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SLDS/SLEDS Summary Information 2009-2025

Updated: December 12, 2025

Background

This document is to provide an overview of the statewide longitudinal education data system (SLDS/SLEDS) history and expenditures before the federal 2019/2020 SLEDS and 2023/2024 SLEDS grants acquired by Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) in collaboration with the SLEDS partners, including: WDE, Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC), community colleges, University of Wyoming (UW), Department of Workforce Services (DWS), and recently Department of Family Services (DFS). This document is intended to ensure that consistent, accurate information is available to all partners to share and to memorialize.

The Wyoming SLDS, known as SLEDS, began in 2009 under the Wyoming P-16 Council (P-16 means Pre-K through higher education). The P-16 Council transitioned to a P-20 Council (P-20 stands for Pre-K, K-12, and postsecondary education and workforce systems) to better align education and the workforce. From 2010 through 2019, as a result of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, the primary legislation related to SLDS/SLEDS authorization and funding occurred in State budget bills via appropriations. In 2012, the effort was led by the Department of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS). In 2016, ETS withdrew from leadership of the effort, stalling the endeavor. However, under ETS's leadership, a Needs Assessment was completed, and a proposed governance model was outlined. Additionally, ETS transferred funding to the WCCC to complete its college data consistency effort and to build the data management and research system (DMARS). DMARS is a foundational piece for including community college data in the SLEDS.

The Needs Assessment and proposed governance model served as the starting point for the 2019 restart of the SLEDS effort, when the Legislature fully placed the SLEDS administration at the WCCC, requiring the participation of WDE, UW, and DWS. The 2019 federal SLDS grant, a partnership between the WDE and the WCCC with support from the SLEDS partnership, provided funding to proceed with early-stage implementation/governance work, and to build infrastructure for an initial SLEDS proof of concept and successful demonstration. The completion of the 2019 SLDS grant and its outcomes exceed the state's 2010 obligation to create an SLDS upon receipt of the original ARRA funds. As the State has met this

- Casper College ● Central Wyoming College ● Eastern Wyoming College ● Gillette College
 - Laramie County Community College ● Sheridan College
 - Northwest College ● Western Wyoming Community College

initial obligation to the federal government, the WCCC and WDE, under the approval of the SLEDS Executive Board (E-Board), have again successfully partnered to secure a second federal SLEDS grant to mature the proof of concept into a system with quicker and more expansive capabilities. This second grant is effective through September 2027.

SLDS/SLEDS Funding Summary

Total State Funds for SLDS/SLEDS 2010-2023: \$5.45 million

Between 2012 and 2015, ETS was allocated \$9.75 million for SLEDS. ETS reverted \$4.30 million of that amount to the state. *They also completed a B-11 with WCCC to provide \$3.45 million for the Community College Commission's Database Management and Analytical Reporting System (DMARS). The total amount of funds ETS used towards the SLDS/SLEDS was \$2 million.*

Total Federal Grant Funds for SLDS/SLEDS 2020-2027: \$5.73 million approved to spend, \$1.62 million pending, total awarded \$7.35 million

The WDE, in partnership with the WCCC, applied for and received three federal SLDS grants. The first SLDS grant was awarded in March 2020 for \$3.2 million. This grant will be fully expended by February 2026. The second grant was \$400,000, focused solely on the impacts of COVID on postsecondary education. The third SLDS grant was awarded in September 2023. This is a 4-year, \$3.7 million grant. The federal government has funded only the first two years of this grant, totaling \$2.13 million of the \$3.7 million. The WCCC has not heard whether the remaining \$1.62 million for the two years will be funded.

SLDS/SLEDS History and Funding, 2008-2027

Year	Activity	Funding for SLDS/SLEDS
2008-2009	P-16 Council identifies the merits of an SLDS. This is reinforced by the 2008-2009 legislative Community College Task Force report. The outcome was the formation of the P-20 Council, with WDE (the State Education Agency, with WDE (the State Education Agency; SEA) as the lead entity. Co-chairs of the P-16 Council included UW Provost Rollin Abernathy and UW staff Daniel Ewarts.	None

Year	Activity	Funding for SLDS/SLEDS
2010	<p>The state received ~ \$51M* in ARRA funds in 2010, tied to the creation of an SLDS. The money was not for an SLDS, but there was a requirement, or trigger, for the state to establish a K-12 SLDS as a condition of receiving these ARRA funds. The ARRA funds were primarily used for capital construction and major maintenance projects at the community colleges and UW, as per the ARRA's focus. See 2010 HB0001 Page 108 Section 319 (b) items (i) & (ii). The Governor was also granted flex authority for the remaining ARRA funds.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Potential misunderstanding: The \$51 million was accepted by Wyoming, which created the obligation for developing the SLDS/SLEDS. This funding was not used for SLDS/SLEDS.) *These federal funds were not the only ARRA funds the state received. See the following for more information regarding ARRA funds to Wyoming. https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/progressreports/Wyoming</p>	None
2010	P-20 Council officially begins under WDE and appoints the SLDS Taskforce to bring forward a proposal, with UW Provost Rollin Abernathy and UW Daniel Ewart as co-chairs.	None
2011	The SLDS Taskforce Report and whitepaper were created and made available. Presented to the Joint Education Interim Committee (JEIC) on October 18, 2011, and listed as Appendix 17 & 18. Report attached-SLEDS A-1.	None
2012	The budget bill appropriates \$3.56 million to ETS, WCCC, and DWS for the SLDS effort, Hathaway tracking, and other educational accountability efforts (E-Rate funding source).	\$2.6 million ETS SLDS (report required) \$280K WCCC for researcher position (still active position) \$188K WCCC data consistency effort (completed) \$500K DWS R&P Hathaway tracking
2012	ETS SLDS Needs Assessment Report to the Legislature completed by the P-20 Council and ETS. Report attached-SLEDS A-2.	N/A
2012	ETS applied for a federal SLDS grant, but the grant was not awarded.	None

Year	Activity	Funding for SLDS/SLEDS
2013	ETS Supplemental budget request per the Needs Assessment.	\$1.35 million (State)
2014	SLDS formally moved from WDE to ETS. The budget bill permits ETS to retain the remaining 2012 appropriation to continue the effort.	Continuation of the 2012 funds
2015	Budget bill appropriates \$5.8 million to ETS for SLDS.	\$5.8 million (State)
2015	ETS SLDS Update Report. Report attached-SLEDS A-3. WCCC Needs Assessment completed for the development of DMARS across the community colleges. Report attached SLEDS A-4.	N/A
2016	ETS withdraws from the SLDS project. WCCC proceeds with the development and implementation of the DMARS.	ETS reverted \$2.4 million over the course of several years, with the final reversion of \$1.9 million in 2016. ETS B-11 \$3.45 million to WCCC for the creation of DMARS - completed (State)
2016/2017	WCCC completes DMARS and launches interactive dashboards for metrics and analytics. (See WCCC website https://communitycolleges.wy.edu/data-hub/dashboards/).	N/A
2018	2018 House Bill 175 (HEA 47; Session Laws, Chapter 78) requires a study on how to proceed with a common transcript and transfer process and to provide recommendations on resource and policy needs. The implementation of a SLEDS was an outcome of the required report. WCCC includes the SLEDS one-time funding request in its 2019 Supplemental Budget Request. Report attached-SLEDS A-5	N/A
2018	A stakeholder meeting was held with all partners to determine when and how to proceed, based on the prior P-20 ETS Needs Assessment. The ETS memo to JAC explained that the SLDS effort was stalled in 2016 and outlined ETS's SLDS funding history. Included that they can accommodate the Security Expert needs and recommended that the WCCC security funding not be funded. Memo attached-SLEDS A-6.	N/A

Year	Activity	Funding for SLDS/SLEDS
2019	SLEDS was formally administratively placed via the 2019 House Bill 204 (HEA 96; Session Laws, Chapter 150) in the WCCC with the required participation of colleges, UW, WDE, and DWS. Tied to the common transcript and transfer process, and to meet the 2010 federal obligation. SLEDS one-time funding of \$600,000 for professional/contracted services is provided in the Supplemental Budget with a required report. Report attached SLEDS A-7.	<p>\$230K SLEDS Project Manager \$260K SLEDS Data Scientist \$110K SLEDS Database Administrator (State)</p> <p>These positions were moved into the federal grant when the state funds ended.</p>
2019/2020	SLDS grant awarded to WDE (via the WCCC) for SLEDS to establish the technology infrastructure, implement the governance structure, and test the process through completion of specific research questions, along with execution of data MOU (Outcome will meet the 2010 federal SLDS obligation).	\$3.2 million (Federal)
2020	WCCC proceeded with a federated data MOU using a research question approach.	N/A
2020	Late 2020, the SLDS grant provided additional federal funding to include research questions on the impact of COVID-19 on educational completion.	\$400K
2021	SLEDS E-Board approves the high-availability data system (HADS) model over the original federated model to allow greater use of metrics and interactive dashboards. MOUs completed except DWS (pending federal Department of Labor (DOL) approval).	N/A
2022	DOL approves Wyoming HADS MOU, and DWS completes the HADS MOU.	N/A
2022	<u>SLDS Remediation Report</u> completed, resulting in accelerated elimination of traditional remediation courses at the community colleges.	N/A
2022	DFS formally joined SLEDS. DFS Director becomes voting member of E-Board.	N/A

Year	Activity	Funding for SLDS/SLEDS
2023	<p>The Wyoming SLEDS is built, meeting Wyoming's 2010 SLDS obligation. E-Board demonstration of SLEDS production and capability. Discussion of the need to develop a research agenda that includes regular metrics, incorporates the State's Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) initiative, and allows for interactive dashboards in addition to research questions. Subcommittee of E-Board appointed to begin process. E-Board approves proceeding with the second SLDS federal grant to help the process of developing a research agenda, including standing metrics, dashboards, and quicker production of information, as well as a long-term management plan. E-Board also approves potentially incorporating DFS's early childhood integrated data system (ECIDS) into the SLEDS environment at the request of the Governor's Office. Approves proceeding with the secondary federal grant to support ECIDS integration. Additional grant award notification for ECIDS not expected until 2024. <i>2025 Update - Wyoming did not receive the grant.</i></p>	N/A
2023	<p>The <u>Postsecondary Education Workforce Outcomes Dashboard</u> is completed, demonstrations are conducted, and the E-Board approves the release of the dashboard.</p>	N/A
2023	<p>Second federal SLDS grant awarded to WDE, with administration through WCCC, for SLEDS development of a research agenda, demonstrations, dashboards, and production (as well as a long-term management plan). Second federal grant funding is available from 2024 through September 2027. SLEDS E-Board completes a side-by-side comparison of the two grants.</p> <p>Report attached-SLEDS A-8. Verification from ED that Wyoming has met its 2010 SLDS obligation with the 2011 K-12 data warehouse and the implementation of the 2022/2023 Remediation Report and the P-20W workforce outcomes dashboard. Letter attached-SLEDS A-9.</p>	\$3.75 million (Federal)
2023	<p>WCCC budget request for on-going SLEDS technology costs in the FY2025-2026 Biennial Budget (considered in 2024 Session). There is an additional \$18K request for server costs. The request also includes one-time integration of ECIDS into SLEDS, should the Governor opt to proceed. Provides a snapshot of ongoing biennial technology costs of \$134K.</p> <p>\$134K SLEDS technology maintenance \$18K SLEDS server \$800K ECIDS integration into SLEDS</p>	Funding not appropriated

Year	Activity	Funding for SLDS/SLEDS
2023-2024	B-11 delay for nine months. The WCCC received approval from the US Department of Education to continue using grant funds from the first federal SLDS grant through February 2026 to bridge the service gap between the end of the first federal grant (February 2025) and the expectation of future contracts.	N/A
2024	The approved/signed B-11 was received in August 2024.	N/A
2024	The E-Board approved the release of the Wyoming Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and CARES Funding on Wyoming High School Graduates in Postsecondary Education research report.	N/A
2024	The E-Board approved the release of the Wyoming Student Transfer Success research report.	N/A
2024	Enhancements made to the Postsecondary Education Workforce Outcomes Dashboard are completed, demonstrations are conducted, and the E-Board approves the release of the enhanced dashboard.	N/A
2024-2025	The WCCC released an RFP for resources to support state agencies, colleges, and the University of Wyoming in bringing agreed-upon data into SLEDS. Protests were issued against the intent to award. Resolution to the protest was finalized in December 2025.	N/A
2025	The WCCC added a SLEDS budget exception request to the Biennial Budget request. This request is currently going through the legislative budget process.	\$811,477 (State)
2025	The first contract was issued for the 2023 federal grant.	N/A
2025	The E-Board approved the release of the Wyoming Dual and Concurrent Dashboard .	N/A