



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Arkansas is again recognized by the Data Quality Campaign for being one of a handful of states with premium educational data systems. In a report released this weekend to the Council of Chief State School Officers at the annual policy meeting, the Data Quality Campaign named Arkansas as one of 11 states to meet the organization's 10 criteria for a longitudinal data system that follows student progress from preschool through college.

"We were one of the six states that had all ten elements in 2008," said Jim Boardman, Arkansas Department of Education assistant commissioner for technology and research. "This report illustrates that Arkansas is a national leader regarding the collection of the ten essential elements of a longitudinal data system." The ten elements are:

1. A unique student identifier that connects student data across key databases and years.
2. Student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information.
3. The ability to match individual students' test records from year to year to measure growth.
4. Information on untested students and the reasons they were not tested.
5. A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students.
6. Student-level transcript data, including information on courses completed and grades earned.
7. Student-level college readiness tests scores.
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data.
9. The ability to match student records between P-12 and postsecondary systems.
10. A state data audit system assessing quality, validity and reliability.

In January 2010, the Data Quality Campaign will release its first survey results on state status on implementing the DQC 10 State Actions to Ensure Effective Use of Data. This January report will provide greater detail on how states are changing policies and practices to promote linkages across systems, ensure appropriate access to new data and analysis and strengthen stakeholder capacity to use the information.

Boardman is optimistic, saying, "I fully expect that when the report is released in January regarding the 10 state actions to ensure effective data use, Arkansas will be a leader."

For the complete report, visit [www.DataQualityCampaign.org](http://www.DataQualityCampaign.org).

***The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.***