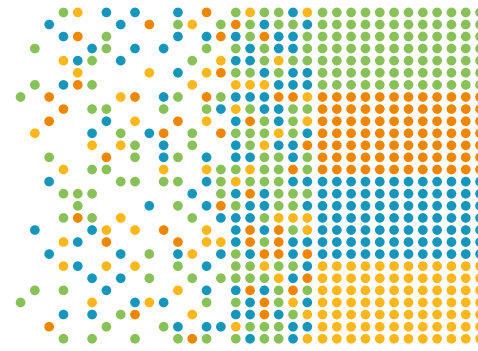


An Introduction to the

# Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS)



## Mission

To ensure that high-quality, appropriate, and timely data about learners and best practices from birth from career will be readily available, easy to use, and secure.

## Vision

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

## Governing Board

- Office of the Governor
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission

## Partners

- Northern Illinois University
- Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology
- Health and Human Services Innovation Incubator
- Illinois Head Start Association

The Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) is a hub for secure access to data on Illinoisians' early childhood, education, and workforce experiences, and a catalyst for informed decisions shaping the future of Illinois. Using technology to connect data across state agencies, the ILDS ensures that accurate and timely disaggregated data can be safely shared for research and analytics, as well as in public-facing dashboards.

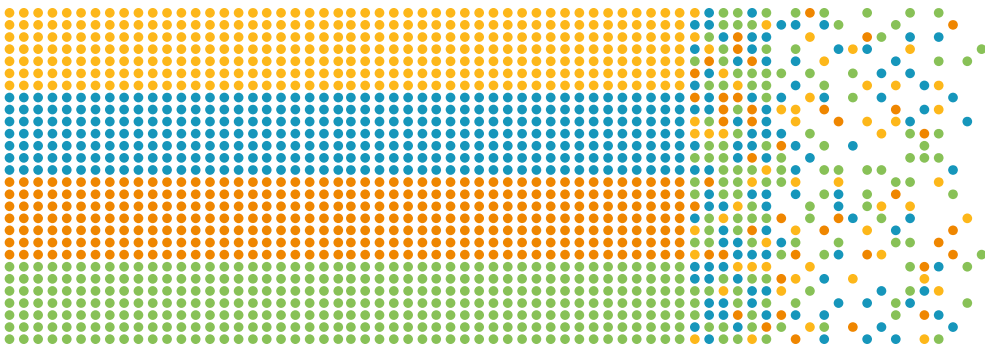
The ILDS is not solely about technology; it is a system to streamline processes and reduce the burden of accessing high-quality, well-managed, and integrated data while fostering research collaboration within a protected space. Ultimately, the ILDS can empower students, families, communities, practitioners, advocates, policymakers, and state agencies to make data-informed decisions.

## Answering Our Most Challenging Questions

The ILDS can help answer critical policy questions such as:

- What early childhood services are children receiving over time? What are the outcomes? What are the early childhood experiences of children in foster care?
- Do secondary programs such as dual credit, transitional math, or college and career pathways improve students' outcomes later in life?
- What makes students successful as they transition from high school to college to career?
- What are the postsecondary experiences of individuals graduating from high school?
- What are the workforce outcomes of individuals graduating from Illinois postsecondary? Does education impact wages? Does it lift families out of poverty?

Answering these questions and more require data from multiple agencies and coordination of their legal, technical, research, data, and program teams. The ILDS team ensures those data are clean, connected, and secure while coordinating the governance and project management.



## ILDS 2.0 Initiative

In 2020, the Governor's office and eight state agencies launched the ILDS 2.0 initiative. This initiative is re-inventing the technical approach to accessing data and streamlining the processes for sharing data. Working with the Department of Innovation and Technology and other technical partners, the state agencies participating in the ILDS have worked to re-engineer the approach to data management and analytics.

Accomplishments of this effort include:

- A centralized technology platform that allows agencies to control access to their data using standardized processes.
- The development of standing datasets, i.e., datasets ready to be used for analysis. The ILDS Governance Committees established three priority standing dataset projects to answer a variety of critical questions:
  - Early Childhood Participation Dataset
  - Educator Workforce Dataset
  - High School to College to Career Dataset
- The establishment of a data request process to allow internal and external entities to request data from the ILDS.
- The oversight and management of a variety of legal documents, including data agreements between agencies and their data partners, the creation of a Data Access and Use template, and the development of a variety of vendor agreements.
- Coordinating various project development and governance activities, including managing vendors to share data with the state, partnering with the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map and a design firm to support an inclusive design process for a refreshed IECAM, and leading the ILDS governance process.

## Historical Background

2009

PA96-107 defines the new Illinois Longitudinal Education Data System (105 ILCS 13) for "establishing and maintaining a longitudinal student unit record data system"

2013

Seven state agencies sign the IILDS inter-governmental agreement

2019

Founding agencies establish the Centralized Demographic Data Administrator at NIU

2018

The Education and Workforce Data Taskforce establishes ILDS goals

2019

DCFS signs the ILDS inter-governmental agreement

2020

Agencies launch ILDS 2.0

2022

Agencies sign a governance agreement

ILDS team works with DoIT to establish the CloudPak 4 Data technology platform

2023

ILDS team launches the Early Childhood Participation Dataset

*Learn more at [EdSystemsNIU.org/ILDS](https://EdSystemsNIU.org/ILDS)*