



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: A new Data Quality Campaign report finds that Arkansas places second among states for taking the necessary steps to ensure that longitudinal data systems are used to improve student outcomes and system-wide performance. The results, released today, are based on a survey of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

This is the first year that the Data Quality Campaign has judged states for how they use the information. The report grades states on the basis of a series of 10 actions determined by the campaign to ensure effective data use. Two years ago, the Data Quality Campaign recognized Arkansas for being one of the first six states to implement all of 10 elements the organization says are essential for a robust educational data system. Even now, only 12 states have achieved all of the elements.

“Arkansas has made building a quality longitudinal data system a major focus for the last several years. Why? Because we know that the ability to accurately track student performance over time is the key to transforming our education system,” said Tom W. Kimbrell, Arkansas commissioner of education. “With good data analyzed correctly, teachers and administrators can produce the reports they need to drive instruction practices in the classroom. At the same time, those of us at the state level can incorporate what the data is showing us into policy and programmatic decisions, which allows us to create a much more sophisticated system for delivering a college- and career-ready education to our students.”

The report finds that Arkansas has seven of the 10 recommended actions in place:

- Link data systems across Pre-kindergarten through higher education
- Create stable, sustained support
- Develop governance structures
- Build state data repositories
- Create progress reports with individual student data to improve student performance
- Create reports with longitudinal statistics to guide systematic improvement efforts
- Develop a research agenda

The two actions Arkansas did not receive credit for were promoting educator professional development and credentialing and promoting strategies to raise awareness of available data. The 10th action – implementing systems to provide timely access to information – was not analyzed because the organization’s survey failed to collect adequate information, the report states.

The Data Quality Campaign says the 10 actions provide a roadmap for states to ensure that the rich longitudinal data now collected by state agencies is analyzed, communicated and used to improve decision making and student achievement.

For more information, link to 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.