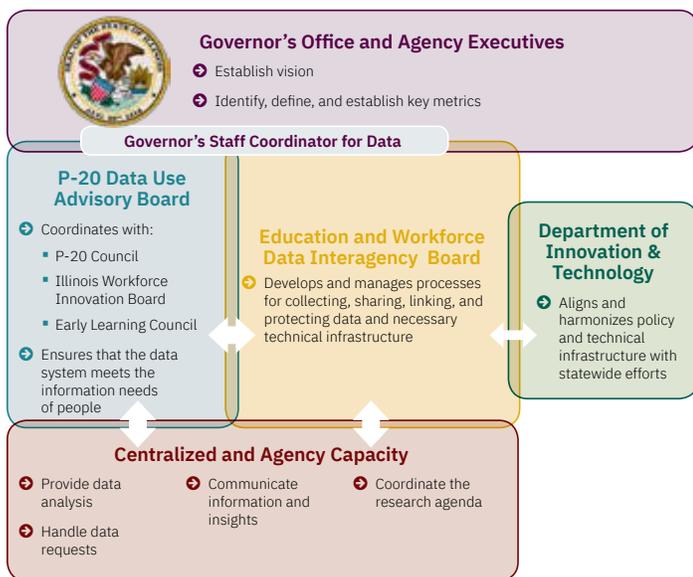
An effective governance structure must provide a permanent venue for data stakeholders to work together to ensure that data is supporting, assisting, and serving the people of Illinois.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

With strong leadership from the Governor's Office, the Task Force envisions creating two boards:

**A P-20 DATA USE ADVISORY BOARD** to ensure that data stakeholder voices and agency leadership are working together so that data is transformed into actionable information and the conditions, capacity, and culture are in place to use it to support better decisionmaking.

**AN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DATA INTERAGENCY BOARD** (ILDS 2.0) to provide a forum for agency leadership to work together to ensure that protocols, policies, and practices are in place to support the effective and safe collection, linking, sharing, analysis, and protection of data.



## Build Capacity to Support Data Use and Management Within and Across Agencies

Illinois needs to build capacity within and across agencies to support the effective use of data to serve people.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- ➔ Survey existing and future data capacity needs of agencies and develop a plan and budget to support ongoing work;
- ➔ Design, develop, and fund centralized capacity for supporting the effective use of data that involves linkages from multiple agencies' data sets; and
- ➔ Build a 21st century centralized infrastructure that provides increased data security, greater efficiencies, and enhanced analytic capability.



## Focus on Providing Data That Is Useful to End Users and Builds Local Capacity

The following conditions are necessary to improve data use:

- ➔ Build trust;
- ➔ Listen more actively to what end users are telling us about their information needs;
- ➔ Make improved data literacy a statewide priority;
- ➔ Value partnership;
- ➔ Build local analytic capacity;
- ➔ Provide appropriate and timely access to information;
- ➔ Safeguard data;
- ➔ Invest for impact; and
- ➔ Use the bully pulpit of state and regional leadership to increase urgency.

## Making This Plan a Reality

While this plan calls for major changes and investment in the governance structure and technical infrastructure of Illinois data systems, it also underscores the importance of investing in people.

This work is cutting edge, and the Task Force is excited about the promise of this vision. We believe the will is there, and it will require the leadership and attention of the state's policy leaders to make this work a priority and the vision a reality.