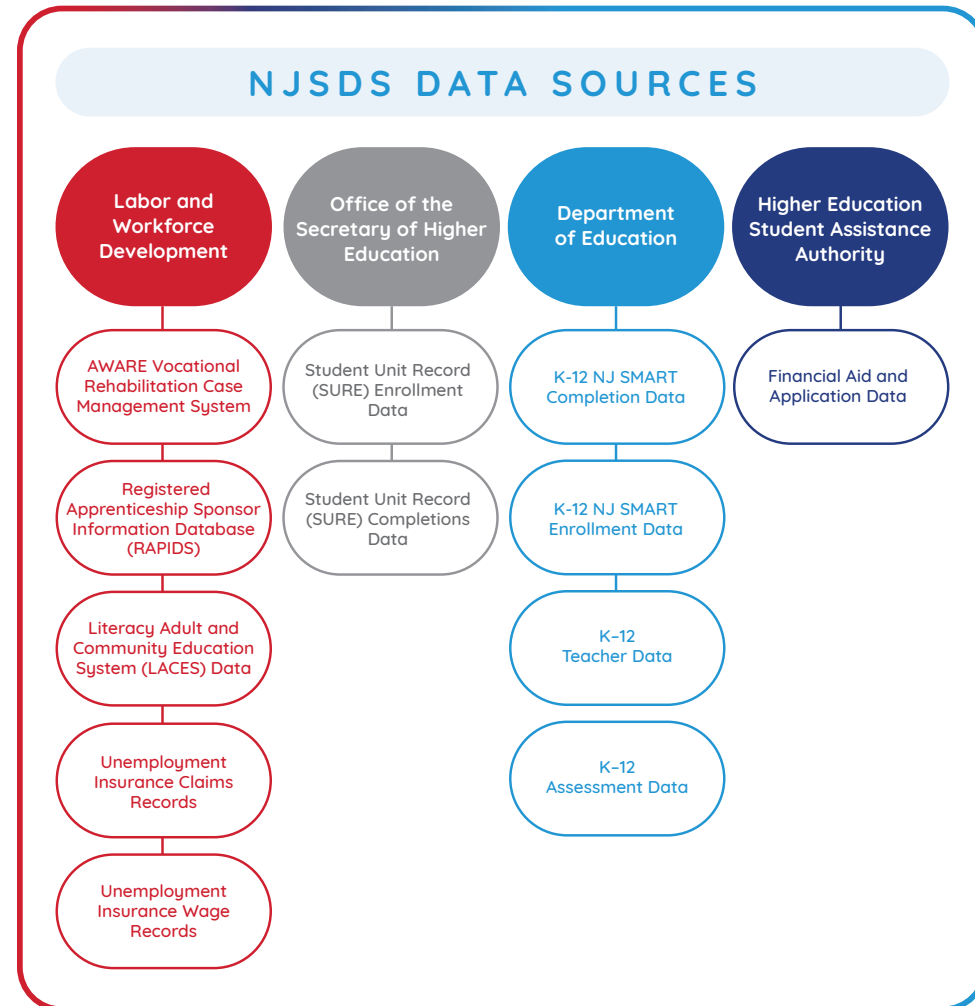


The New Jersey Statewide Data System (NJSDS), formerly the New Jersey Education to Earnings Data System (NJEEDS), is the State of New Jersey's centralized longitudinal data system for public administrative data. Through coordination with partnering state agencies, NJSDS has become a large statewide interagency and intergovernmental platform where data from participating agencies are securely stored to expand access and analysis to improve governance efforts, policymaking, and performance of public initiatives.



Contact us for more information about the New Jersey Statewide Data System.

New Jersey Statewide Data System
 Heldrich Center for Workforce Development
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
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 New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



New Jersey Department of Education
 New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
 New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

R RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
 Edward J. Bloustein School
 of Planning and Public Policy
 John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development



HIGHLIGHTS

NJEEDS RENAMED NJSDS

The New Jersey Education to Earnings Data System (NJEEDS) has grown considerably since its initial development in 2012. Recognized as a leading state longitudinal data system, NJEEDS has broadened its scope, mission, and values to help policymakers and stakeholders make data-informed decisions to improve public policies and practices for New Jersey residents.

To embrace the path NJEEDS has taken, but also look ahead to the system's future, NJEEDS was renamed the New Jersey Statewide Data System (NJSDS) in December 2023. Along with the new name, NJSDS launched a new website at njsds.nj.gov with a cleaner look, easier navigation, and additional upgrades still to come.

NEW JERSEY AWARDED SLDS FY23 GRANT

New Jersey is a recipient of the 2023 Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The winning proposal, submitted by the New Jersey Department of Education in partnership with the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, included tasks related to system interoperability, automated data transfers, and expanding the use and content of NJSDS. The 2023 grant will conclude in 2027.

MULTI-STATE PARTNERSHIPS

Building on the development of the Eastern States Longitudinal Data Collaborative and related Multi-state Data Collaboratives, NJSDS participated in two multi-state data-sharing initiatives to pilot analyses that link de-identified secure data across states to address data limitations within those states. The first was a replication and expansion of the Kentucky Multi-state Postsecondary Report, conducted in conjunction with Kentucky, Rhode Island, and Virginia. The second project, the Multi-state Teacher Workforce Report, builds on New Jersey's reporting on the topic. Led by New Jersey and in partnership with Rhode Island, this collaboration standardizes data related to the K-12 workforce to develop a replicable multi-state report assessing the landscape and areas of potential shortage in the teacher workforce.

DATA EXPLORATION

NJSDS REPORTS

The following products were released on the NJSDS website in 2023:

- **Benefits of Education in New Jersey:** Examines the short- and long-term outcomes of postsecondary education for New Jersey residents to determine if the benefits outweigh the costs to both the individual student and the state as a whole. The report demonstrates that higher levels of education have a positive return on investment to the individual, the state, and society.
- **Characteristics of Students with a Stopout Experience in New Jersey:** Studies the characteristic differences between students with a stopout experience and their non-stopout peers. The report examines the experiences of students who fall into the category of "some college, no degree" and analyzes predictors of completion for those with any period of non-enrollment following their first semester in college.
- **Early Signs of Pandemic Scarring Dashboard:** An assessment of economic downturns on employment and earnings for individuals who graduated from institutions of higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Exploratory Review of Remedial Education Participation and Outcomes in New Jersey:** A report that analyzes current remedial course-taking and offerings in New Jersey and assesses how implementation of such coursework has changed over time.
- **New Jersey Higher Education Graduates' Employment and Earnings Dashboard:** Presents the employment and earnings outcomes of graduates of New Jersey's two- and four-year colleges.

Visit <https://njsds.nj.gov/research-products/> to read NJSDS products.

NEW JERSEY TEACHER WORKFORCE

In accordance with the New Jersey teacher workforce legislation enacted in 2022, which requires annual reporting on the state's education workforce, the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development and the New Jersey Department of Education worked this past year on identifying the data elements needed to comply with the bill's directive. The report, mandated to use NJSDS data, will feature key teacher metrics, such as positions in the current school year, projections of the workforce by subject area, the number of incoming teachers, and the reasons educators have left the field historically.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

DATA ACCESS

NJSDS continues to pilot external researcher access to de-identified NJSDS data, hosted at the Coleridge Initiative's Administrative Data Research Facility, through external grant and internship programs. To ensure the highest levels of data security and protect the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals whose records are in the system, NJSDS is built on a multi-level system that uses a combination of information technology best practices, de-identification, ethical data use, authorization, and training for all users.

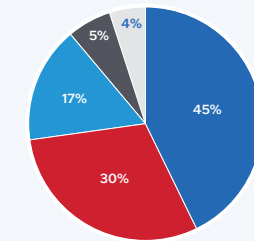
APPLIED DATA ANALYTICS TRAINING

NJSDS hosted its own Applied Data Analytics training course for a third year. The class, developed with the support of the Coleridge Initiative, is designed to introduce NJSDS data, data science concepts, and research design process using a team-based approach to apply the learned concepts. In addition to this training for NJSDS researchers, NJSDS staff participated in several other versions of the training course in 2023. Based on these experiences, New Jersey will continue to refine its course and offer this training annually to future NJSDS users, such as new state employees, academic researchers, and students interested in learning how to leverage data science tools to analyze administrative data.

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

STAFFING

In 2023, NJSDS welcomed a new Systems Administrator, Benjamin Shen, and two new postdoctoral associates, Muazzam Toshmatova, Ph.D. and Ann Obadan, Ph.D. NJSDS is supported by the contributions of 12 Heldrich Center staff members, as well as 2 postdoctoral associates, 3 graduate research assistants, and 2 contracted researchers. In the summer of 2023, NJSDS also hosted three graduate interns. As the system continues to expand, NJSDS plans to fill multiple new roles in 2024.



- Database Operations
- Research Activities
- Governance
- Training and Outreach
- Enhancements

BUDGET

NJSDS funding and operating expenses have varied year over year, but efforts have been made to accurately project and stabilize funding. The system is primarily supported through partner agency contributions and federal grants such as the U.S. Department of Education's SLDS grant. Currently, operating expenses are estimated to be around \$1.7 million annually. The NJSDS budget is split into two main categories: base costs (including items like governance and database operations) and agency research activities (which includes report development). Base costs are approximately \$1.1 million per year, while research activities are \$550,000 per year. The current outlook shows sufficient ongoing support to maintain staffing levels and governance support along with the release of several annual research products.