



**Common Data
Standards
INITIATIVE**

Nancy J. Smith, Ph.D.

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CDS is Building a...

VOLUNTARY

Common

Vocabulary



What is CDS Doing?

Developing initial **key subset of K-12 student & teacher elements** and **key K12-to-postsecondary transition elements**.

The CDS Initiative will:

- identify variables that all states need to define the same way in order to increase interoperability and comparability;
- develop common definitions, code sets, business rules; and
- develop technical specifications.

These will either be drawn/adapted from existing standards sources OR developed from scratch.



Why Do We Need 'em?

Because students are mobile and transcripts must be easily and readily available.

Sometimes this mobility is predictable:

- transitions from elementary → middle → high school → postsecondary

Sometimes mobility catches us by surprise:

- Families move frequently: receiving schools must know which services to provide and in which courses to place new students.
- Hurricane Katrina displaced thousands; records were needed – *fast*.



Why Do We Need 'em?

Because lack of standardization...

...across SEAs and LEAs hampers our ability to share data and make valid comparisons of student performance.

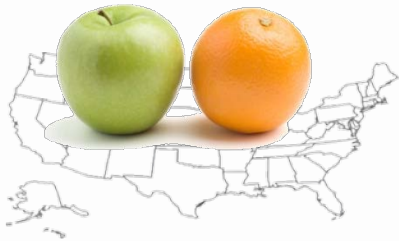
...across K-12 and postsecondary sectors makes it cumbersome to exchange student-level data with state public higher education entities.





Why Do We Need 'em?

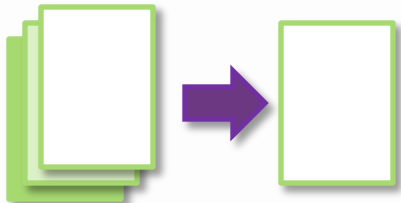
So, use of common data standards can:



Increase *comparability* of data across state lines, allowing us to draw valid comparisons







Increase *interoperability* and *portability* of data within K-12, across SEAs, and with the postsecondary sector



Provide clarity for districts on what to collect



CDS is *NOT*...

-  **Required:** Adoption of any or all of the CDS standards is *entirely voluntary*.
-  **A data collection:** CDS does not collect data.
-  **A Federal unit record system:** CDS is a model for data standardization to enable sharing between state systems.
-  **Solely a USED undertaking:** CDS is a collaborative effort including SEAs, LEAs, state higher education organizations, and national organizations.



Statutes

- The *Education Science Reform Act of 2002* gave NCES the authority to determine voluntary standards and guidelines to assist State educational agencies in developing SLDSs.
- The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* provided \$250 million in competitive grants to help states implement and use SLDSs that include not only education data for elementary and secondary students, but also early childhood, postsecondary, and workforce information.



Who?

Technical Working Group



- NCES Forum
- 4 SEAs (+2 alternates)
- 4 LEAs
- 4 Higher Education
- SIF Association
- PESC
- DQC
- CCSSO
- SHEEO
- NCES Postsecondary Studies
- USED (NCES, OPEPD, OII)

Communications & Adoption



- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 - SHEEO
 - CCSSO
- Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
 - DQC



TWG Subgroups

- **Postsecondary**
- **Use Case**
- **Technical Specifications**
- **Governance**

- All subgroups, except postsecondary, include postsecondary, SEA, LEA reps
- Meet monthly (or more frequently as needed)
- TWG meets every few months...kinda



Technical Members

Kathy Gosa, KS SEA
Bethann Canada, VA SEA
Patricia Sullivan, TX SEA
Patsy Eiland, AL SEA
Tom Ogle, MO SEA*
Bruce Dacey, DE SEA*
Linda Rocks, LA LEA
Tom Purwin, NJ LEA
David Weinberger, NY LEA
Bill Smith, SD LEA
Patrick Perry, CA HE
Keith Brown, NC HE
Diane Sherman, AL HE
Ken Sauer, IN HE

**Alternates*

Jim Campbell, SIF Association
Michael Sessa, PESC
Hans L'Orange, SHEEO
Alex Jackl, CCSO
Charles McGrew, DQC
Ross Santy, USED-OPEPD
Kwasi Asare, USED-OII
Lee Hoffman, USED-NCES
Jessica Shedd, USED-NCES Postsecondary
Tom Weko, USED-NCES Postsecondary
Corey Chatis, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Ian Christopher, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Contractors:

Beth Young, Quality Information Partners
Mark Blevins, AEM Corporation



TWG's Timeline

Year 1: Technical Working Group (TWG) will:

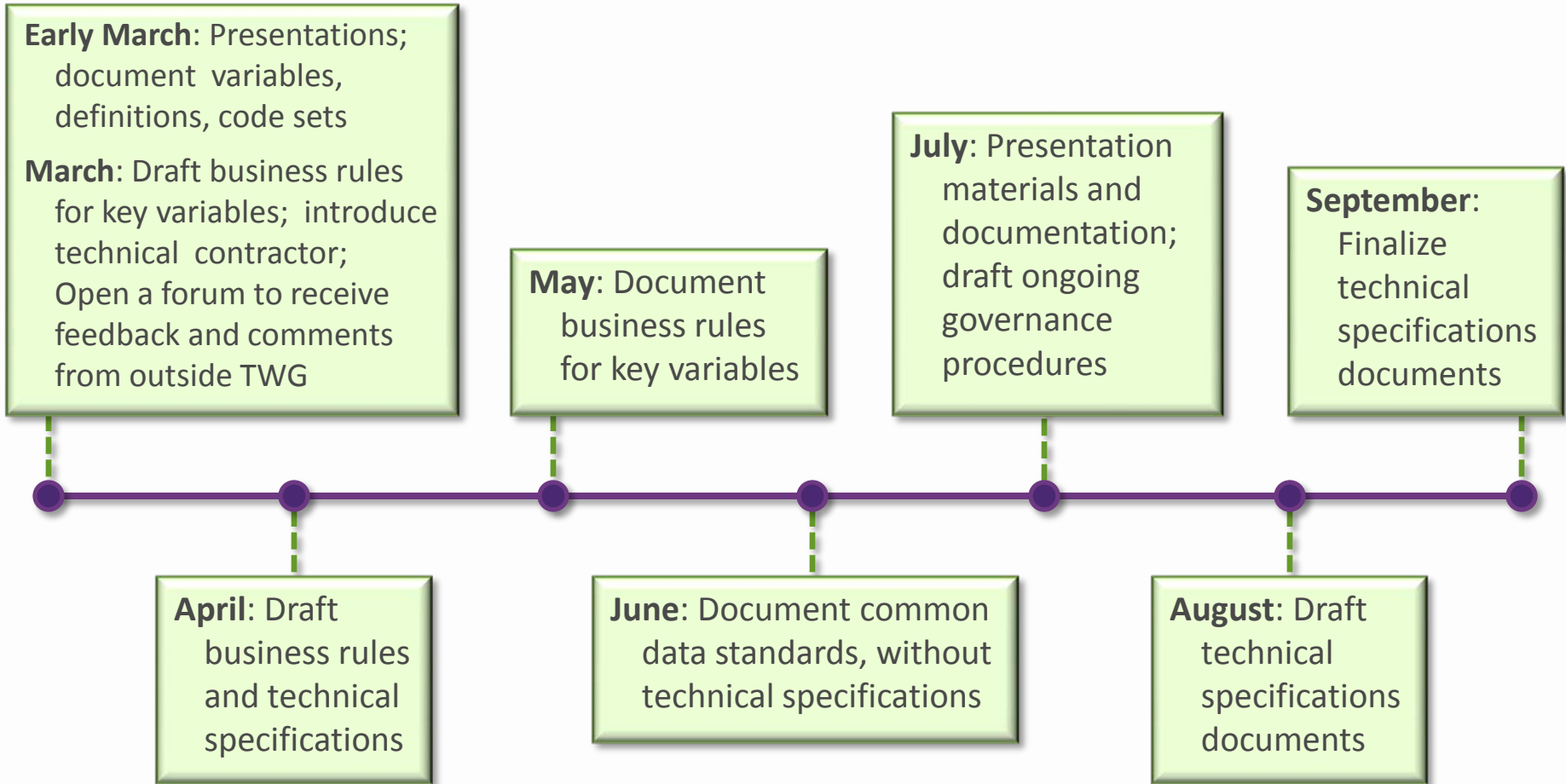
- Establish Initiative's scope and identify initial list of K-12 and K12-to-postsecondary transition variables
- Agree on definitions, codes sets, business rules, and technical specifications for each element
- Solicit feedback and buy-in by sharing standards with broader partnership
- Produce deliverables, including:
 - a list of elements with thoroughly documented definitions, code sets, and business rules
 - detailed technical specifications for each variable (e.g., XML schema, machine readable format, etc.)
 - documentation of governance process for maintenance and expansion of common data standards:
 - » Who is engaged?
 - » What are roles and responsibilities of each type of stakeholder?
 - » How often are common data standards reviewed, expanded, and considered for sunset?

Year 2: TWG will discuss expansion of K-12 and K12-to-postsecondary transition variables and consider expansion into early learning and/or workforce.

Year 3: TWG will review existing standards for possible expansion, adjustments, or sunset.



TWG Timeline: Year 1





Sample of Work to Date

	A	B	C	D	
3	CDS #	Element	"Group"	Element Definition	Code Set
4	1	First Name	Name	A name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony, or through legal change.	None
5	2	Middle Name	Name	A secondary name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony.	None
6	3	Last/Surname	Name	The name borne in common by members of a family.	None
7	4	Generation Code/Suffix	Name	An appendage, if any, used to denote an individual's generation in his family (e.g., Jr., Sr., III).	None
8	5	Other Name	Other Name	Previous, alternate or other names or aliases associated with the student.	None
9	6	Identification Code (Student)	ID	A unique number or alphanumeric code assigned to a student by a school, school system, a state, or other agency or entity.	None
10	7	Identification System (Student)	ID	A coding scheme that is used for identification and record-keeping purposes by schools, social services, or other agencies to refer to a student.	1. Canadian Social Insurance Number 2. District-assigned number 3. Family unit number 4. Federal identification number 5. National migrant number 6. Other 7. School-assigned number 8. Social Security Administration number 9. State-assigned number 10. State migrant number



Contact Information

Nancy Smith

nancy.smith@ed.gov, 202-502-7360

Beth Young

bethyoung@qi-partners.com, 703-218-1865

Mark Blevins

mark.blevins@aemcorp.com, 703-885-8055