



VLDS

# The Virginia Longitudinal Data System and Early Childhood Data

Bethann Canada

Director of Educational Information Management

VLDS Project Director

Virginia Department of Education

2015

# VLDS

- Funded by a United States Department of Education (USED) 2009 ARRA Grant
- Provides insight through data to maintain and improve the effectiveness of Virginia's education, social service, and workforce programs
- Establishes an integrated system for the sharing and analysis of data across executive branch agencies
- Consistent with federal and state statutes and regulations
- Initially built to connect K-12, Higher Education, and Workforce

# The Data Providers

- Department of Education
- State Council on Higher Education
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Virginia Community College System
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (soon)
- Department of Labor and Industry (soon)
- Department of Health Professions (soon)

*VLDS is extensible to allow for additional Partners to share and merge their data.*



# The Burning Questions

- How can Virginia ensure that children and families can access early childhood programs and services to facilitate child health and development, and increase children's school readiness?
- How can Virginia determine whether early childhood program funds are used effectively to maximize return on investment for taxpayers?
- How can Virginia improve early childhood program quality to maximize the benefits to children and families?
- How can Virginia improve the early childhood workforce while ensuring that families can afford the supports they need?

# What Longitudinal Data are Available Today?

## From DOE

- Student Demographics
  - Gender
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Age
  - Disadvantaged Status
  - Disability
  - Limited English Proficiency Status
- Attendance
- Retention
- Pre-K Experience
- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) results
- SOL results

*Data are only available for public Pre-K students*



# What Longitudinal Data are Available Today?

## From VDSS

- Child and Parent Information
  - Demographics
  - Child Care Eligibility Information
  - Child Care Provider Information
- Participation in other Social Service Programs
  - SNAP
  - TANF

# VLDS Governance

- Links only “de-identified” data according to strict, established standards
- Performs de-identification a second time prior to release of data to the requestor to further ensure privacy
- Provides the capability to link records across agencies
  - Initially included PK-12 education, postsecondary education, and Virginia workforce data
  - Social Services data added in 2014
  - Measures changes in individual success over time

# VLDS Governance

## The “Federated” Model

- Ensures that agency autonomy and responsibility are respected
- Agencies retain control of their data
- Ensures the data available through the VLDS is respected in use and application
- Ensures privacy and confidentiality are maintained
- Governed by a partnership of agencies

# VDOE Privacy Protections

- Cell suppression on public data sets
- Contract language
- Restricted use data agreements
  - How will the data be used ?
  - How will the data be secured ?
  - When will the data be destroyed ?
  - Who will have access ?
- Non-disclosure agreements

# Questions?

# Thank You!

For more information on the VLDS, please contact:

[bethann.canada@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:bethann.canada@doe.virginia.gov)

(804) 225-2951

[www.vlds.virginia.gov](http://www.vlds.virginia.gov)