

ANSWERS – Alaska Navigator: Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics

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

Purpose: To provide critical information to Alaska's policymakers, educators, and general public about Alaska's education and workforce spectrum, including:

- ★ Student transitions, such as high school to postsecondary education, postsecondary education to the workforce, etc.
- ★ Performance in education and workforce systems, and evaluation of education program outcomes
- ★ Return on investment, enhancing ability to measure program costs as related to outcomes

ANSWERS Project Overview

- ★ Federal grant - \$4 million over four years (July 2012 to June 2016) *Originally 3-year project; received no cost extension to June 2016*
- ★ Project to link existing State of Alaska K-12, postsecondary and workforce data

Project Deliverables and Timeline

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| ★ Planning and Preparation – Complete as of June 2013 | ★ Data Reporting – May 2014 to June 2016 |
| ★ Infrastructure – July 2013 to October 2015 | ★ Training & Professional Development – March 2015 to June 2016 |
| ★ Development – March 2014 to October 2015 | ★ Sustainability – July 2014 to June 2016 |

Project Progress

- ★ Completion of Outcome 1 – Project Planning and Preparation (Complete)
 - Established and implemented governance structure
 - Completed analysis of existing data systems
 - Created stakeholder engagement and communications plan
 - Developed business and technical requirements
 - Partner agreement on system design, platform, and processes
 - Gathered stakeholder input and issued proof-of-concept reports
- ★ Continuation of Outcomes 2 and 3 – Infrastructure and Development
 - Contract near completion to design and develop ANSWERS software
 - System stabilization, final testing, and documentation are the focus of current efforts
- ★ Commencement of Outcome 4 – Data Reporting
 - Contracts are in place to bring research and data visualization expertise to Alaska's project and develop the reporting database
 - Development of ANSWERS first information products are underway based on input from stakeholders in December 2014
 - New ANSWERS website scheduled for launch in October 2015
- ★ Commencement of Outcome 6 – Sustainability
 - Sustainability and Program Management Office (PMO) plan development is continuing



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