

ILDS 2.0 Initiative

# PROGRESS UPDATE



August 2024

Prepared by Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University for  
the Illinois Longitudinal Data System Executive Committee

# Illinois Longitudinal Data System



## 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.

## Mission

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

## Purpose

The ILDS 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.

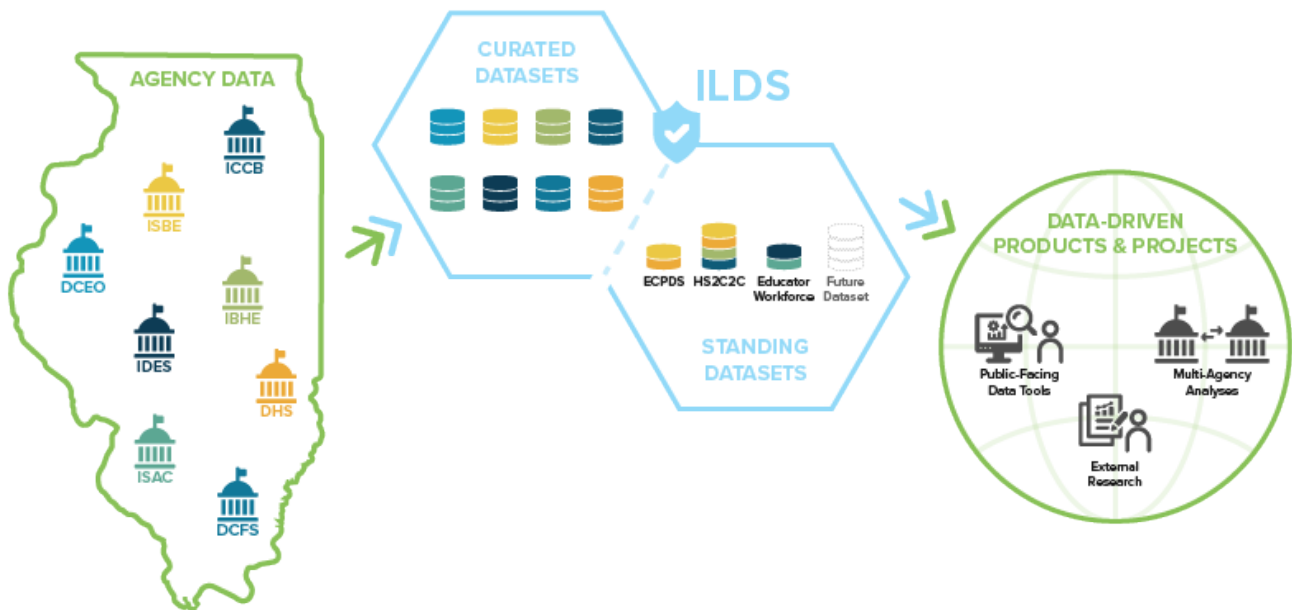
## Governing Board

- 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

# Project Overview



The Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) is a hub for safe and secure access to data on Illinois citizen’s early childhood, education, and workforce experiences. The ILDS includes:

- A safe and secure platform built using technology provided by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), that creates an environment for sharing and analyzing data across state agencies as well as with researchers and analysts.
- Data management and governance to standardize processes and technologies, allow for data matching and linking, ensure legal agreements and arrangements are in place.

The ILDS supports multi-agency data requests for researchers, analysts, and state agencies to explore some of Illinois’ most challenging policy questions. In addition, the data in the ILDS can power robust data tools that broader, public audiences can access without a data request, safely and securely.

To better serve the public through data requests and the development of data tools, the ILDS team is working with state agencies to load disaggregated, longitudinal data and to combine those data into useable datasets, while safeguarding the information.

This progress update provides an overview of the work from January to July 2024.

# Research and Analytics Agenda

The work of the ILDS is driven by its research and analytic priorities. Early childhood education has been the primary driver of the project. The ILDS plans to revisit the questions in the upcoming six months.

### Research Agenda Objectives

- To have well-defined research and analytics priorities.
- To utilize the research agenda to prioritize work, plan resources, and provide a clearer understanding of the ILDS's value.
- To share with external stakeholders and gather their input into the ILDS.

### Assumptions Guiding ILDS Research Questions and Design

- Questions are those necessary to drive data projects. The data projects will enable many other questions (less is more principle).
- Questions have an equity focus with a goal for all datasets to provide data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and indigeneity. Where appropriate, research and analytic questions should be disaggregated by age, disability status, gender, and sexual orientation (aligned with Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act).
- Designs support geographic disaggregation, including mapping and visualization of data by geographic region.
- Questions and designs support longitudinal analysis as much as possible. For example, demographic markers, such as low-income, are modeled in a manner that allows change over time.

### Current Research and Analytic Priorities

- What early childhood services do children receive 0 through 5?
- What combination of early childhood services do children receive 0 through 5?
- What is the breakdown of early childhood provision by race, ethnicity, geography, other factors?
- What paths do Illinois students take towards post-secondary credentials?
- What are key barriers for K-12 to post-secondary transitions?
- What is the relationship between those paths and workforce outcomes?
- What is the relationship between K-12 success and post-secondary and career paths?

### On-Deck Research and Analytic Priorities

- What early childhood services do high needs children receive in IL?
- What factors inhibit or promote school readiness (i.e. changing low-income status)?
- What factors inhibit or promote post-secondary success (i.e. changing financial aid status)?

### Future Research and Analytic Priorities

- What is the relationship between services children receive and K-12 outcomes?
- What paths do Illinois Educators (pre-k through higher education) take to become educators?
- Which paths lead to the most effective teachers?
- When do educators and prospective educators leave (and enter) the educator workforce pipeline?
- Workforce Supports
- Intergenerational Poverty

● Early Childhood   ● Postsecondary Education & Workforce   ● Educator Workforce   ● Prospective Domains

# ILDS Projects

The analytic questions are driving the three major projects of the ILDS: the Early Childhood Participation dataset, the Educator Workforce dataset, and the Education to Workforce dataset.

## Project Statuses

|                 | Early Childhood Participation Dataset   | Educator Workforce Dataset   | Education to Workforce Dataset  |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Accomplishments | <p>All early childhood data other than Head Start loaded into the system.</p> <p>Waiting on legal agreements to allow access to the data.</p> | <p>All ISBE educator data loaded into the ILDS.</p> <p>Gateways Registry data loaded.</p> <p>Charter approved for an Early Childhood Educator Workforce dataset.</p> | <p>Establishing approaches for loading ISBE, higher education, and workforce data.</p> <p>Developed a proposal to study the Master-Client index (aka the CDDA-ID) to allow for matching of IDES data.</p> |
| Next Steps      | <p>Complete legal agreements.</p> <p>Create a Head Start dataset. Data is loaded from almost all Head Start grantees.</p>                     | <p>Integrate with Education to Workforce dataset when it is available.</p> <p>Support INCCRRA to develop the dataset.</p>  | <p>Load data from ICCB, DCEO, ISBE, and IDES.</p> <p>Continue to work with IBHE on developing a plan for data loading.</p>  |
| Concerns        | <p>Legal agreements have been challenging to implement. We are currently working with agencies to improve.</p>                                | <p>Focus has been primarily on the Early Childhood Educator Workforce dataset and not the overall Educator Workforce dataset.</p>                                    | <p>Process continues to be slow due to agency capacity for data loading.</p> <p>Need funding to implement the CDDA study to include IDES data.</p>  |

## A Step Forward

In late August 2024, DHS and IECAM signed a data-sharing agreement that allows IECAM to manage DHS data within the ILDS, which will allow execution of Data Access and Use Agreements for a number of additional projects (listed below). While challenging to develop, this is a significant milestone for the ILDS.

### Additional Projects

#### Early Childhood Data Hub

- Launched the Early Childhood Data Hub video to introduce the tool.
- ISBE and DHS approved the IECAM request for the Early Childhood Participation Dataset.

#### Study of Early Childhood Experiences of Children in Care

- Project initiated by the Department of Family and Child Services.
- Data agreement is being reviewed and DCFS data is being loaded.

#### Study of Pathways through the Early Childhood System

- Project initiated by the Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative at the University of Illinois (IWERC) to study the paths children take through early childhood.
- The data request has been approved and the data agreement is under review.

# Governance Updates

## 2024 Meeting Schedule

### ILDS Executive Committee Meetings

- June 21
- December 13

### ILDS Managing Committee Meetings

- February 23
- April 26
- August 23
- October 18

Focus of the 2024 executive and managing committee meetings to date has been the development of FY25 objectives and budget. The managing committee also reviewed the implementation of the ILDS scope and requirements.

ILDS Governance is in the process of establishing the ILDS Early Childhood Data Working Group and the ILDS Education to Workforce Data Working Group. Governance is also reviewing policies regarding data requests (i.e., the universal data request process) and the implementation of the master-client index study.

## Communications

ILDS and IECAM jointly launched a short [video](#) regarding the Early Childhood Data Hub which speaks to both the value of the tool and how the ILDS supports the work. The video was based on insights collected by Collaborative Communications, a communications and design firm specializing in data tool development and launch. They gathered insights via interviews, focus groups, and surveys from early childhood stakeholders across the state.

Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University (EdSystems) expanded its [ILDS webpage](#) to serve as a placeholder for the eventual development of a larger ILDS web presence. The webpage includes an overview of the ILDS, available resources, and blog posts, including a new series of articles called "[Making the Case for the ILDS.](#)" The blogs have been shared on EdSystems' website, newsletter, and social media channels.

The ILDS team continues to develop a toolkit of communications resources that help describe the ILDS and its purpose. As of now, the toolkit includes a overview slide deck, a one-page overview, tear sheets describing each of the datasets, and the progress reports.