



State Data Dashboard



Best Practices for Using Postsecondary Outcomes Data

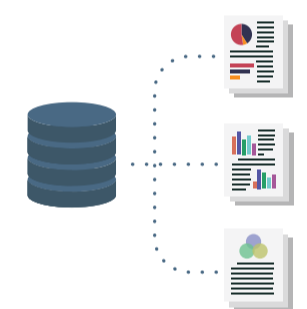
Best Practice 1: Promote a Responsible Data-sharing Culture



Build trusted relationships across agencies by demonstrating the benefits of data sharing and maintaining open communication



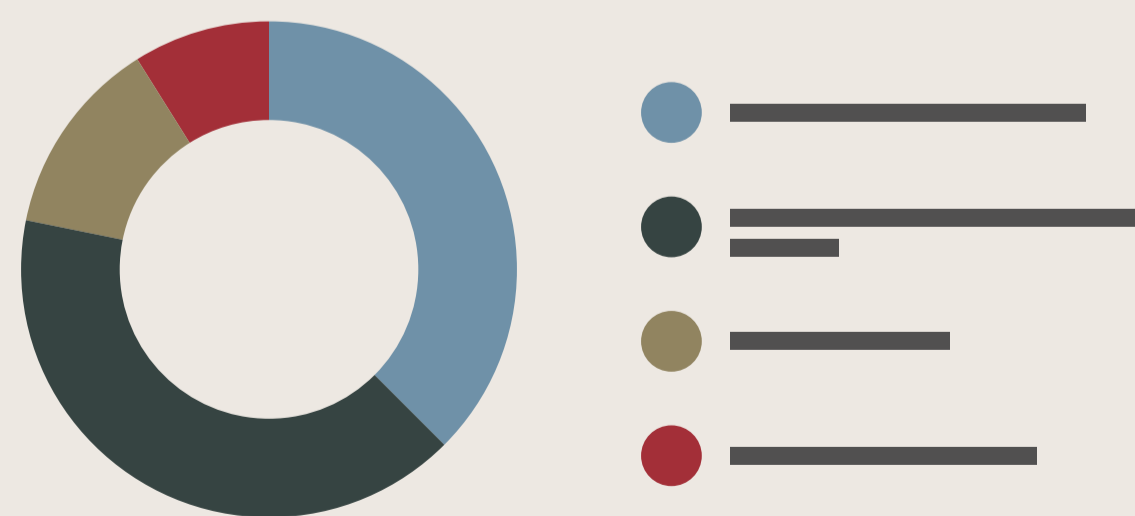
Collaborate to define and understand data so that shared data is contextualized and used appropriately



Develop data-sharing agreements so states can connect data that spans departments, agencies, and sectors to illustrate patterns in students' postsecondary outcomes



Report back to agencies involved in data sharing so they understand that as part of their agreement to share data, they can expect to receive useful reports in return



Best Practice 2: Connect Data from Multiple Sources

Connecting a student's K-12, postsecondary, and workforce data can show what aspects of the student's education may have contributed to postsecondary and workforce outcomes. When states provide these data reports, educators can strategically adjust their practices to improve student outcomes.



- A student's K-12 course taking can be matched with any postsecondary remedial courses the student needed to take at the postsecondary institution.
- A high school counselor can see the different postsecondary institutions their students attend and the postsecondary success rates by race/ethnicity, gender, etc.



Best Practice 3: Develop Data Resources and Tools



User-friendly data dashboards and stakeholder-driven reports support program evaluation and decision-making by offering online access to postsecondary outcomes data and presenting customizable data visualizations suitable for a range of needs.

At the school level, principals, teachers, and counselors can show students data in an easy-to-understand format that the students can use to inform their postsecondary education choices. At the district and state level, postsecondary outcomes data reports can provide critical information on how education programs are impacting students, particularly underserved populations, and which schools and districts may need additional resources.

Best Practice 4: Provide Ongoing and Adaptive Support to Schools and Districts

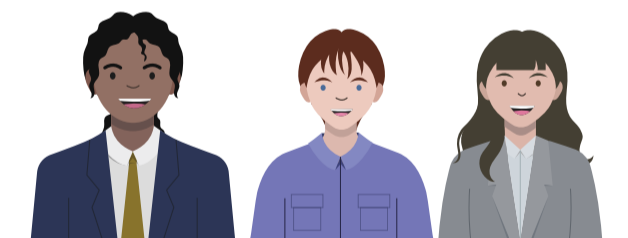
States can leverage data reports and visualizations by providing training and technical assistance specific to the needs and goals of districts, school leaders, and high school counselors.



- Increase access to postsecondary outcomes data (with data-sharing agreements in place)
- Train on how to use data reports and tools such as dashboards
- Develop tailored reports specific to district needs and requests
- Offer coaching to analyze and use data to improve pathways for students
- Offer grants to improve student learning outcomes and educational efficiency

Best Practice 5: Establish Communities of Practice

A community of practice (CoP) brings people together who have a shared interest or concern to exchange ideas and information, help each other problem solve, and develop a shared set of resources and tools. Building a CoP around postsecondary outcomes data can help bolster efforts to collect and analyze data, leading to better outcomes for students.



Examples for a state agency conversation around postsecondary outcomes data could include

- how states can support the use of postsecondary outcomes data
- how states use and display National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data
- best practices on matching returned NSC data
- identifying areas of need among districts and schools where additional funding, coaching, or technical assistance could improve their use of postsecondary outcomes data.