

PRESENTATION to ASPRA

December 3, 2014

ANSWERS

ALASKA'S P-20W SLDS

Mission: Deliver outcomes information to Alaska stakeholders to assess, evaluate, and improve the state's education and career development spectrum.



ANSWERS is a collaboration of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

ACPE.ALASKA.GOV/ANSWERS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- ★ ANSWERS – Alaska Navigator: Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics
- ★ P-20W SLDS: preschool-through-workforce statewide longitudinal data system
- ★ Federal grant - \$4 million over 3 years (July 2012 through June 2015)
- ★ Collaboration of Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), University of Alaska (UA), Department of Education & Early Development (EED), and Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DOL&WD)



ACPE.ALASKA.GOV/ANSWERS

ANSWERS PURPOSE

- ★ Provide critical information to Alaska’s policymakers, educators, and citizens about Alaska’s education and workforce spectrum:
 - ★ Student transitions
 - ★ Performance in postsecondary education and workforce systems
 - ★ Return on investment



ANSWERS OBJECTIVES

- ★ Share and use cross-sector data to inform decision-making
- ★ Create secure, state longitudinal data system linking relevant data to better understand Alaska's education outcomes
- ★ Create reports, dashboards, and information products providing the right information to the right people at the right time



ANSWERS PARAMETERS

- ★ Does not replace or usurp existing data systems
- ★ Uses subsets of existing data from various partners' data systems
- ★ Addresses cross-sector issues not answered by individual organizations
- ★ Rigorously protects student privacy
- ★ Relies on ANSWERS policy questions to vet information requests
- ★ Includes cross-sector governance structure, guided by ANSWERS operating principles



ANSWERS PRIVACY & SECURITY

- ★ ANSWERS separates identifying information from incoming data so individuals cannot be identified
 - ★ Data de-identification
 - ★ Data encryption
 - ★ Data compartmentalization
 - ★ System access logging and auditing
 - ★ Role-based access

Information outputs are aggregated and conform to best practices and federal and state privacy laws



ROLE OF POLICY QUESTIONS

★ Policy questions

- ★ Developed in 2009, with help from Data Quality Campaign, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- ★ Revised in 2012 based on ANSWERS stakeholder input and feedback
- ★ Designed to identify high-level information needs, not currently available without linked data
- ★ Identify stakeholder interests and project scope
- ★ Determine which data elements to collect



POTENTIAL INFORMATION PRODUCTS

- ★ High school or school district feedback reports
- ★ Program-specific reports such as annual APS outcomes report
- ★ UA enrollment projections by K-12 indicators
- ★ Workforce training needs based on education indicators
- ★ Long-term outcomes of education programs and interventions (post implementation)



GOVERNANCE

- ★ Initially established in 2011 Administrative Order 261 and has multiple tiers:
 - ★ Executive Governance Board:
 - ★ ACPE Executive Director, EED and DOLWD Commissioners, UA President
 - ★ Overall responsibility for ANSWERS
 - ★ Data Stewards:
 - ★ Data/project managers from each partner organization
 - ★ Propose policies and direct implementation of those approved
 - ★ Implementation Team and committees: four partner agencies' project managers, research and IT staff, and program directors



OPERATING PRINCIPLE DEVELOPMENT

- ★ Conceptual framework for developing policies, memoranda of agreement and supporting documents
- ★ Agreed-upon principles through consensus among Executive Governance Board members
- ★ Living, iterative document refining details as project progresses



ANSWERS REPORTING

Multiple control levels

- ★ Public site with predefined aggregate reports
- ★ Responses to queries
- ★ Feedback report recipients
- ★ Approved research access



PROJECT PLAN AND TIMELINE

1. Planning and Preparation – Complete as of June 2013
2. Infrastructure – July 2013 to September 2014
3. Development – March 2014 to March 2015
4. Data Reporting – May 2014 to April 2015
5. Training and Professional Development – January 2015 to June 2015
6. Sustainability – July 2014 to June 2015



ANSWERS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- ★ ANSWERS Program Management Office (PMO)
- ★ Reports to Executive Governance Board
 - ★ Coordinates information publications with partners
 - ★ Develops and updates public reports, identifies evolving stakeholder needs, and proposes new information products
- ★ Initial funding by ASLC as part of ACPE's operating budget
 - ★ Initial demand for information will impact sustainability planning
 - ★ Funding structure to be evaluated after initial operational period



CURRENT FOCUS

- ★ Developing key demonstration information products for 2015 program debut
- ★ Key part of that is securing stakeholder input
- ★ To that end, have some key questions for ASPRA members:
 - ★ What do you know about ANSWERS? Was this new information today?
 - ★ Have you or your organization had the opportunity to give input on ANSWERS product development?
 - ★ What else would you like to know about ANSWERS?
 - ★ Most important, what would you like us to know?



ACPE.ALASKA.GOV/ANSWERS

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

★ ANSWERS Project Leaders:

★ Kerry Thomas (465-6759) – kerry.thomas@alaska.gov

★ Stephanie Butler (465-6743) – stephanie.butler@alaska.gov

★ ANSWERS Website – acpe.alaska.gov/ANSWERS

★ Presentation, handouts and video

★ Register to receive ANSWERS updates via email

★ View FAQs, publications, and other information



ACPE.ALASKA.GOV/ANSWERS