

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION - Strategic Response to Projected \$2.2M Funding Loss for Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Four-Year Project

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

That the committee recommend that the Board approve one of the following options:

- ◆ **Option 1:** Direct staff to work with USHE to identify available funds (e.g., carry-forward balances, Federal Mineral Lease funds) to continue and complete the SLDS project.
- ◆ **Option 2:** Direct staff to work with USHE to formally end and close out the SLDS grant project.

Purpose of Memo:

Staff recommendation

Background:

The Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant program has enabled states to build integrated data systems that connect information across multiple agencies. In the most recent grant cycle, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) awarded 28 multi-year SLDS grants in fiscal year 2023, out of 34 applications. Utah was among the states receiving an award.

Utah's cross-agency data system is housed within the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC). This system is the only resource capable of supporting Utah's Education-to-Workforce (EW) pipeline reporting and research needs.

In 2023, Utah submitted a proposal to enhance UDRC functionality by creating a secure API process that enables authorized information sharing between agencies with parent and individual consent, streamlining connectivity and reducing data duplication burdens. This project is called "Bridge."

As of July 2025, the Bridge project is approximately 17% operational, with an additional 53% of work currently in progress. Overall, 70% of the project is on track for completion by next year.

However, recent cuts of \$10 million to IES SLDS grants signal the potential elimination of Year 3 and 4 funding for Utah's project, resulting in an anticipated shortfall of \$2.2 million. Without action, this funding loss would halt the buildout of Bridge, and all completed development work would remain unfinished and unimplemented.

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Attachments:

1. SLDS Grant23 - What goes on hold
2. Project Narrative 2024-2025
3. 2023-Utah-SEA-ProjectPlan-Version-06212024
4. USHE Letter Regarding SLDS Grant Funding - July 2025