

Project Plan Risks Due to Potential Loss of SLDS23 Federal Funding

If federal funding for the SLDS23 Grant ends in September, several critical initiatives outlined in the 2023 Utah SEA Project Plan will not be completed. These projects are foundational to improving data systems and connectivity across state education and partner agencies.

Agency Priorities Dependent on BRIDGE Completion

The following strategic priorities are at risk:

Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

- **Admit Utah:** Streamlined admissions process enabling high school students to register for higher education.
- **SSID API Integration:** Automating student identifier linkages between K-12 and higher education.
- **Transcript API Enhancements:** Improved sharing of academic records across systems.

Utah State Board of Education (USBE)

- **Birth Certificate Verification:** Automatic validation for enrolling students.
- **Student Achievement Backpack:** Automated cross-agency transfer of individual student data upon Student or Parent request.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- **Early Childhood Data Sharing:** Connecting early learning programs with kindergarten systems and teachers upon individual request.

Critical Components at Risk

1. BRIDGE System Implementation (UDRC – Tasks 1.1–1.3)

- **Technical Development and Operations:** Architecture, development (back-end/front-end), and comprehensive testing (vendor, UAT, end-user) will be left incomplete. No production deployment or documentation will be finalized.
- **Administrative and Design Pre-Work:**
 - Stakeholder engagement planning

- Legal framework development
- Creation of policies and procedures for use and governance
- Integration of BRIDGE for transactional data requests
- **Cybersecurity and Privacy Frameworks:**
 - Incomplete updates to cybersecurity, privacy plans, and user access policies (Task 5)

2. School Finance Data Infrastructure (USBE – Task 2)

- Incomplete feedback loops from stakeholders on current development
- Incomplete testing of new school finance visualizations
- Limited ability to analyze and connect finance data with student achievement and educator data (Task 2.5)

3. Data and Statistics Infrastructure (USBE – Task 3)

- Cancelled or reduced staff training and development (Task 3.3)
- Inability to fully support the USIMS transition
- Incomplete integration and visualization of federal data using the Generate system (Task 3.4)

4. Sustainability Planning

- No finalized plan to maintain, support, or expand these systems post-grant
- Loss of institutional momentum and reduced stakeholder engagement across partner agencies

Conclusion

Without continued federal funding, these interconnected projects face significant delays or termination. The loss would directly impact education data modernization, agency collaboration, and student-centered data services.