ALIGNED

In-Person Testimony as a Proponent for HB 25RS0630 before the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

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Visit Our Website
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Who We Are

Aligned is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business leaders committed to improving education in Kansas and Missouri.

Why Current Data Approaches Fall Short

- **Fragmented Data**: Siloed systems prevent connections between education and workforce outcomes.

- **Static Snapshots**: One-time data fails to capture trends or long-term progress.

- **Limited Insights**: Aggregate date hides deeper challenges

Rising Importance of Education & Workforce Indicators

Researchers increasingly rely on education and workforce indicators to assess system and policy effectiveness.

Education-to-Workforce Indicators

[Mathematica](#) has identified 99 evidence-based indicators critical for evaluation.

Key Domains Covered:

- Academic progress and completion.

- Physical, mental, and social well-being.

- Career readiness and economic success.

Outcomes and milestones

Key positive education-to-workforce outcomes and milestones strongly associated with economic mobility and security

Enrollment in quality public pre-K	Kindergarten readiness: language and literacy	Kindergarten readiness: cognition	Early grades on track	Consistent attendance	Positive behavior	Math and reading proficiency in grade 3	6th grade on track
8th grade on track	Math and reading proficiency in grade 8	Successful completion of Algebra 1 by 9th grade	9th grade on track	Grade point average	Math and reading proficiency in high school	College preparatory coursework completion	Early college coursework completion
SAT/ACT participation and performance	FAFSA completion	College applications	High school graduation	Selection of a well-matched postsecondary institution	Senior summer on track	Postsecondary enrollment directly after high school graduation	First-year credit accumulation
First-year program of study concentration	Gateway course completion	Postsecondary persistence	Transfer (if applicable)	Postsecondary certificate or degree completion	Enrollment in graduate education	Graduate degree completion	Kindergarten readiness: social-emotional development
Kindergarten readiness: approaches to learning	Kindergarten readiness: perceptual, motor, and physical development	Self-management	Growth mindset	Self-efficacy	Social awareness	Cultural competency	Civic engagement
Social capital	Mental and emotional well-being	Physical development and well-being	Successful career transition after high school	CTE pathway concentration	Industry-recognized credential	Participation in work-based learning	Digital skills
Communication skills	Higher-order thinking skills	Minimum economic return	Student loan repayment	Employment in a quality job	Economic mobility	Economic security	

E-W system conditions

Key institutional or system environments, policies, and practices that help or hinder education-to-workforce outcomes

Access to quality public pre-K	Access to full-day pre-K	Access to child care subsidies	School-family engagement	Equitable discipline practices	Access to full-day kindergarten
English learner progress	Teacher credentials	Teacher experience	Educator retention	Classroom observations of instructional practice	Student perceptions of teaching
Teachers' contributions to student learning growth	Effective program and school leadership	Institutions' contributions to student outcomes	Access to college preparatory coursework	Access to early college coursework	Equitable placement in rigorous coursework
Access to quality, culturally responsive curricula	Expenditures per student	Access to early intervention screening	School safety	Inclusive environments	Representational racial and ethnic diversity of educators
School and workplace racial and ethnic diversity	School and workplace socioeconomic diversity	Access to health, mental health, and social supports	Access to college and career advising	Access to in-demand CTE pathways	Unmet financial need
Cumulative student debt	Expenditures on workforce development programs	Access to jobs paying a living wage	Access to ongoing career skills development		

Adjacent system conditions

Key experiences, situations, and circumstances outside of E-W systems that help or hinder education-to-workforce outcomes

Childhood experiences	Health insurance coverage
Food security	Access to affordable housing
Access to technology	Access to transportation
Exposure to neighborhood crime	Neighborhood economic diversity
Neighborhood racial diversity	Neighborhood juvenile arrests

Domains:
- Academic progress and completion
- Social, emotional, and physical well-being
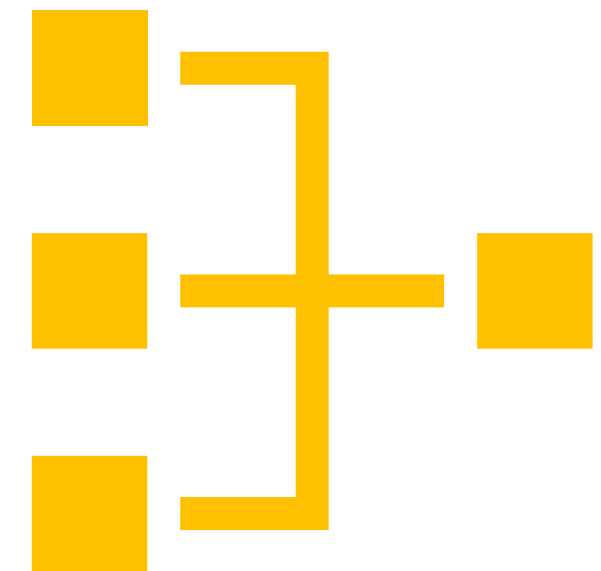- Career readiness and economic success
- Cross-domain

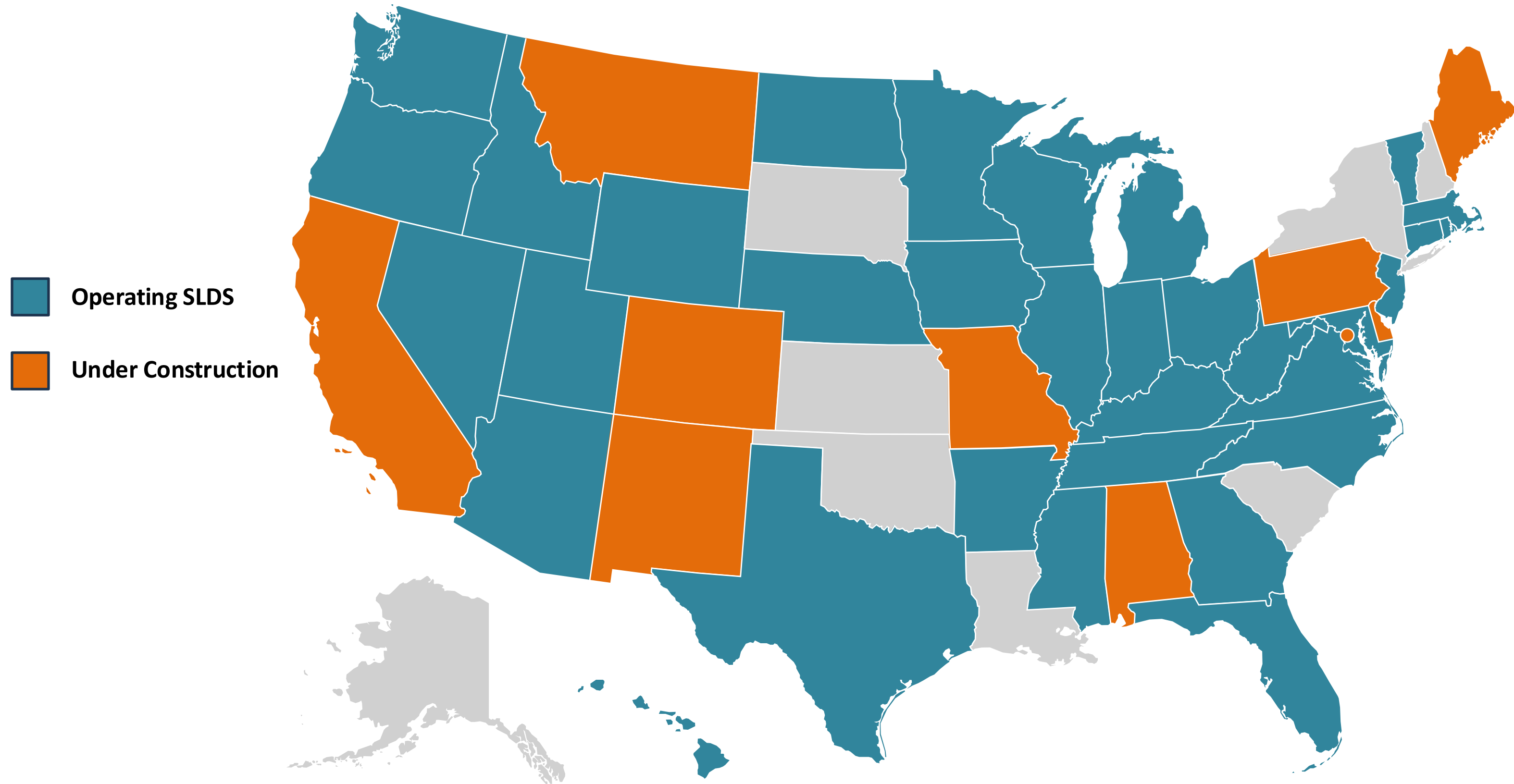For more information, see Mathematica's publication.

What is an SLDS?

A secure system linking education, workforce, and other state data.

Early Childhood – K-12 – Postsecondary – Workforce

What States Have SLDSs?

Operating SLDS

Under Construction

Key Features of SLDSs

- **Data**: high quality student- and staff-level data.
- **Longitudinal**: Links data across entities and over time.
- **Utilization**: Accessible insights through analysis tools, data request processes.

Purpose of an SLDS (1/2)

Empowers Data-Driven Decisions.

- Provides policymakers, educators, businesses, and students with actionable insights to improve outcomes and guide choices.

Breaks Down Barriers.

- Connects siloed data into a unified system, delivering a full picture of the education-to-workforce pipeline.

Enhances Student Success.

- Tracks student progress in real time, enabling early interventions and tailored support to improve outcomes.

Optimizes Resource Allocation.

- Helps state leaders allocate funding and resources more effectively by identifying what works and where improvements are needed.

Purpose of an SLDS

Transforms Education Practices.

- Shifts data from a compliance task to a tool for proactive decision-making and continuous improvement.
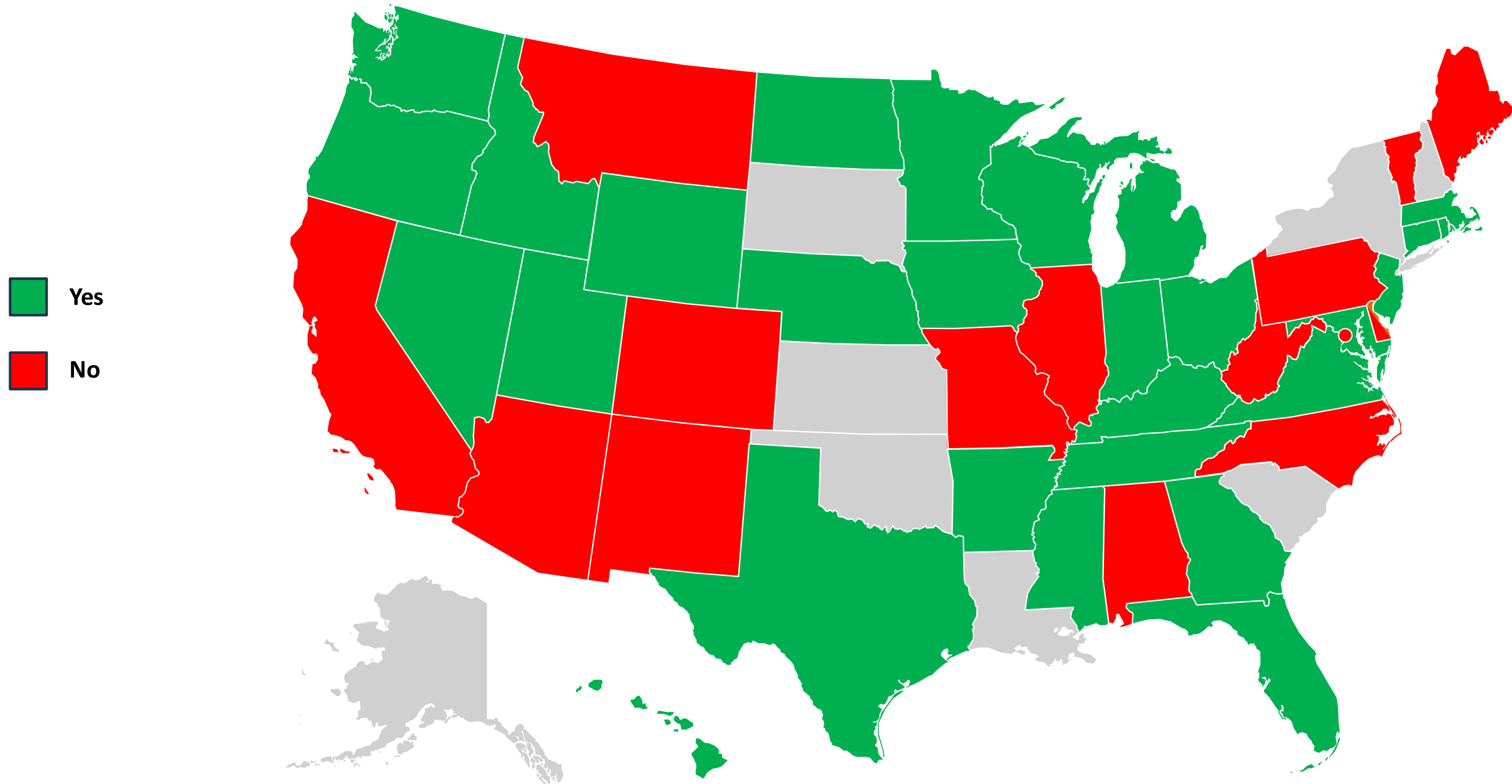
Delivers Deeper Insights.

- Goes beyond basic metrics to answer critical questions about graduation rates, career readiness, and workforce impact.

Builds a Culture of Innovation.

- Encourages educators and leaders to use data as a resource to identify solutions and improve student outcomes.

Does the SLDS Publish Reports or Dashboards?

Yes (green)

No (red)

State Examples

Arkansas

[Examples]:

- Early Development Instrument (ECE)
- Arkansas Better Chance Program Study (At-Risk)

Florida

[Examples]:

- Assessment Progress Monitoring (K-10)
- High School Graduate Pathways (K-12 – PS)

Iowa

[Examples]:

- Iowa Condition of Education (K-12 – PS)
- EdInsight Data Warehouse (Pre-K – PS – W)

Nebraska

[Examples]:

- Talent Retention 2024 (W)
- Early Reading Proficiency (Pre-K – K-12)

Utah

[Examples]:

- Workforce Participation of Stacked Credential Awardees (W)
- Educational and Wage Outcomes Among Nursing Program Graduates (W)
- Utah High School Course-Taking Patterns and Their Effects on College Readiness (K-12 – PS)

Kentucky's SLDS Success

Kentucky's Center for Statistics

- Tracks postsecondary decisions and labor market trends through the **Future Skills Report**, which analyzes employment outcomes and future workforce demand.

Additional Key Tools:

- **Workforce Overview Report**: Regional employment trends.

- **CTE Employer Connector**: Links employers with CTE programs.

- **Occupational Outlook**: Forecasts job demand across industries.

- **Kentucky Apprenticeship Report**: Tracks apprenticeship data and outcomes.
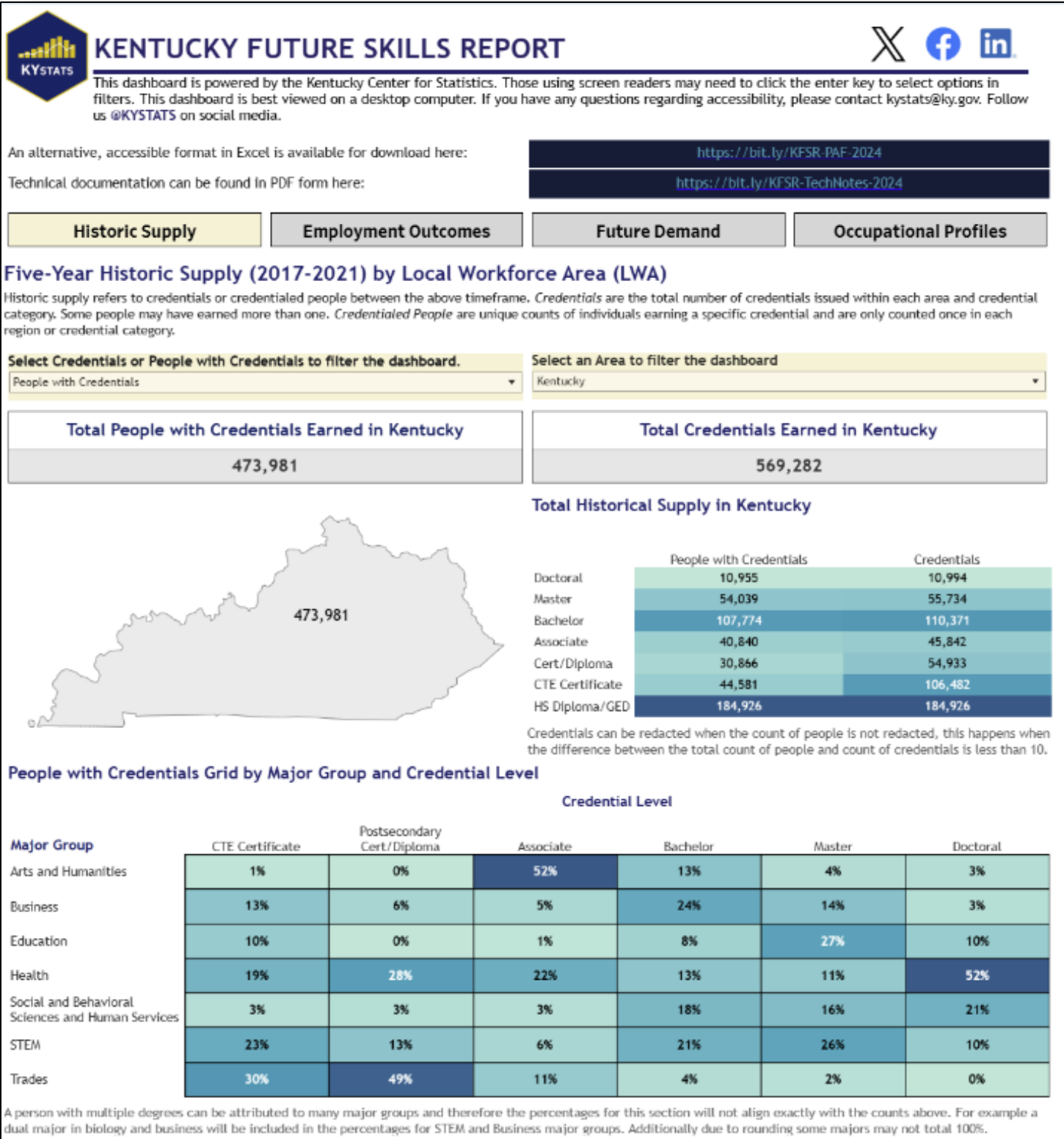
Governance

Division of Longitudinal Data

- New Division within the Kansas Legislative Research Department

- Legislative Coordinating Council oversees operations, sets research priorities

- Division Director manages operations, research facilitation, and data governance

- Under legislative oversight, Division collaborates with executive agencies to ensure effective data sharing and implementation

Core Functions

- **Data Integration**: Combine and deidentify data to implement system.

- **Data Research Requests:** Allow legislators and executive branch agencies to ask targeted questions; allow members of the public to request data at cost.

- **Public Credential and Skills Registry**: Database highlighting in-demand, high-wage credentials and state needs.
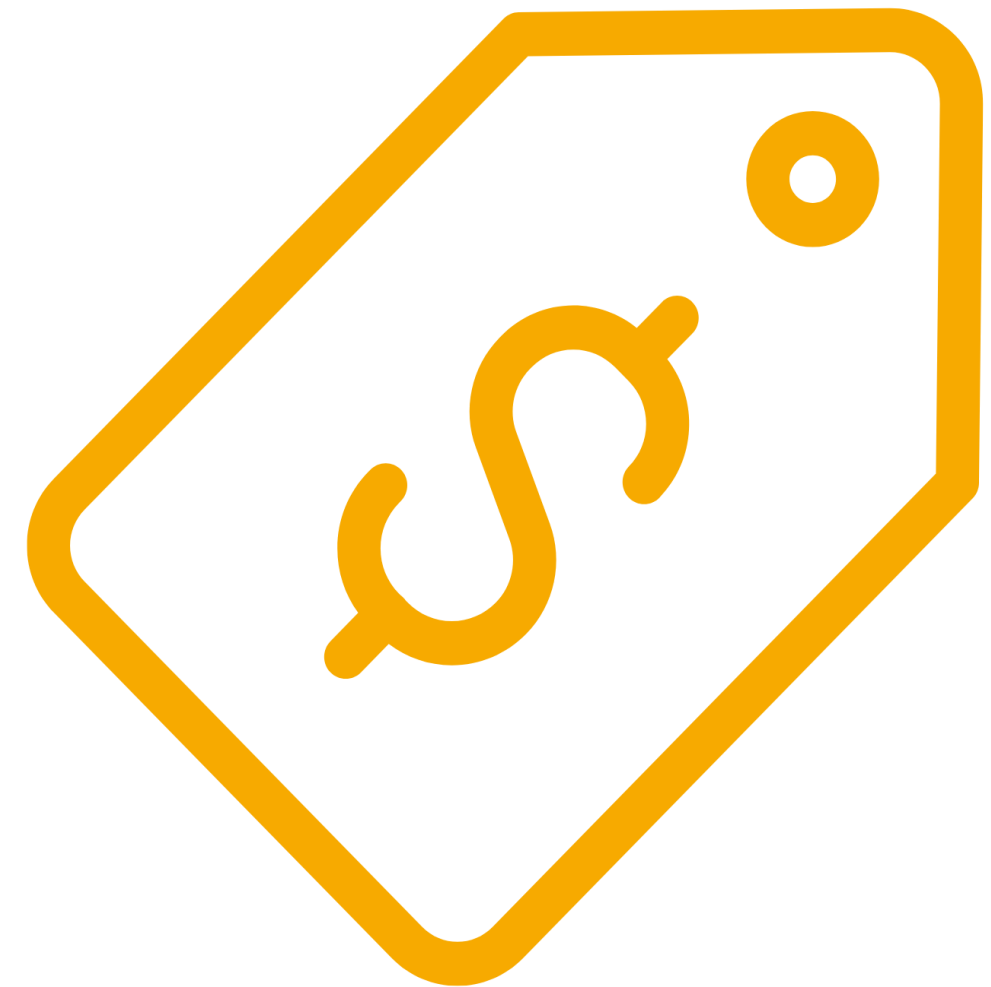
Data Privacy and Security

- Protecting personally identifiable information through deidentification.

- Utilizing unique student identifiers across data.

- Anonymizing data so that students cannot be re-identified.
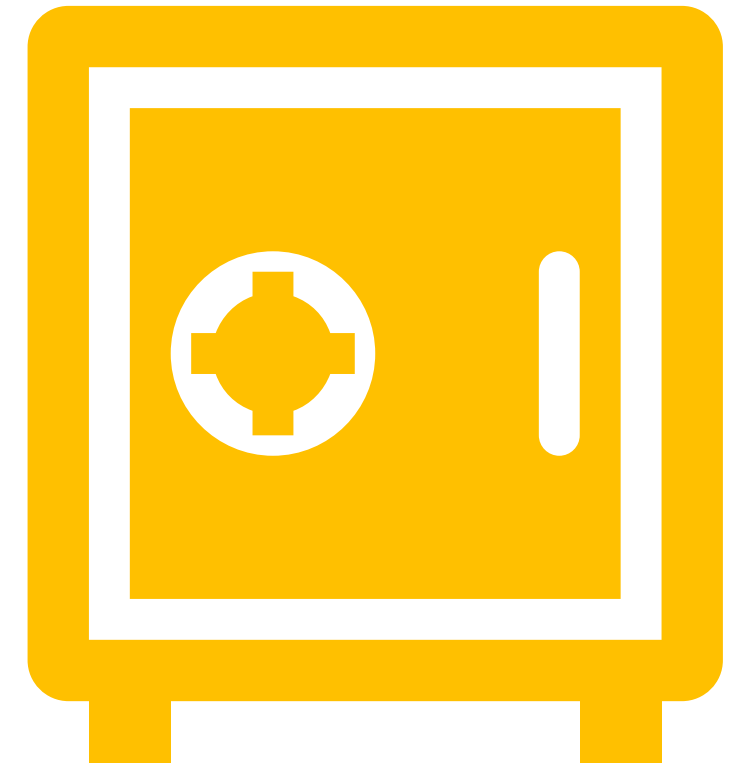
Fiscal Note

- $3 million annually.

- Includes initial and ongoing costs.

- In line with other state systems' costs.

- SLDS sunsets after 5 years.

Key Takeaways

- The SLDS links education and workforce data into a **unified system**.
- It empowers policymakers with insights for **evidence-based decisions**.
- The system integrates scattered data for **comprehensive analysis**.
- It **supports workforce development** and talent retention in Kansas.
- **Privacy protections** ensure compliance with state and federal laws.

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Investing in the Workforce of Tomorrow

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