

# Why Does Student Data Matter?



In the last decade, states have made incredible investments to harness the value of education data and provide the critical information students, parents, teachers, and other education stakeholders need to make the best decisions for students. These state data systems are critical for personalizing student instruction, informing policy decisions, and improving the quality of the state's schools. We will lose this amazing progress if we stop investing in data now.

**1. Supporting Individual Students:** Student data help at-risk students stay on track and help all students meet their potential.



Chicago Public Schools has **used data to keep high school freshmen on track** with great results (the graduation rate went from 57 percent in 2007 to 84 percent in 2013).



**Georgia has combined local data with state-level resources and made using education data in meaningful ways easy.** The centerpiece of Georgia's model is a virtual "tunnel" that links data from a single state system directly to district-level student information systems (SIS) and **allows district administrators, principals, teachers, and parents to securely access state education data** through their district's existing program.

**2. Providing Students Opportunities:** Student data help reach the students who benefit most from opportunities such as scholarships.



**Washington created The Passport to College Promise Scholarship** program to help students in the state's foster care system attend and succeed in college.



Arkansas uses its electronic transcript system data to identify and reach out to students who are or may be eligible for the academics-based **Arkansas Challenge Scholarship**. The system informs educators, students, and parents if a student is on track to receive the scholarship and identifies the courses a student needs to take to remain eligible.

**3. Ensuring Successful Student Outcomes:** Student data help families, educators, and education leaders prepare students for life after graduation.



**Hawaii reports on a number of college and career readiness indicators by high school**, including postsecondary enrollment, credit accumulation, persistence, and remediation. Along with reporting this information publicly to let parents, educators, and communities know where their students go after graduation and how well they are **prepared for college and beyond**, the state uses these data to support students as they move from high school to college.

**4. Improving Student Learning:** Student data shines a light on policies and practices that work in schools, districts, and states.



**Colorado's SchoolView** tool provides publicly available education data and analyses, including a **growth model** and related reports on academic growth across the state. The state and districts use this information to inform statewide policy decisions and classroom practices.



**Washington's Education Research & Data Center (ERDC)** is a state-legislated and state-funded effort to use the state's early education, K-12, postsecondary, and workforce data to answer the **state's own questions** about its students, schools, and pathways and to inform policy decisions.